

“Is the Coast Clear?”

August 20, 2010
Grand Bend, Ontario

6th Biennial Conference



www.lakehuron.ca

On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff of LHCCC, I welcome you to our 6th biennial “Is the Coast Clear?” conference. The Centre is registered charity, dedicated to the conservation and wise stewardship of Lake Huron’s coastal ecosystems. Our unique logo tells our story. The three waves under the setting sun shows the water, beach and shorelands. The four colours represent our four environmental priorities: climate change (yellow sun), water quality (blue), coastal processes (brown), and biodiversity (green).

The Living Coast:

*Biodiversity and
the health of Lake
Huron*



This year's theme is "**The Living Coast: biodiversity and the health of Lake Huron.**" We continue to modify the landscape in ways that impact our coast. Changes to biodiversity has manifested into declines in water quality, invasive species, lost habitat and Species at Risk, even degradation of beaches.



- To illustrate this, this mosaic of southern Ontario shows the extent of modification of the landscape. We've gone from 90% forest cover to 10-15%, and some places 5-6%.
- As a consequence, storm water runs off the land more quickly, washing pollutants into our waters. Our micro-climate has been altered. Our soils are being washed away.
- Healing our landscape and healing our lake will take action on the ground, but a broad view of the lake and its watershed.
- As a lake-based organization, the Coastal Centre endeavors to apply this broad view with its work at the local level. We're a unique organization in Ontario, and while small, we've pursued a course of providing leadership in coastal conservation.



- The Coastal Centre works closely at the local level with municipalities and community groups from Sarnia to Tobermory, Manitoulin Island and south Georgian Bay, and positive changes are happening locally. We work with governments including First Nations, federal, state, and provincial to advance improvements to our coast. There is much to do, not least of which is to continually focus people's minds on Lake Huron.
- Over the course of the day, we'd like you to draw knowledge and inspiration from our speakers. We'd like you to connect with delegates who come from many backgrounds and affiliations. We'd like you to make this a day of looking forward, and thinking of what is needed to heal our lake.