

LATORNELL CONSERVATION SYMPOSIUM

Responding to the Need for Resilience

Lessons Learned around Communicating Climate Complexity

NOVEMBER 19, 2019



Presentation Outline

- The Challenge
- A Case Study of Community Engagement around Climate Change
- Top 4 Suggestions for Communicating Resilience

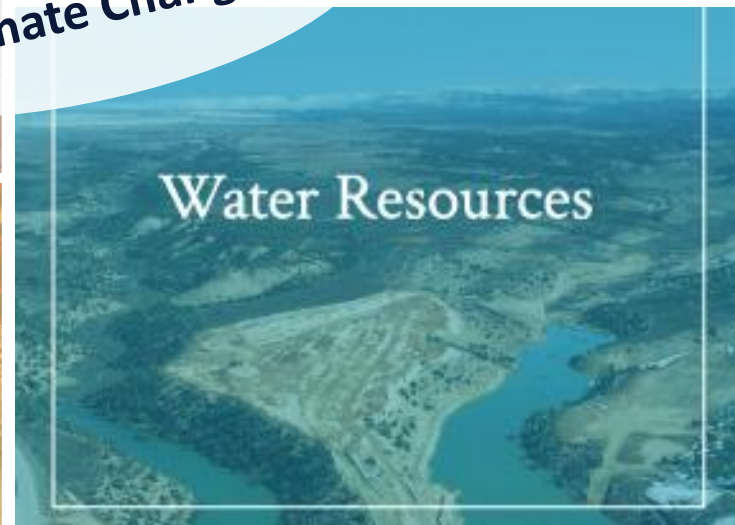
Savanta, A GEI Company

- Environmental and Engineering consulting firm with 40 offices across North America
- We develop robust climate change solutions with and for our partners. Our work is deliberately adaptive and tailored to individual needs.

NOVEMBER 19, 2019



Climate Change





The Challenge

Climate Change is a Generational Issue

BEFORE (1994)

AFTER (2013)

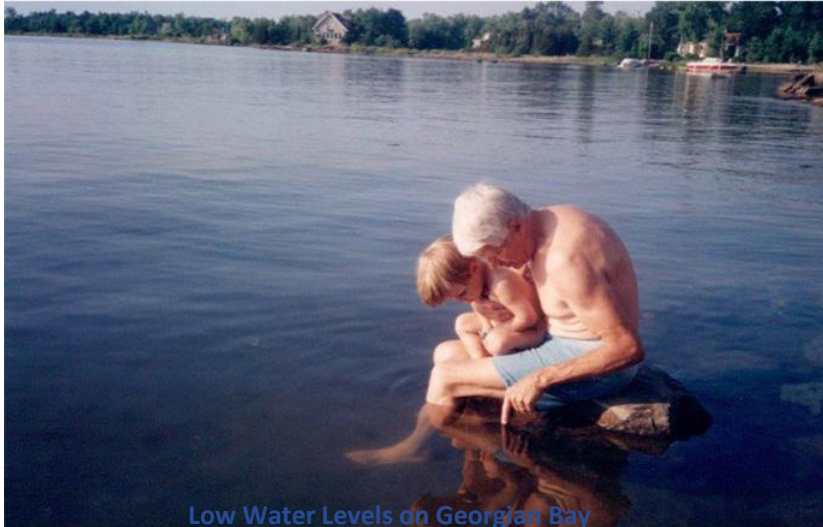


Photo Caption - the family of 21-year-old Lauren Patchett has owned a cottage in Honey Harbour, Georgian Bay for decades. The submerged rock where her grandfather, Richard McPhail, sits in this 1994 picture with water to his knees while holding 2-year-old Lauren on his lap is now well back from the water's edge.

