



The Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation



February 2018

Keeping a Great Lake great since 1998!

What's Up with the Lake Huron Coastal Action Plan?

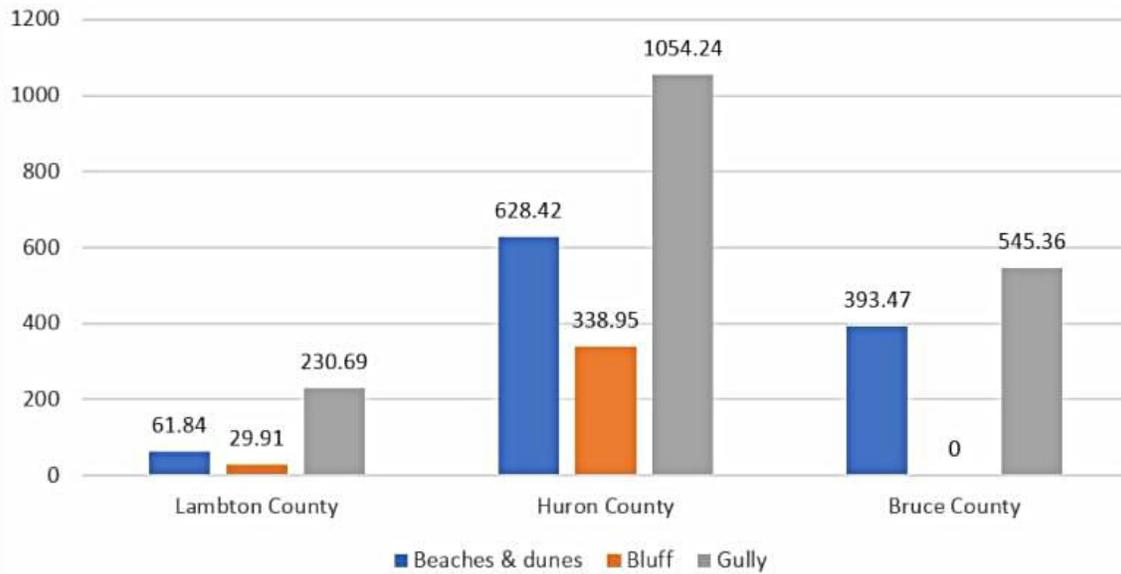
By Hannah Cann, Coastal Stewardship Coordinator

2017 was an exciting year, as we kicked off the Lake Huron Coastal Action Plan. Over this time, we focused on 4 habitats common across the shoreline: Sand beaches and Dunes, Bluffs, Gullies, and Cobble Beaches. We also had a highly successful online questionnaire where 260 people voiced their values and concerns for Lake Huron!

