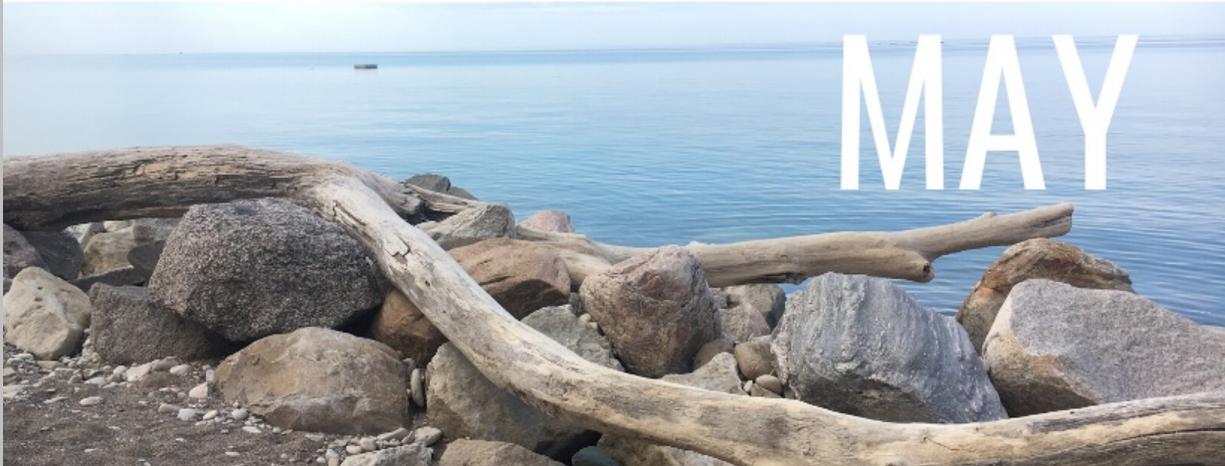




The Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation



We've Gone Virtual!

There have been some changes at the Coastal Centre this month, due in part to the 'working from home' orders. We have closed our physical office on Courthouse Square in Goderich but our staff are continuing to work hard on behalf of Lake Huron, from home. Because of this, our office phone will also be offline, so at this time, we are best reached by email at: coastalcentre@lakehuron.ca and mail can be sent to P.O. Box 477, Goderich Ontario, N7A 4C7.

While our office is closed, your donations remain hard at work, as we tackle vital issues across Lake Huron's shores. Although our events are postponed as well during this time, we are bringing you a webinar series and keeping our social media feeds fresh with new information and fun facts every day! (More on the free webinars at the bottom of this newsletter). Thank you for your patience and understanding at this time!



For the Month of May, and the rest of 2020, consider contributing a **monthly charitable donation** to the Coastal Centre, set up through lakehuron.ca

DONATE TODAY!

May is for the Mothers

As we hope most of you know, Mother's day is Sunday May 10th. With the current social distancing situation in



place, that means many of us (including myself) will not be able to spend time (in person) with our mothers this year. In lieu of this, we thought we could bring you an amazing teaching about our other "Mother", the Earth, and the water that surrounds her.

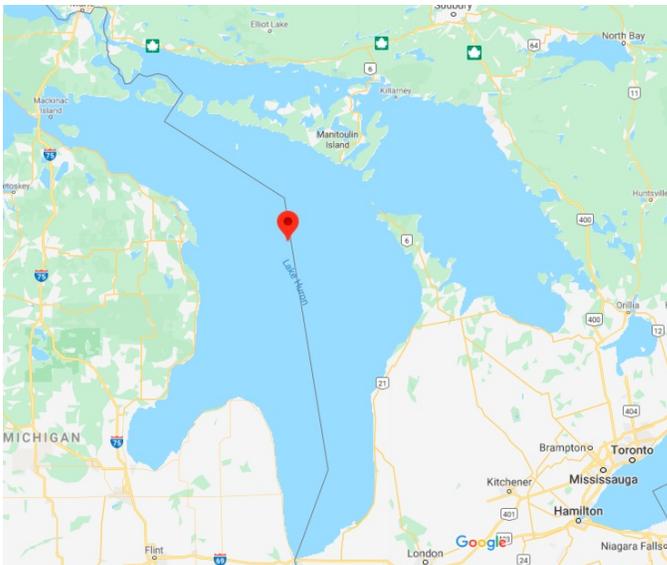
In first nation's teachings, they describe water as the original mother, the one that gives us life on this planet. To paraphrase the teaching, ***"The Earth is said to be a woman... She is called***

Mother Earth because from Her come all living things. Water is Her life blood. It flows through Her, nourishes Her, and purifies Her" (resilience.org). ***"In particular, women share a sacred connection to the spirit of water through their role as child bearers, and have particular responsibilities to protect and nurture water"*** (thesolutionsjournal.com).