NOVEMBER 19, 2019

SAVANTA.CA

Cli
W

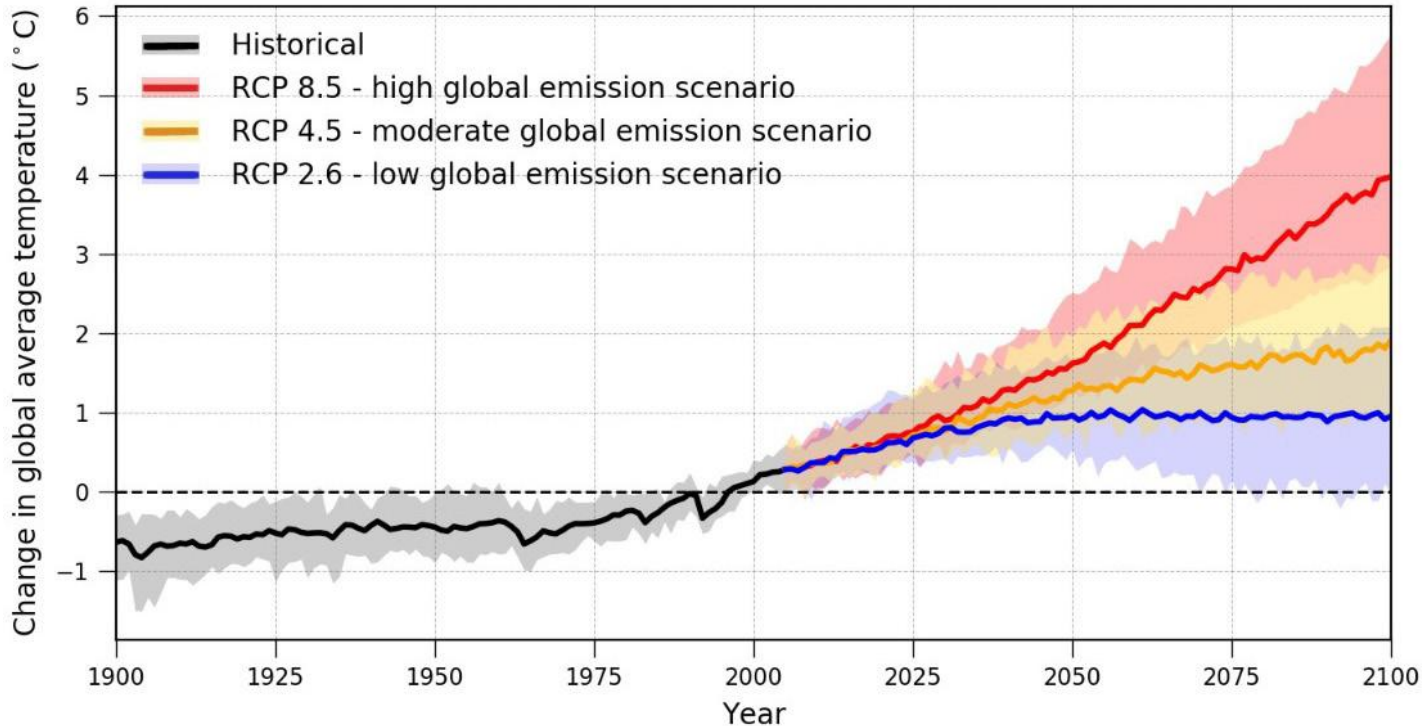
Gua
clim
pled
Envir



NOVEMBER 19, 2019

SAVANTA.CA

Climate Change is Complex and Uncertain



How do we actually achieve these?

What do the impacts and risks look like?

What information do these not include?



Cutting through the Noise: Make things Personal

A Case Study in County Court, Brampton, ON

Community Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment in County Court, Brampton

Our Objectives:

1. Understand climate change vulnerabilities and the neighbourhood scale
2. Clearly engage and communicate climate science and results to residents
3. Co-develop strategies to reduce vulnerabilities and build resilience for residents



NOVEMBER 19, 2019

County Court – Getting to Know the Neighbourhood

Language

- 40% of residents' first language is not English, 7% don't speak English

Age

- 18% of residents are seniors, 5% of residents are children under 4

Households

- 54% of residents own their homes

NOVEMBER 19, 2019



Integrating Human Interests into a Scientifically Robust Process



Engagement & Communication

Methods

- **Scoping** the project based on conversations with residents, involving them throughout all project stages
- **Community Workshops:**
 - Making climate data relevant to their lives (what does an increase of 2°C mean?)
 - “ResilientVille” Role Playing Game
 - Participatory Mapping to Identify Concerns and Ideas
- **Brainstorming** Resilience-Building ideas that reduce climate risk and improve neighbourhood wellbeing
- **Visualizing Resilience** Strategies through Graphic Images and Landscape