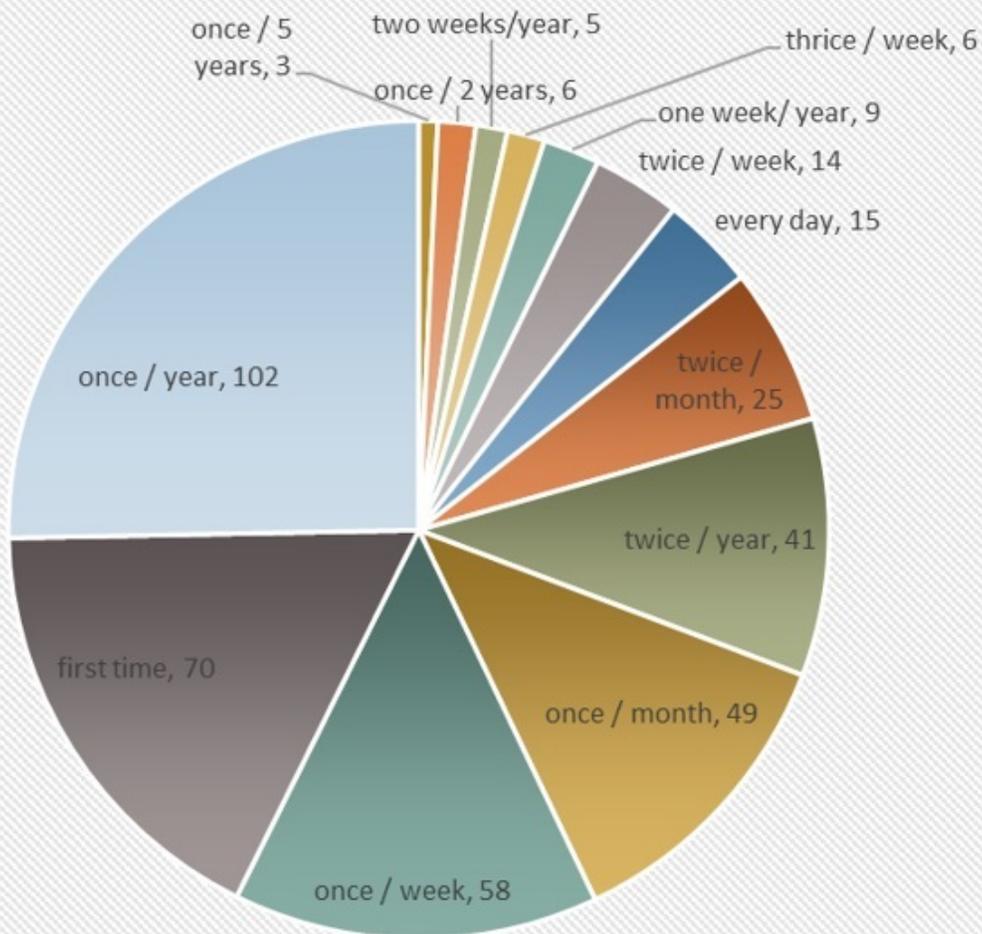
As a "data junkie" (someone who LOVES looking at data and charts), one of the most exciting parts of this action plan is being able to incorporate data from some of the other existing projects at the Coastal Centre, and from partner organizations to see where similarities exist. Sharing the information we gather is one of the most important parts of this plan. That's exactly what we intend to do in this section of this month's newsletter!

Here are some neat statistics from the Coastal Action Plan to show you what we've been up to!

