



## Learn About Lake Huron ON Lake Huron

Join our Coastal Conservation Youth Corps this Summer



The CCYC program provides youth with an opportunity to learn about topics such as coastal processes, water quality, aquatic ecosystems, low-impact design and development, shoreline history, and coastal economies. Participants gain valuable experience with stewardship activities, like dune restoration, plant species identification, invasive plant removal, shoreline clean-ups, microplastic testing, and community planning.

Ecology expert, Kerry Kennedy, will teach participants the practical skills commonly used by local environmental practitioners that help enhance shoreline resilience and reduce the impacts of climate change.

**There are limited spaces available from July 17-21 in Goderich. Join the waitlist for July 10-14 in Saugeen Shores**

Click below to register.

CCYC  
Registration

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## 25th Anniversary 'Is the Coast Clear?' Conference Highlights



Thank you to everyone who attended our 12th biennial "Is the Coast Clear?"  
Lake Huron Conference.

We couldn't have asked for a better way to celebrate our 25th year!



Keynote Speaker, Mark Mattson, starting the day off with an important reminder that we have a shared responsibility for the Great Lakes.



Together again after 5 long years!



Expert panelists, Pete Zuzek, Dr. Mary-Louise Byrne, Daniel King, and Patrick Huber-Kidby discussing Coastal Resilience & Climate Change.

Missed the conference? Learn more about this [here!](#)



Our friends from the Great Lakes Fishery Commission in Michigan brought a few friends with them!

Invasive Sea Lamprey "suck"! Learn more [here](#).



Gregary Ford, Director of Water Programs at Swim Drink Fish, showcasing the Biinaagami Great Lakes Floor Map.



Patrick Donnelly, the LHCC's Coastal Science & Stewardship Advisor was 1 of 30 speakers at the conference.

"No Bluffing! Will our Coastal Bluffs Survive Climate Change?"



Good weather, great food, and excellent company!



See you again for our 27th! - Lake Huron Coastal Centre Team



Thank you to our sponsors for making "Is the Coast Clear?" possible this year!

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## Clean-up the Coast Bayfield



Thank you to the awesome crew who came to the Bayfield shoreline clean-up! A special shout out to D2L for bringing their staff out. 105 pounds of litter was removed from Howard St. Beach.

Click below for the full list of shoreline clean-ups this summer

[Clean-up Details & RSVP](#)

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## A Shipwreck Coast

by Patrick Folkes and Scarlett Janusas

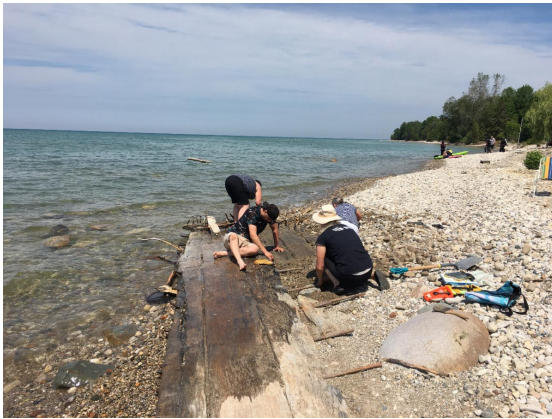
In the century between 1815 (the end of the War of 1812) and 1914 (the

beginning of World War One), Lake Huron saw each season a vast fleet of sail and steam pass to and from on its determined way to distant ports laden with cargoes of coal, lumber, wheat, merchandise, and people.

Voyages taken in uncertain weather, especially in the autumn when gale driven seas hazarded the most stalwart ship and crew, standing and death loomed in the relentless surf along the mainland shore.

The coast of Lake Huron, from the approaches of the St. Clair River northward to the islands cluttered in the entrance of Georgian Bay, was noted for its lack of easy shelter and harbours of refuge. A vessel driven to this shore faced a doubtful fate. Scores were wrecked and became total losses. The tally of ships lost included all types – schooners, brigantines, barques, scows and barges, sidewheelers, propellers, steam tugs, and commercial fishing craft such as the famed Mackinaw boats. More than a hundred names are recorded in the ledgers of the Board of Lake Underwriters and in the annual casualty reports of the Department of Marine & Fisheries.

Evidence of these disasters is frequently to be met with by the observant shore walker. Recently, the shallows and beach gravel south of Point Clark revealed a centreboard casing from the schooner Honer H. Hine, lost in 1883. And of the same year, the rudder of the steam tug Erie Belle, destroyed by boiler explosion south of Kincardine, which erosion exposed long enough to be identified by members of the Ontario Marine Heritage Committee (OMHC) under an archaeological license issued by the Province.



