

Just Released

Understanding Beach and Dune Ecosystems Educational Resources Kit (2010)

The Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation has developed an educational resources kit designed to introduce students to a special ecosystem found along Great Lakes shorelines. Many students will have experienced a sandy beach on the Great Lakes, but few will likely appreciate the rarity of these ecosystems, and the plants and animals that inhabit them. Likewise, few will understand how vulnerable these ecosystems are to human activities, despite efforts to promote these areas as high value tourism and recreation areas. The kit will provide teachers with some in-class resources for teaching about these local ecosystems, and provide an opportunity to conduct activities in the field to reinforce the concepts presented in-class. Assistance with field interpretation is available at cost from the Centre for Coastal Conservation.

Connections are identified to the Ontario Ministry of Education, *Environmental Education: Scope and Sequence of Expectations*, 2009 Edition, for Grades 7 and 8. The kit covers issues including biodiversity, Species at Risk, physical and human geography, science and language. While it has Lake Huron examples, the kit is applicable to beach and dune systems throughout the Great Lakes.

This Educational Resources Kit is available by email directly from the Centre. It is available free of charge to educators in Ontario. Sections include: (1) Waves and Shore Processes; (2) Beach and Dune Ecological Succession; (3) Lake Huron Coastal Plants; (4) Lake Huron Animals; and, (5) People and the Coastal Environment. Each section has Teachers notes, student notes and fact sheets, and activities for in-class use and field activities. Web links to relevant resources are available on the Centre's website. Pre-designed PowerPoint presentations are also available.

To obtain a copy, contact:

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