



The Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation

JULY 2017

Keeping a Great Lake great since 1998!



Lake Huron and Canada 150!

Welcome to our July newsletter! July 1 marks **Canada's 150th birthday** (1867-2017), and all the celebrations have staff at The Coastal Centre reflecting on Lake Huron's history. Lake Huron is an amazing and ever changing entity; be that with water levels, maritime history, fish diversity, and beach usership. We thought that to honour Canada 150, we could share

5 historical facts about Lake Huron that you may or may not know:

1. When French explorer Samuel de Champlain was exploring Canada in 1603 he conversed with the Algonquin First Nation and they told him of a large lake at the end of the St. Lawrence River. When Champlain reached Lake Huron he thought he had found the Pacific Ocean but instead found "an ocean of fresh water", and so he called her *La Mer Douce*, "the fresh-water sea". Lake Huron is the **third largest freshwater lake** on EARTH.
2. Lake Huron is home to over **1000 ship wrecks**, and for good reason. November 9, 1913 marked "The Big Blow", one of the worst storms to ever hit Lake Huron. This storm caused "ocean-like waves of more than 11 metres" and ended up sinking 10 ships and killing 235 seamen across the Great

Lakes. Lake Huron has some of the best scuba diving areas because of the crystal-clear water and impressively intact wrecks.

3. Lake Huron once had more than **250 lighthouses** on its shores, with 130 still in existence today. These lighthouses were extremely important for sailors navigating the intricate and rocky shoreline of Lake Huron and Georgian Bay. Some notable lighthouses include those at Goderich Main (1847); Cove Island (1858); Point Clark (1859); Chantray Island (1859); Kincardine (1874); Big Tub Tobermory (1885); Cabot Head (1896); Cape Croker (1909); Providence Bay Manitoulin (1973).
4. Water levels on Lake Huron are notorious for fluctuating year to year. The highest recorded lake level was the summer of 1986, reaching 1.8 meters above datum; whereas the lowest recorded level occurred in winter 1964 decreasing to 42 centimeters below datum. The **high lake levels** we are experiencing this year are very normal and necessary for coastal health. Looking towards the future, and with the looming impacts of climate change, we should be prepared for these extreme fluctuations more often on Lake Huron.
5. As far as Lake Huron's **fisheries** are concerned, there are a few decades of serious influence. The 1930's were riddled with invasive species such as sea lamprey causing declines in the Lake Trout populations. The 1950's showed us how fragile food webs can be with the near extirpation of Lake Trout because of the combined impacts of over-fishing and invasive species. Luckily, in 2017 we are finally re-building our Lake Trout populations back to reproduction targets with the help of fishing regulations and fish stocking programs.

For **Canada 150**, we encourage you to get out and experience everything Lake Huron has to offer. Whether that is enjoying sunny days on the sand beaches, birding in the coastal wetlands that are teeming with life, or watching a world-class sunset from the deck at your cottage, we wish you all a safe and happy summer! **We hope to see you out at one of our events this summer!**

Check our [website](#) and [social media](#) for updates and current information.

Check out our upcoming events!

Wednesday, July 5:

The Life and Times of the Great Lakes
Bruce Peninsula Environment Group
7:30pm
Christ Church Hall,
55 Main Street, Lion's Head

Wednesday, July 12:

The Scourge of the Nurdle
Green Drinks Sarnia
6:30pm
100 Christina Street North, Sarnia
Free to attend!

Saturday, July 8th:

Meet Lake Huron's Turtles
and learn about wetlands they call home!

Saturday, July 22:

Our Underwater World
Friends of Oliphant

10 am - 12 pm
Sauble Beach Community Centre
Community Centre Dr. Sauble Beach

What is Phragmites?

Information Session and Demonstration
9:30 am - 1:00 pm
Knights of Columbus Hall, Goderich

9:30 am - 11:30 am
Oliphant Camper's Church
2 - 18 Church St. Warton

Phragmites Lunch & Learn

Brucedale Conservation Area
11:30 am - 1:00 pm
Free lunch!

Monday, July 10th:

Kincardine Coastal Cleanup

and volunteer BBQ
5 pm - 7 pm
Station Beach, Kincardine
All are welcome!

Tuesday, August 15:

Coastal Community Workshop

Southampton Residents Association
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Saugeen Shores "The Plex"
600 Tomlinson Drive, Port Elgin

[Click here for more event details](#)

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!