Hectares of Beaches, Bluffs, and Gullies in Coastal Counties

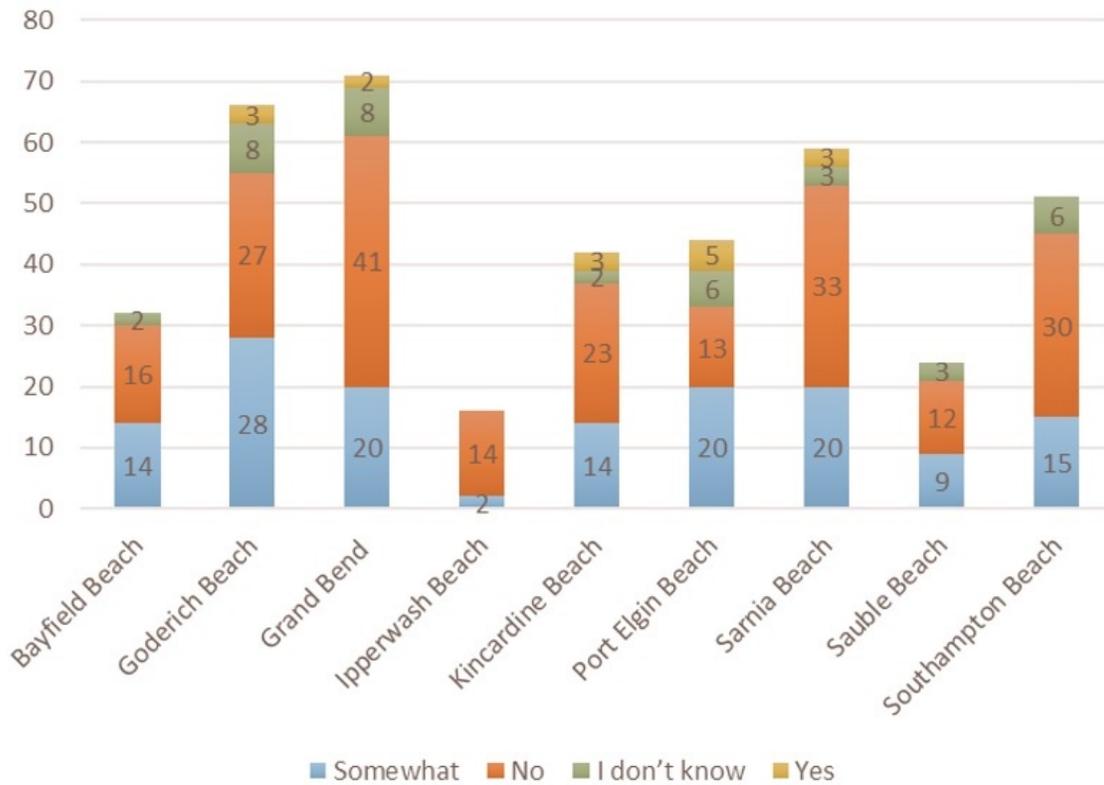


How often do you visit a beach on Lake Huron? (403 responses)



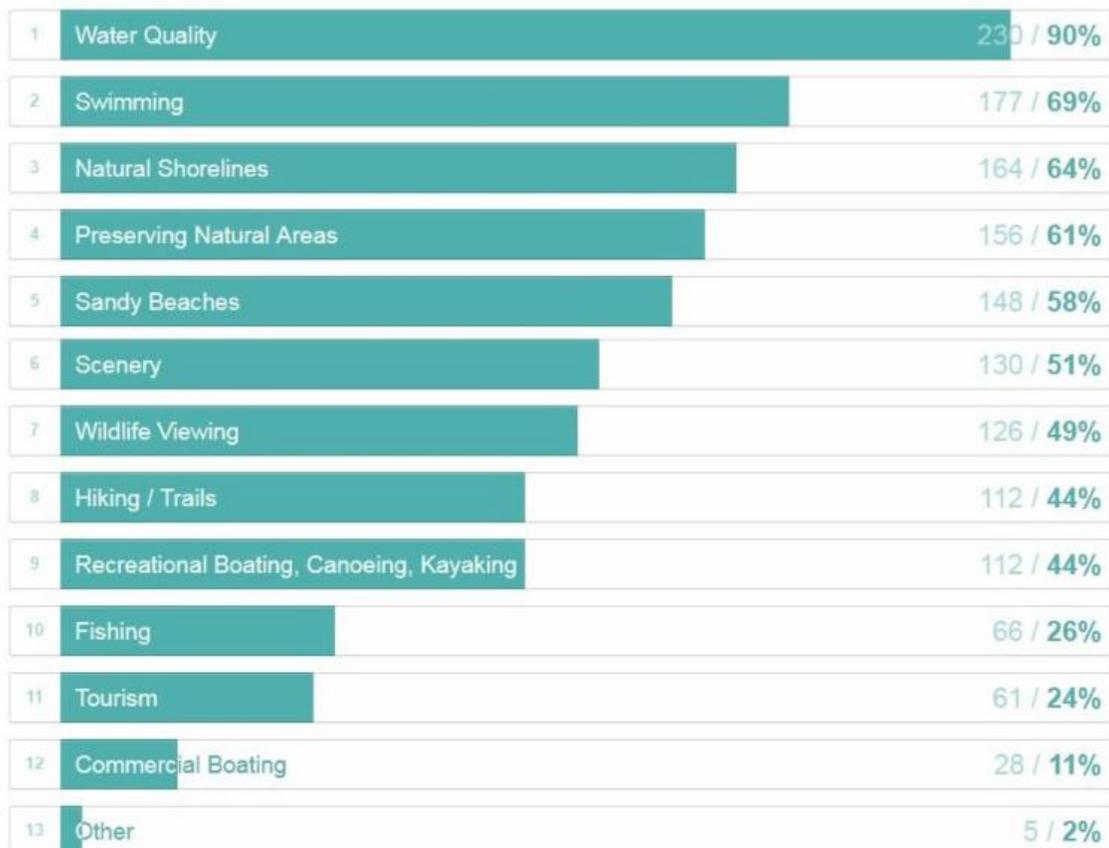
Beach data from our Butt Free Beach, Beach Surveys (2016-2017)

Does this beach have a litter problem?



