



The Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation



Restore your shore with the **Green Ribbon Champion Program**

Our beaches and dunes need your help. Interest and requests for beach and dune education and shoreline work have been increasing over the past few years and coincide with higher lake levels, erosion and concern over the future impacts of climate change.

Luckily, our Green Ribbon Champion program aims to provide information and restoration techniques to restore the beach and dune ecosystem to prepare property owners for future impacts of high water levels, while balancing "beach towel real-estate" to enjoy these natural wonders.

By participating in the program, shoreline property owners help to conserve and protect vegetation and wildlife only found in a dune environment. Native dune vegetation and sand-fencing can allow the dune to grow and re-establish. Vegetation on dunes keeps more sand in place, slowing wind erosion. Restoring dunes is an excellent way to help protect your property from flooding during high wind and wave events or during high water levels. A healthy buffer of dunes between your property and the lake can act as a bit of a natural insurance policy, and the cost? Free!

This summer we have provided over 35 assessments with more on the

way throughout August. Program participants who are interested in implementing restoration recommendations will have the opportunity to do so in the fall of 2021 with the help of our restoration team and community volunteers.

Interested to know how the restoration works?



The Fencing (to restore a damaged or degraded dune):

Sand fences are used world-wide in beach and dune erosion control efforts. Typically, wood slat snow fencing is used, which acts as a partial barrier to blowing sand and works by slowing onshore winds, and causing sand to collect behind the fence. The fence can be left up year-round, but where it becomes an obstacle during the summer season it can be removed until early fall.



The Grasses:

While sand fencing is useful initially for accumulating sand, the loose sand particles are still vulnerable to wind erosion. In most cases of beach and dune restoration, the fencing will be used in combination with planting native dune vegetation. This is where American Beachgrass/ Marram Grass (*Ammophila breviligulata*) comes into play. It is the most commonly used grass as it tolerates large amounts of sand burial and is drought tolerant. American Beachgrass is harvested by the Coastal Centre in collaboration with local Municipalities and private landowners, and transplanted to the restoration sites with the help of community volunteers.

The (other) Native Plants:

There are many diverse native coastal dune plants along the shores of Lake Huron, and a number are rare plant species. This summer we were able to provide participants with native plants such as the Common, Butterfly and Swamp Milkweeds, Wild Lupines and Big Bluestem Grasses at no cost to the property owner. These

plants will provide habitat and nesting grounds for wildlife including species at risk such as the Monarch Butterfly, Piping Plover and many more. They are adapted to our shores and require no input of water, fertilizers and pesticides once mature.



Will you become a Green Ribbon Champion? To register for our program please follow this link: <https://www.lakehuron.ca/grc>, or email Daniela Klicper at daniela.klicper@lakehuron.ca

Coast Watchers: a Family Experience

Brooke Beuttenmiller

Coast Watchers is our citizen science program that partners with incredible volunteers to collect data on the Lake Huron shoreline from May till October. Brooke Beuttenmiller, a bright and passionate Coast Watcher at age 17, teams up with her family to monitor the shoreline outside of Bayfield Ontario once a week. Young environmentalists, such as Brooke, play a key role in shaping the future of our natural environment. Although collecting data on plastic pollution, species at risk, and atmospheric conditions is critical; often times considerable change begins with conversations at home.



This is Brooke's experience as a Coast Watcher:

"This past year I became a part of the Coast Watcher's citizen monitoring program to further my knowledge and understanding of Lake Huron. My mom brought this opportunity to my attention after she saw a posting for the program in the monthly newsletter. I was instantly captivated by the environmental exposure and volunteer experience this program offered. A short email exchange and a bit of basic training was all that was required to get my family

and I involved in this program.

Lake Huron has always felt like a second home to my family as we tend to spend most of our summers by the water. However, with the recent high water levels, our shoreline experienced significant erosion, which has resulted in many lake related anxieties. The Coast Watcher's program allows my family to provide concrete statistics from our little section of beach and helps to keep updated records of Bayfield's coastline. We work as a team to provide accurate information. If I am unable to track data one week, my younger brother assumes my Coast Watcher's duties.

Over the short period of time I volunteered with Coast Watchers, there have been several environmental discussions and observations in my household. These conversations consist mainly of concerns about the relentless erosion happening along the coast or a weekly lake water temperature update. Some important lessons learned from my experience as a Coast Watcher are that environmental change cannot be rushed or forced and tampering with mother nature rarely has a good outcome. I believe it takes a village to make a difference and family involvement in this program is ideal for environmental awareness and protection."

-Brooke Beuttenmiller



Beuttenmiller family photo taken in 2011

It is so exciting when families work together and learn from each other while collecting important data about the Lake Huron shoreline!!

To become a Coast Watcher next season, or to learn more please visit our website [HERE](#)

The final webinars of our Coastal Series are coming up!
Make sure to secure your spot!

In a Flap about Shorebirds Webinar

August 10th 7:00pm-8:00pm EST

Participants will learn about the common shorebirds found along the Great Lakes, reasons species may become at Risk, the basics about the Species at Risk Act (SARA) and the Endangered Species Act (ESA), and the value of protecting Species at Risk.



Register [HERE](#)

Species at Risk Webinar

August 31st 7:00pm-8:00pm EST

Participants will learn about the Species at Risk who rely on the Lake Huron shoreline, threats and stressors that impact them, and how we can help our plant and animals' communities at risk!



Register [HERE](#)

The Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation is a registered charity founded in 1998 with the goals of protecting and restoring Lake Huron's coastal environment. We are the voice for Lake Huron.

DONATE TODAY!



www.lakehuron.ca