Although the teaching goes far deeper than this quick synopsis, what we can gain from it is that water is the single most important thing allowing us all to thrive on Mother Earth, and without it, where would we be? I guess if anything, this allows us to take some time to "reflect" on the water around us, how we relate to it (physically, spiritually, etc), and how we can do better by it. With the same token, take some time to reflect or share experiences in the form of stories, laughter, and just plain old conversation with your Mums, we all have something to learn from one another. Maybe she has a funny (or somewhat scandalous) story about her relationship with Lake Huron you have never heard!

Let us connect with all of our mothers, including Mother Earth this May. Stay tuned to our social media accounts for daily content and fun facts to keep you "up" on your Lake Huron knowledge. Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter using the links at the bottom of this newsletter.

May is also for MAPPING!



In our modern times with more technology sitting in your iPhone than the computers that put the first human on the moon, we often take for granted what a task it would have been to draw up some of the first maps of Lake Huron. Today, we rely on maps for so many things from delineating property boundaries among squabbling neighbors, to charting changes to river deltas, to calculating forest cover in a watershed, to finding geocaching way-points on your hikes. But how did we get here- to this amazing age of digital Geographic mapping that is so precise we can almost

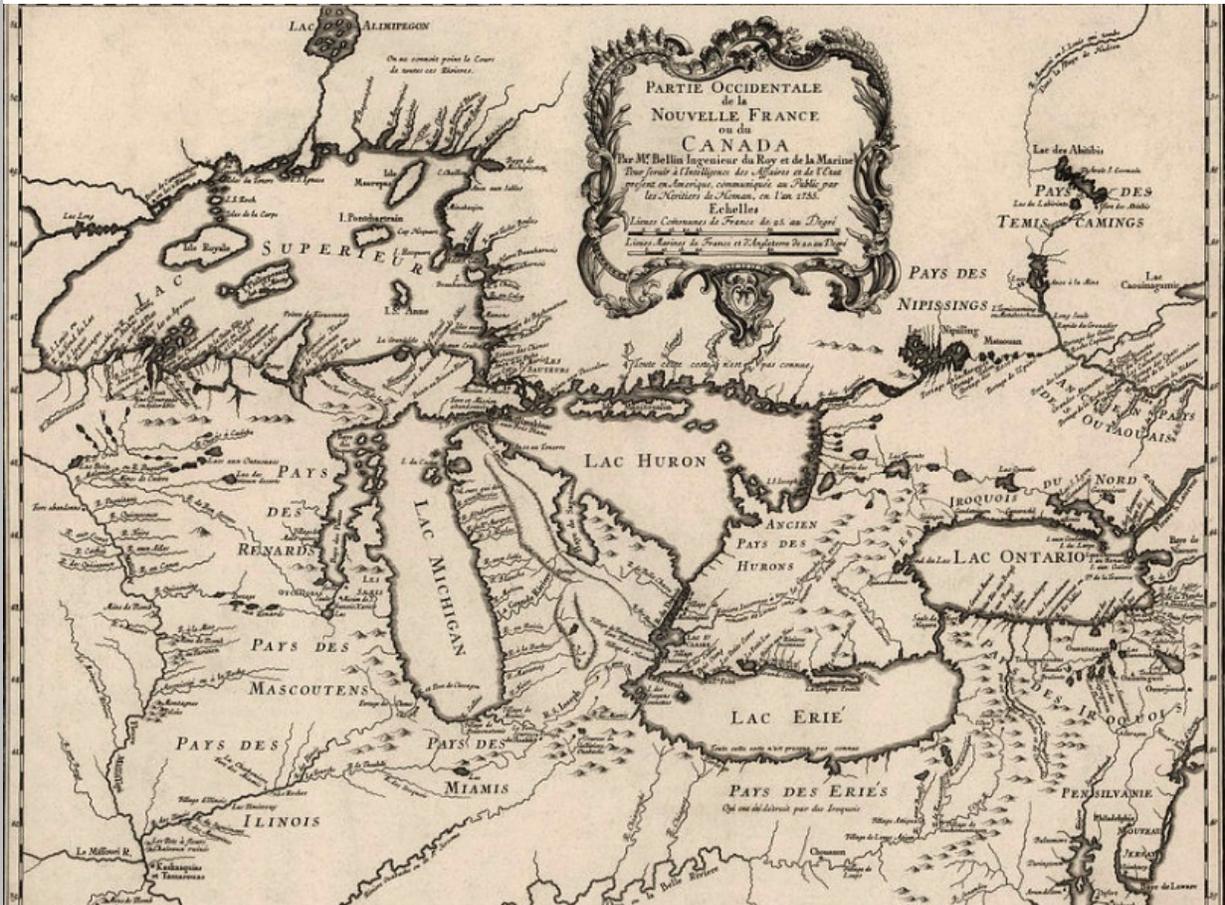
see the hairs on the back of moose walking through the forest.