What is most important to you regarding Lake Huron:

256 out of 256 people answered this question



What is most important to you regarding Lake Huron - from the 2017 CAP Online Questionnaire.

As you can see from these charts, a lot of people have an immense love for Lake Huron and their voices and opinions have been extremely helpful in shaping this plan.

If you have any questions regarding the data shown here, or would like to contribute comments, let us know! For 2018, we are focusing on 3 new habitats: Coastal Woodlands, Coastal Wetlands, and River Mouths.

Check the events section below for our awesome upcoming speaker series engaging Coastal Communities.

Snapshots "Frozen" in Time

Many people call the shores of Lake Huron home 365 day a year, presenting some incredible opportunities for photographers to shine in every season! Here are a few photo's that have been sent to the Coastal Centre highlighting the frozen beauty of our lake. For a chance to be featured in our monthly newsletters, email photos to coastalcentre@lakehuron.ca.



Point Clarke, 2018. Photo By Christine Roberts.



Micro Plastics, Macro Problem

Are you plastic aware?

By *Tineasha Brenot*,
Coastal Technologist

Humans are addicted to plastic. Its convenience has revolutionized our lives in countless ways from fast food to medicine. But it comes at a cost.

Plastic can take hundreds of years to break down fully in a natural environment. In the meantime, microscopic fibres, fragments, foams and beads are becoming highly abundant in oceans and lakes all over the world.



Why does that matter?

In aquatic environments, plastic acts as a magnet attracting toxic chemicals like DDT, PCB's and dioxins which may be linked to many illnesses. These highly concentrated pieces of plastic are small enough to be consumed by zooplankton; a small aquatic organism. This is how plastic and these toxins enter the food chain, which can eventually affect top-chain predators like humans.

If you don't eat fish, maybe you're starting to think that you're safe and don't need to worry about microplastics. In a study completed by Orb Media, over 80% of collected tap water samples from all over the world were found to have plastic fibres present.

The Microplastic Awareness Project is launching forward with the goals of creating an understanding of the threat that plastic presents. The Coastal Centre will be contacting interested volunteers to collect water samples along the Lake Huron and Georgian Bay shorelines. These samples will be filtered to gain an understanding of the abundance of plastic in nearshore waters.

For more information, visit <https://www.lakehuron.ca/microplastic-awareness-project>

Events

February 17 - Plastic Ocean - "No Water, No Life. No Blue, No Green."

Sarnia Public Library, 7 - 9 pm

Presented by the Sarnia Justice Film Festival. This adventure documentary examines the extent and consequences of the global plastic crisis. Post - film discussion featuring Coastal Technologist, Tineasha Brenot.

March 1st - Coastal Speaker Series (Kincardine)

TownePlace Suites by Marriott Kincardine, 6PM-8PM

Speakers: Emily Martin - Reforesting Coastal Lake Huron, Micheal Warkentin - The Importance of Dark Skies on the Bruce Peninsula, Tineasha Brenot - Restoring Coastal Wetlands

March 6th - Coastal Speaker Series (Goderich)

Huron County Museum, 6PM - 8PM

Speakers: Rachel White - Conservation of Eastern Hognose Snakes,
Other Speakers TBA

March 8th - Coastal Speaker Series (Port Franks)

Port Franks Community Centre, West Wing, 6PM - 8-PM

Speakers: Hope Brock - Turtle Conservation, Tanya Berkers - Light Pollution and Smart Solutions, Hannah Cann - Coastal Woodlands and Their Demise

May 10th & 11th - "Is the Coast Clear?" Biennial Conference

Experts from the Great Lakes region will present on challenges and solutions to coastal topics. This 2-day event provides an opportunity for environmental professionals and the general public to learn about issues affecting Lake Huron's Coastal environment.

To register for the conference or to explore partnership opportunities for this event, click [here](#).

The Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation supports environmental efforts along 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.

DONATE TODAY!