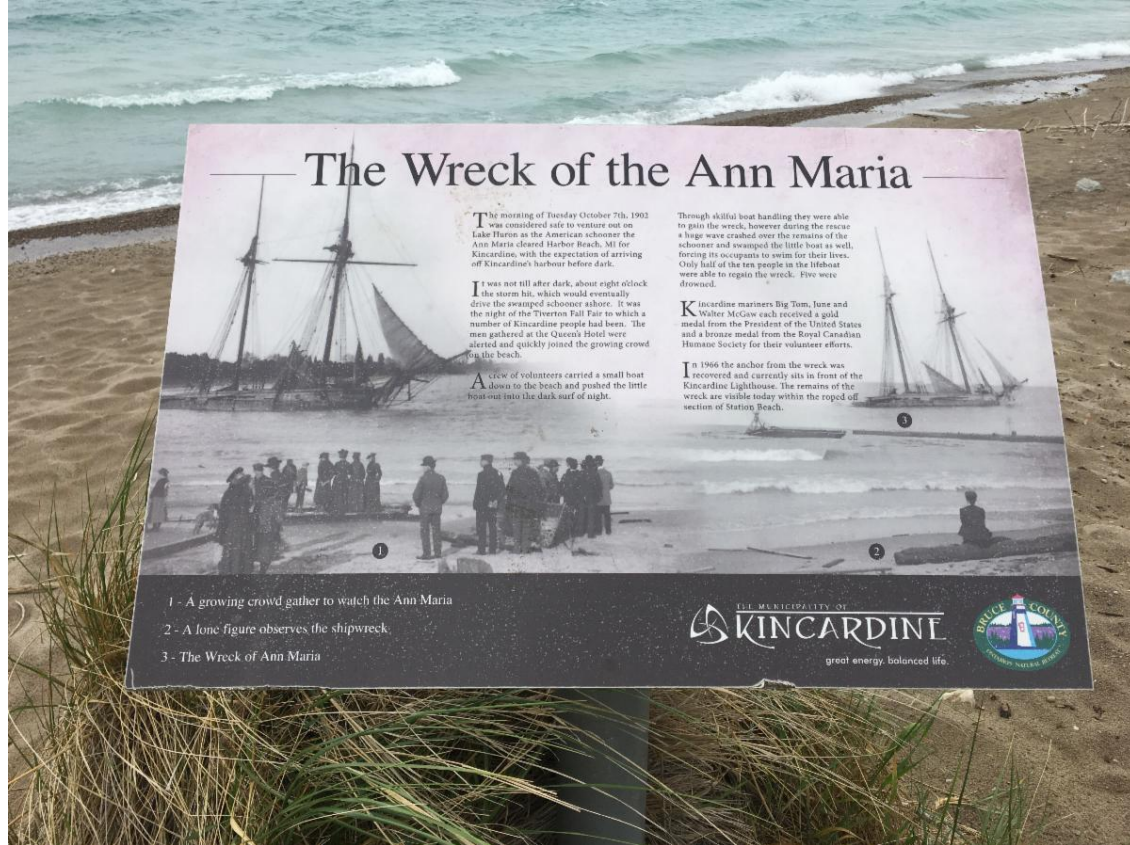
Centreboard casing at Point Clark



Rudder from the Erie Belle

Still visible at the water's edge at Kincardine, wrenched from the sand to a varying extent by the will of the lake, are the remains of the schooner Ann Maria of 1902. The wreck still evokes the memory of her tragic demise and the dramatic rescue of the crew.





The most important historic shipwreck to be identified, when the tips of her frames protruded from the sand beach at Southampton, was the former HMS General Hunter wrecked in 1816. Present at the Battle of Lake Erie in 1813 and captured by the Americans, she was lost when pressed into U.S. service connecting Lake Erie and Mackinac Island at the head of Lake Huron. When the Hunter underwent a full archaeological excavation, the survey team was astonished to discover a wooden scow, one used in the construction of the “Long Dock” breakwater in the 1870s, cheek by jowl with the Hunter.



Frames of the General Hunter when 1st found (Photo: J. Weichel)



Fully excavated hull of the General Hunter

These are examples of shipwrecks whose hidden remains have been revealed by the random chance of wave and erosion. Their timbers, commonly of white oak and marked by worn holes left by spikes or fasteners, are not just bothersome fragments to be hurriedly burned or consigned to the landfill. They have a tale to tell and are clues to a buried history of Ontario’s marine heritage and merit investigation, interpretation, and perhaps preservation.

Shipwrecks or parts thereof, routinely get washed ashore by waves and ice. The lake sometimes hides these from view through burial. Sometimes pieces are thrown up on the shore into the vegetation. When ships go down, there is flotsam and jetsam. Flotsam are items that were not deliberately thrown overboard, such as the debris from a shipwreck. Jetsam are the items deliberately thrown overboard. Both can end up in the water or washed ashore. Additionally, as shore observers, the remnants of old piers, docks, and wharves might be seen immediately offshore, usually in the shallows, or have again been claimed by the sediments of the beach and/or Lake Huron. All of these items provide possible insight of the marine heritage of the Lake Huron coast.

As volunteers you can assist with the recording of Lake Huron's marine heritage. If possible, take photographs and record the location of the find. Look for squared timber, metal fasteners, machinery, wire or rope rigging, ship hardware (deadeyes, anchors, cleats, etc.), pilings, etc. Some of these objects might be immediately offshore, totally or partially exposed on the beach, and even in the tree line.

The in-situ location of these pieces provides data as well as the artifacts themselves. An archaeological licence is required to document, move, excavate, record, etc. Recording of the pieces is important, but please do not disturb the location, as important information might be lost in doing so.



This information can be provided to either the Ontario Marine Heritage Committee ([info@ontariomarineheritagecommittee.ca](mailto:info@ontariomarineheritagecommittee.ca)) or to the Bruce County Museum and Cultural Centre ([museum@brucecounty.on.ca](mailto:museum@brucecounty.on.ca)). The OMHC and the BCMCC have a partnership where marine heritage is documented wherever possible. The BCMCC also has the Ontario Marine History and Underwater Archaeology Resource Centre used to gather archives regarding Ontario's marine history.

This article was prepared by Patrick Folkes and Scarlett Janusas.

Please direct any questions on this topic to the emails above.

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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



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