Let us tell you, from the stories we have heard from the Historic Saugeen Metis, to Canadian government reports documenting the first "Explorers" to the Traditional Ecological Knowledge that intertwines the majestic shores of Lake Huron, the Mapping of this water body was said to be no easy feat. The first indication of submitted "official" maps of the Great Lakes date back to the 1600's, where there were crude drawings of the Great Lakes placed on maps by French Royal Geographers including Nicholas Sanson.

Although far from accurate, these maps showed the interconnectivity of the water bodies

told through stories by trappers, explorers, and the Indigenous knowledge of the area. Because many First Nation's and Metis would traverse the Great Lakes on an annual basis, these groups contained immense experience and knowledge of each island, cove, and peninsula across Lake Huron's 6,000+ km of coastline. These groups therefore had knowledge far beyond anything that was captured in 'official' maps of the time.

"Map making was a widespread and well-developed art among Indigenous peoples in what is now Canada, although this fact has been largely ignored in the history of cartography. Most common were navigational maps, because the more nomadic hunting and gathering bands depended upon effective navigation over great expanses of wilderness. Maps were also drawn to facilitate trade and warfare over long distances... Indigenous navigational maps were usually drawn on the ground or in the snow. Sketched from memory, they were accompanied by verbal descriptions of the country in question. They were thus ephemeral and, in contrast to the European use of maps, required the successful traveller to rely entirely upon memory, a task for which one was trained from childhood" (thecanadianencyclopedia.ca).



Antique Map of the Great Lakes by Jacques Nicolas Bellin - 1755

Once the Government of Canada began increasing their interest in the Great Lakes (around 1816) for charting the waters for transportation and Lands for occupation and industry, they commissioned a fellow named Captain Henry W. Bayfield (yes the namesake of the beautiful Bayfield Ontario), to create hydrographic surveys of the Great Lakes, St. Lawrence region, to which he dedicated his career. From there, more accuracy began appearing in the 'official' maps, with the small but mighty coastal communities beginning to appear, peppering the lakeshore. With the improvements in mapping came many other good (and bad) developments for both First Nations and settlers alike. What we do know is that all of these experiences shaped what we know as Lake Huron today, and through these maps we can make out changes to our shores including lake level fluctuations, traditional land areas like historically important trading posts, and the truth behind the lore and namesakes of many islands across Lake Huron's coast.

This May, we decided to bring you stories about mapping the Great Lakes (Lake Huron in particular), and weave together some information about how the shores of our beautiful

Lake were mapped over time!

From the lake bottom "Bathymetry" to the ever-changing shoreline topography, stay tuned for more of these stories on our social media (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter), where we will give you little story crumbs to follow throughout the month of Mapping May!

6 HOT TOPICS Covered in the 2020 Webinar Series.

If learning about moms and mapping isn't your cup of tea, you are in luck! This month we are starting our annual webinar series touching on a variety of topics from the deep fathoms of Lake Huron, to the shores and skies that surround her! These topics are our most highly recommended and most frequently asked questions about Lake Huron! We hope they help answer some of your questions as well.

This webinar series is brought to you through the Green Ribbon Champion program, sponsored in 2020 by Nuclear Waste Management Organization and the Coast Watchers Citizen Science program sponsored in 2020 by Bruce Power and the TD Friends of the Environment Foundation. A big thank-you to our generous project sponsors for allowing us to provide these webinars to our lake lovers, at no charge.

We welcome all of our lake lovers to attend one, or all, of these free webinars! If you find value in what you learn, consider making a donation to support the continuation of these educational and informative sessions during these times of social distancing, and into the future. As a non-profit, charitable organization, we rely on the support of our coastal community to continue our education, outreach, and program delivery across Lake Huron's coast. Thank you to our dedicated donors who support the delivery of our diverse portfolio of projects! We couldn't do it without you!

THE LAKE HURON CENTRE FOR COASTAL CONSERVATION PRESENTS:

Learning about Lake Huron...

A Summer Coastal Webinar Series



WED, MAY 20, 2020 : 2-3 PM

Harnessing Nature's Power: Green infrastructure vs. hardened shorelines.

THURS JUNE 4, 2020 : 10-11 AM

Plastic Pollution: Microfibers to tires, how do we sort through the waste?

THURS JUNE 18, 2020 : 2-3 PM

Go with the Flow: Water levels and what shapes Lake Huron.

WED JUL 8, 2020 : 10-11 AM

Throwing Shade: The right plants for your coastal environment.

WED JULY 22, 2020 : 2-3 PM

Identifying Imitators: Comparing species at risk to their look a-likes.

THURS AUG 6, 2020: 10-11 AM

How to: Coastal restoration on beaches, dunes, and forests.

Thank you to our generous sponsors:



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Innovation at work



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.



www.lakehuron.ca

