



---

*Get your coziest sweater and favourite mug ready.. it's fall!*



**Fall Has Been the Season of Events for the Lake Huron Coastal Centre! Here is How They Went...**

---

## **Froggy Fest!**

On September 17th the smell of popcorn was in the air, kids were creating art on rocks and getting their face painted, you could walk by incredible chalk art on the ground as you hear the great local band playing in the background. You could see that children (and adults) were overcoming their fear of snakes at the reptile station, and most importantly you could catch the chatter of environmental education and discussion everywhere.

Over 500 people came to celebrate art and conservation with \$7,000 raised that will specifically go towards local conservation projects that focus on making the Lake Huron coastal environment a better place.

Thank you to the incredible Froggy Fest organizers, all of the generous sponsors, the volunteers who donated their time, the environmental groups

who set up hands-on educational stations, and all of YOU who came out to support the event!



---

## Great Goderich Shoreline Clean-up

We had **133** volunteers remove **200** pounds of litter from the Goderich main beach and the banks of the Maitland River on September 24th. Most of what was collected was smaller items (food wrappers, cups, cans, plastic pieces, and cigarette butts) which makes 200 pounds a very impressive number!

Thank you to everyone who volunteered their time to make our beaches a safer, more healthy place! It was great to see so many families in attendance. We would also like to offer a huge thank you to all of our sponsors and partners.

We are looking forward to hosting **MANY** more beach clean-ups in 2023. See you there!





---

## Thank You Zehrs!

If you live in the Goderich area you have likely walked by and smelled the tasty BBQs outside of the Zehrs storefront or at a local event. Zehrs Goderich donates staff time, food and drinks to raise money for important causes like shoreline clean-ups. Store Manager Jim Bissett has a passion for giving back to his community and this is what he had to say about the Great Goderich Shoreline Clean-up...

**"When we come together as a group, we do make a difference!"**



---

## Thank You Ontario Trillium Foundation!



A fantastic group of people came together this past weekend to celebrate the success of the Coastal Conservation Youth Corps (CCYC) program thanks to the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) who donated \$205,000 over 3 years. In that time we have had 120 participants in this program, who have spent 3,177 hours volunteering on environmental projects in our communities. They have been out cleaning up garbage on our shorelines, they have been removing invasive plant species, they have been planting pollinator gardens, and restoring sand dunes. Thank you to OTF and all of the CCYC participants for making our community and our Great Lake a better place.



An agency of the Government of Ontario  
Un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario

## Historic Dunes *Port Elgin*

*by Patrick Donnelly, Coastal Science and Stewardship Advisor  
Lake Huron Coastal Centre*

At the Lake Huron Coastal Centre we receive a lot of questions about our work with beach dune ecosystems. Common questions we get are...

*"Why would you plant dune grass there? There hasn't been a dune on this beach in 100 years"*

*"Why would you plant dune grass on a beach that is wide and flat?"*

*"You're taking away towel space by planting grasses, is it worth it?"*

We love education through discussing differing opinions so we are sharing our answer to these questions below so that we can **learn** and **grow together**.



Historical records such as this photo, are an important aspect of wise shoreline management. Future shoreline conditions are also an important consideration as explained further below. Recently, the LHCC has been provided with an undated photo of Port Elgin beach that shows a wide flat beach with “model T type” vehicles on it. Similar photos are available from this same time frame (and including similar vintage cars) for many other Lake Huron locations where sand and dunes today are plentiful (such as in Grand Bend shown below). Beaches are dynamic, changing due to water levels, human activity on them, and weather conditions. There is no date on the photo above but if we assume the vehicles are 1930’s – 1940’s, water levels on Lake Huron were very low, some years being the Lake’s lowest levels. Therefore, low water levels result in very wide, flat beaches where any dunes, if they exist, would be located much farther inland from water’s edge and outside the view of the photo. Dunes are also often obscured and hidden from view due to cottage and residential development that has occurred over time, over them. In Port Elgin, evidence of former dunes can be seen by the changes in elevation as you proceed away from the lake up the roads that lead to the beach and in the dune formation along the shoreline to the south.

## **Port Elgin and Dunes** *Past and Future*

The shoreline including and surrounding Port Elgin is comprised of a series of crescent-shaped beaches such as Eidt’s Grove and Gobles Grove. The Main Beach in Port Elgin is also a crescent shaped beach formed between the marina and the headland to the south. These beaches contain varying amounts of sand supplies with many forming dunes, that grow and recede with the prevailing ‘dynamic’ conditions mentioned above.

In the historic photos, we know that vehicles being used on the beach compacts the sand and limits dune formation. Therefore with those conditions and with the lower water levels, it is common to not see dune formation. The historic development of the Port Elgin marina and associated adjacent recreational and commercial developments have altered and interrupted the natural beach formation. As always, it is the community's responsibility to determine what the balance should be between natural versus developed shorelines.



## Why Dunes Matter

We know that the future shoreline conditions will not follow the historic past. With a changing climate, a higher range of water levels and more severe storms are projected for Lake Huron's future. Therefore **any** dune formation that can be encouraged along the sandy shorelines, including Port Elgin, will provide storm protection (considered an insurance policy against shoreline erosion), from future higher water levels and more severe storms. We know that our future weather systems are being characterized as "warmer, wetter and wilder" and the Lake Huron Coastal Centre is assisting Lake Huron shoreline communities prepare for and adapt to, these future conditions. Lessons can be learned from recent storm damage along the east coast of Canada and the impact of the post tropical storm 'Fiona'. Despite the differences between ocean coasts and fresh water coastlines, sand and dunes react the same. In the Great Lakes as well as ocean coasts, we need to install and promote more green infrastructure, such as sand dunes, to help prepare us for the future.

Further information on water levels and dune formation can be found below.

General Information on Water Levels and  
Dunes

Specific to Port Elgin, the publication, "Beach and Dune Guidance manual for Saugeen Shores" (2003) has specific recommendations for Port Elgin's beach area on pages 24 and 25.

Beach and Dune Guidance Manual for Saugeen  
Shores

---

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

Lake Huron Coastal Centre | PO Box 477, Goderich, N7A 4C7 Canada [www.lakehuron.ca](http://www.lakehuron.ca)

[Unsubscribe coastalcentre@lakehuron.ca](mailto:unsubscribe_coastalcentre@lakehuron.ca)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by [coastalcentre@lakehuron.ca](mailto:coastalcentre@lakehuron.ca) powered by



Try email marketing for free today!