NOVEMBER 19, 2019

Designs

Frame the Climate Conversation Correctly

1. What are some of the challenges you face today in your neighbourhood?
2. Where were you during the December 2013 ice storm? How did you and your loved ones respond during the power outage?
3. If your street was cut off due to fallen trees or flooding, how would you respond? What would you suggest would help seniors and vulnerable residents on your street?
4. If you could imagine a hotter mid-Summer day, how would you stay cool? Do your neighbours use the park to cool down in shade?
5. How do you learn what is happening in your neighbourhood? Are there some types of communication that work better than others?

Lessons – What Works & What Doesn't



Face-to-Face Communication

Talk about Concerns on the Spot

Establish Trust & Build a Relationship

Planned and Long Lasting
Communication

Connect to Current Social Issues

Leverage Community Champions

Using Technical Lingo; being a
"scientist"

Providing Long, Technical Reports

Using blanket statements

Not following up with the community

Not providing materials/outreach in
multiple languages and formats

Not tailoring your message to what
people care about



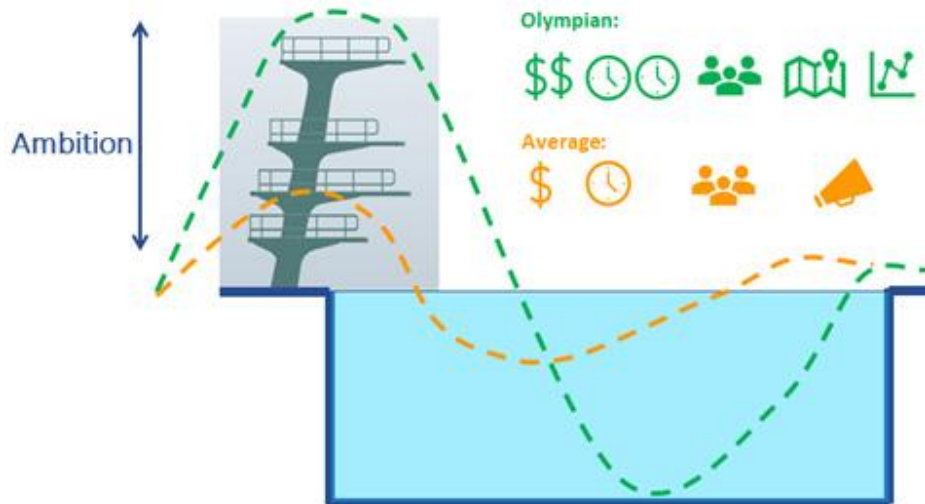
Top 4 Suggestions for Communicating Resilience with Conservation Authority Staff and Municipal Partners

Recognize that a lot of what we do is Climate Adaptation (and that's good)

- Conservation Authorities are uniquely positioned to build watershed-scale resilience
- Communicate how projects and programs are contributing to climate change adaptation in positive ways
- Consider tracking progress over time and communicating successes. Assign metrics & identify the “so-what”:
 - # of Trees Planted (*reducing extreme heat*)
 - # of Watercourse Reaches Naturalized (*improving flood conveyance*)
 - # of Sites Stabilized from Erosion Issues, etc.

Story Telling goes A Long Way

A Tale of Two Climate Assessments



Straw house pigs – builders who build houses below the OBC

Wooden house pigs – builders who build houses to the OBC

Brick house pigs – builders who build houses to the new Resilience Standard

The Three Little Pigs of the Building Industry



Communicate Results in a Relatable and Personal Way

What does “Resilience” mean to you?



**Climate Assessment Results –
Displaying Schools as Lifelines
 (“Hearts”)**

Begin with the End in Mind

- Let your desired outcome inform the process you follow – envision your ideal outputs
- Don't be afraid to get creative with landscape designs and graphics



Thank you

Glenn Milner

CLIMATE ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE SPECIALIST
GMILNER@SAVANTA.CA

