



The Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation

SEPTEMBER 2017

Keeping a Great Lake great since 1998!

Big Changes at Brucedale Conservation Area

For most of us, September means the migration back to our regular routines and less time at the cottage, but for Coastal Centre staff, things have not slowed down! Welcome to our September Newsletter.



After much diligent work this summer with the community around Brucedale Conservation Area, The Coastal Centre, in partnership with Enbridge Green Energy, National Wetland Conservation Fund, Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority, Dr. Janice Gilbert, and Green Stream, removed the invasive species, *Phragmites australis*, from a large portion of the bay. Using a new amphibious cutting machine, the team was able to cut and truck out hundreds of kilograms of Phragmites, which will help restore this bay to a more natural state. Phragmites has been a problem at Brucedale Conservation Area for 15-20 years, and therefore was very well established, making this an extremely challenging project. See the two photos below for "before" and "after" shots.

If you want to learn more about the success of this project so far, and our plans for 2018, Check our [website](#) and [social media](#) for updates and current information.



Environmental Heroes in Coastal Communities



By Tineasha Brenot, Coastal Technologist

There is something that draws us to the sun, waves, smell and everything else that comes with spending a day at the beach. High traffic beaches often get a hard rap due to high visitation, litter, beach grooming, motorized water activities and ATV's on the beach.

Although there is bad publicity surrounding these issues, there are many positive initiatives happening in our communities by every-day environmental heroes across Lake Huron.

Dedicated groups including:

- The [Ipperwash Phrag Phighters](#) removes invasive Phragmites, sweet white clover and spotted knapweed along the shoreline;
- [Blue Bayfield](#) reduces plastic pollution created in their community and provides water bottle-refilling stations;
- Private business owners like [West Shore Surf Shop](#) organizing beach cleanups with the communities of Kincardine and Sarnia;
- [Plover Lovers](#) in Sauble Beach, advocate for the protection of species at risk, and educate the public on what makes dunes and beaches so important and how humans can influence change in these ecosystems.

There has been, and continues to be an incredible amount of involvement along the coast. All of these initiatives and demonstrated environmental consciousness are so important for protecting our shorelines and wouldn't be nearly as successful without the help of these local champions. For anyone who is looking to get involved, consider joining a community group in your area or start your own. Keep up the enthusiasm and great work!

Check out our upcoming events!

Thursday, September 7:

Stand Up Paddle Board Draw

Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation

12:00pm

Sponsored by Bruce Power

See our Facebook page for more details.

Saturday, September 23:

Blue Bayfield Sustainability Summit

Big solutions for small communities!

9:00am - 5:00pm

Bayfield Town Hall

11 The Square, Bayfield

Register at www.bluebayfield.ca/summit

Saturday, September 16:

Brandon J. Lemieux Memorial Beach Clean-up

All are welcome!

9:00am - 3:00pm

Bayfield Public Beach

Come honour the life of Brandon Lemieux at the place he loved most doing what was

important to him.

[Click here for more event details](#)

Volunteer Spotlight: Giving Lake Huron a "Phighting" Chance



Long time Ipperwash resident, Sandra Marshall, has spent most of her life growing up beside Lake Huron. She remembers being a child that explored the dunes, swam in the lake and built sand castles on the beach from sunrise to sunset with her family.

Sandy has been involved over the past year with the Ipperwash Phrag Phighters and the Lambton Shores Phragmites Community Group after attending a community meeting educating the community on the spread of Phragmites. Her motivation for the Phragmites removal in Ipperwash has stemmed from an understanding of how aggressive and quickly an invasive species can destroy shorelines in coastal communities.

One thing she has learned from her commitment to community projects is that the more excited and involved she became, the more people around her got interested as well. **"It only takes one person to start making a difference. Let that person be you."** For anyone looking to become involved but isn't sure if they can make the commitment, Sandra emphasizes that there are lots of projects to suit people's ability and interest levels, all you have to do is ask.

The Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation supports the Canadian coastline of Lake Huron. We foster communication and partnerships between environmental agencies and organizations, working towards a sustainable and resilient coast. We provide education, resources, and information on lake-wide issues and our programs reflect the inter-connectivity between land and water.

By supporting the efforts of the Centre, you can help to ensure that we pass on a positive environmental legacy to future generations.

DONATE TODAY!

