

February 2022

Announcements



Photo: Co-founders, Geoff Peach and Patrick Donnelly, transplanting Pitcher's Thistle from the Western University greenhouse to the Chantry Dunes in Southampton in 1998, shortly after the Coastal Centre was formed.

Geoff Peach was an environmental advocate and expert in coastal science. As co-founder of the Lake Huron Coastal Centre, his work continues to inspire many

environmentalists today. The Geoff Peach Scholarship Fund was created to support post-graduate students in their coastal research along the Lake Huron shoreline.

Photo: Geoff Peach teaching an elementary public school class about sand dune restoration in Bruce County in the 1990s - the early days of what is now the Coastal Conservation Youth Corps.



Thank you to everyone who applied for one of two \$1,500 Geoff Peach Scholarship Fund grants this year! The successful candidates will be chosen by our Scholarship Committee and contacted by the end of this month. Stay tuned!



Photo: Doug Ellacott, District Grant Administrator of the Rotary Club of Goderich, presenting a \$10,000 cheque to Erinn Lawrie, Executive Director of the Lake Huron Coastal Centre.

This spring, the Lake Huron Coastal Centre will be launching a new mobile application for our Coast Watchers program. We could not have done this without support from the Rotary Club of Goderich and RBC Tech for Nature. On behalf of our Coast Watchers volunteers, thank you!

This advancement will allow even more volunteers to participate in collecting important data relating to climate change, water levels, wildlife, algae, and human activities along the Lake Huron shoreline and will help private and public organizations make more informed decisions when it comes to our shared coast!

Keep an eye out for more announcements on our [website](#) and social media to find out how to become a Coast Watcher this year!



Foundation

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Photo: Ice shelves along the Lake Huron shoreline.

PSA: Stay off the Lake Huron ice shelves!

The Lake Huron Coastal Centre joins municipalities and Conservation Authorities along the Lake Huron shoreline in warning residents not to walk near or on the ice shelves this winter.

What is an ice shelf?

As air and water temperatures drop, waves break up the ice that forms on the lake and push it toward the shoreline where it refreezes and creates a fragmented shelf with very tall peaks. These ice shelves can stretch out several metres into the lake. While the accumulation of ice and snow may look like a solid extension of the shoreline, it is not.

Why are they dangerous?

During the winter, the water beneath Lake Huron's frozen surface is constantly moving. The ice that forms in many areas of Lake Huron is thinner and less stable than the ice that forms over ponds and other standing bodies of water. Along Lake Huron's shoreline, large holes and cracks are scattered throughout the snow-covered ice shelves. With one wrong step, individuals can fall through a weak or unfrozen area and get trapped in the caverns or plunge into the frigid waters. If water temperatures are cold enough, hypothermia can set in extremely quickly. Depending on the road conditions, it can be difficult for rescue crews to respond quickly.

What should you do?

Stay safe and observe Lake Huron's beautiful shoreline from a distance this year. Share this information widely to help get this important message out. It could save a life!



Photo: A chilly sunset on Lake Huron in Goderich, Ontario.

This month, the Lake Huron Coastal Centre team picked their favourite winter birds (a tough choice)!

Which of these birds is your favourite?

Vote below!

Eastern Bluebird (Holly's favourite)

Select

Hooded Merganser (Kerry's favourite)

Select

Northern Cardinal (Alyssa's favourite)

Select

Snowy Owl (Erinn's favourite)

Select

Keith Kennedy,
Virginia (March 2020)



Kevin Vande Vusse,
Michigan (November 2017)



Paul Tavares,
Ontario (February 2011)



Brad Imhoff,
Ohio (March 2020)



We **love** your support!

The Lake Huron Coastal Centre and [Lake Life Studio](#) are teaming up this month to send a sweet **Valentine's Day** gift to one of our Instagram followers! Check out our pages on Instagram ([@coastalcentre](#) & [@lakelifestudio](#)) for all the details on how to win a \$20 MEC gift card, a Coastal Centre tote bag, a reusable glass straw and case from Strawesome, a utensil kit from EcoJarz, and a Lake Life glass heart and winter toque.



We're obsessed with Justine's beautiful glass work, found at Lake Life Studio in Camlachie. Check out www.lakelifestudio.com to see more!



Resources

CBC: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/london/ice-shleves-sauble-beach-1.4472242>

ABCA: <https://www.abca.ca/post/?ID=1272>

The Cornell Lab: <https://www.allaboutbirds.org/news/>

The conservation work we do at the Lake Huron Coastal Centre would not be possible without the help of our volunteers and partners. Thank you especially to: Lake Life Studio, the Rotary Club of Goderich, RBC Tech for Nature, and Bruce Power.



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The Lake Huron Coastal Centre 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