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## 2026 Marks the Return of the Green Ribbon Champion Program

We are pleased to announce the return of the **Green Ribbon Champion** program to the Lake Huron shoreline!

The program offers beach assessments for shoreline land holders, followed by recommendations from LHCC staff on how to improve shoreline resiliency. Our guidance covers a range of coastal stewardship focus areas, including proper storage of equipment, beach access pathways, dune profile and invasive species management.



**Through this program, we aim to:**

- Build awareness of the importance of naturalized shorelines and functioning dune systems.

- Strengthen partnerships with community groups, municipalities, and residents.
- Engage the public through hands-on workshops and restoration activities.
- Enhance shoreline resilience to erosion and climate change.

Registration in 2026 will **only be open to past participants** seeking follow-up site assessments for work previously completed on their property through GRC. Registration for new participants will open in 2027.

The program will operate along the Lake Huron shoreline from **Point Clark to Southampton**.

[Learn more about GRC](#)

We would like to thank Canada Water Agency, Birds Canada, and the municipalities of Huron Kinloss, Kincardine and Saugeen Shores for their continued partnership and support of this program!

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## The Dunes that Shape Our Shore

We're proud to share a new video highlighting the beauty, resiliency, and ecological importance of dunes. Wasaga Beach is a beloved tourism destination with a thriving ecosystem. It's also part of a globally rare freshwater dune ecosystem that supports incredible biodiversity, including the endangered piping plover.

Natural shores and coastal dunes do far more than shape the shoreline. They act as natural barriers against high water and storms, help prevent erosion, filter and store groundwater, and create habitat for specialized plants and wildlife found nowhere else.



Healthy beach ecosystems help ensure that Wasaga Beach remains beautiful, resilient, and full of life for generations to come. Without healthy dunes, there is no thriving beach.

Thank you to Ontario Nature for inviting us to be part of this initiative, Birds Canada for their collaboration and expertise, and Powerline Films for bringing this story to life. Together, this partnership reflects the shared commitment needed to protect Ontario's natural shorelines now and into the future.

[Learn More](#)

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## Welcoming Three New Voices to the LHCC Board

We are thrilled to welcome three exceptional new Directors to the Lake Huron Coastal Centre Board: Jennifer Adams, Andrea Goold, and Erik Downing. Their collective expertise in freshwater science, environmental leadership, and watershed management will help strengthen LHCC's mission to protect and restore the Lake Huron shoreline.

### Jennifer Adams, M.Sc., Ph.D.



Jennifer is a freshwater scientist with more than 15 years of experience studying and protecting lakes, rivers, and wetlands. Her work has focused on how climate change, water flow changes, and pollution, including microplastics, affect freshwater ecosystems across Canada and internationally. She currently works as the Scientific Advisor at the Bruce Peninsula Biosphere Association. In the past, she has held research roles at the University of Waterloo and the University of Toronto, leading teams, working with community partners and government agencies, and sharing findings through scientific publications and reports. She brings strong scientific expertise, collaborative leadership, and a deep commitment to freshwater stewardship to the Board.

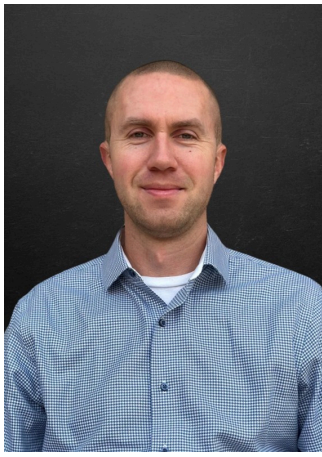
### Andrea Goold, HBESc., M.Sc.



Andrea is a senior environmental professional with nearly 20 years of experience in sustainability, regulatory compliance, and community engagement. At Ontario Power Generation, she leads Indigenous engagement, while also supporting environmental permitting and strategic planning across multiple energy sectors. Andrea holds a Master of Science in Biology and a Bachelor of Environmental Science from Lakehead University, and her work has been recognized through several leadership and achievement award nominations. She has also demonstrated strong community leadership through long-term volunteer and board service, including a decade as President of the Lakehead Conservation Foundation.

Andrea brings deep governance experience and a commitment to environmental stewardship to the Board.

### Erik Downing, B.E.S.



Erik is the General Manager and Secretary-Treasurer of the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority, where he oversees day-to-day operations, finances, and field programs supporting watershed health and natural resource protection. He brings more than 20 years of experience in environmental planning and conservation, with a career spanning land use planning, natural hazard management, shoreline protection, and regulatory oversight. In his leadership roles, he has worked closely with municipalities, agencies, and community partners on complex environmental and development issues. Erik holds a Bachelor of Environmental Studies from York University and has contributed sector-wide leadership through his work with provincial conservation authority

initiatives, including co-chairing a Great Lakes coastal working group. He brings practical governance experience, regulatory insight, and a strong commitment to environmental stewardship to the Board.

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Donations directly support Lake Huron Coastal Centre's conservation programs. These programs help provide shoreline communities with unique ways to connect with nature while working to protect the health of Lake Huron.

To support our work, click the button below.

Donate



[www.lakehuron.ca](http://www.lakehuron.ca)

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