



The Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation

January 2019

Keeping a Great Lake great since 1998!



My New Year's Conservation Resolutions

Message from the Executive Director, Erinn Lawrie



January 1st is a day of new beginnings. A fresh start. Something magical seems to happen when the clock strikes twelve, and we feel as if a “reset” button was pressed. It’s time to reflect over the past year and think about what you would like to change, with this fresh start in front of you. Often our New Year’s Resolutions seem to revolve around saving money, exercising more, or maybe advancing our career. But have you considered making a **Conservation Resolution**?

With approximately half of the world’s population living within 60km of a coast, it is critical that we take action to protect our coastal environment. Great Lakes coastal areas are extremely dynamic environments and require constant adaptation and resilience by our coastal communities. We Ontarians and our neighbours in the US are the keepers of the Great Lakes, 20% of the world’s freshwater. We are

now at a historical turning point for water; now is the time to be ambitious and move to action to protect our water. This can seem overwhelming. But you CAN make a difference. Margaret Mead said "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world." With this in mind, what will your Conservation Resolution for 2019 be? Here are some of mine:

My 1st Conservation Resolution is to **JUST SAY NO**, and ditch single-use plastics. I have my [reusable glass straw kit](#), a travel cutlery kit, a stainless steel water bottle, my reusable travel mugs, and my [Lake Huron grocery bags](#) all ready to go. A few simple changes in your daily routine can make a huge impact in keeping plastic pollution out of our Great Lake.



My 2nd Conservation Resolution is to **VOLUNTEER** for nature more! Working for the Coastal Centre, I know that one of the most precious gifts we can receive is the gift of someone's time. Without our volunteers we couldn't do the work we do. Contact your favourite local non-profit; whether that's the [Coastal Centre](#), Plover Lovers, the Nature Conservancy of Canada, the Huron Stewardship Council, or your local Conservation Authority, call them up and find out what you can do to help.



My 3rd Conservation Resolution is to spend more time **PLOGGING**, the combination of jogging and picking up litter. Get fit AND clean up your community at the same time! You could also join the global [#TwoMinuteBeachClean](#) movement that aims to clean our beaches two minutes at a time. Bring a bag or bucket with you on your next walk on the beach and it may surprise you just how much you can clean up in two minutes. Each and every piece of litter that you pick up is one less that goes on to pollute our drinking water and kill wildlife.

2018 Lake Huron Municipal Forum

Working together towards a resilient coast

Over 50 delegates attended the third annual Lake Huron Municipal Forum in Goderich, ON. The theme of this year's Forum centered on "Working Together", exploring ways to collaborate on effective coastal management and stewardship along the southeastern shoreline of Lake Huron.

This past year we've been developing a Coastal Action Plan for three specific



ecosystems found along the Sarnia-Tobermory shoreline: Wetlands, Woodlands and River Mouths. Speakers from Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority, Aamjiwnaang First Nation, Huron County, the Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation, and the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks discussed these ecosystem's importance to the Coastal Corridor. Key issues brought forward during discussions included increased development and growth pressures on coastal ecosystems, invasive species, coastal erosion, along with a look at the good work local organizations are doing to encourage property owners to implement best management practices and stewardship efforts.



Going forward it will be important to think about how (and why) we value our coastal ecosystems, and looking beyond just the short-term gain. The Coastal Action Plan will provide Municipalities with recommended actions towards creating a more resilient coastline. We know that around 1.6 million people rely on Lake Huron as a drinking supply, so how we treat our coast and in turn our lake will impact our neighbors whether it's down the road,

adjacent Municipalities or across the lake. We encourage those living along the coastline to do a little research on the habitats closest to them, it's surprising how much is happening so close to us.

Forums like this one provide an opportunity to talk about the importance of coastal habitats, threats and stressors they are facing, and opportunities to improve their health. It's meant to bring together professionals, researchers and decision makers to have conversations they wouldn't normally have. The generous contribution of the Ontario Trillium Foundation, Bruce Power and the Nuclear Waste Management Organization enables the Coastal Centre to lead these discussions.

If you wish to learn more about the Coastal Action Plan please contact the [Coastal Stewardship Coordinator](#).



Left to right: Myles Murdock, Deputy Mayor, Town of Goderich; Tineasha Brenot, Coastal Technologist, LHCCC; Daniela Klicper, Coastal Stewardship Coordinator, LHCCC; John Grace, Mayor, Town of Goderich; Erinn Lawrie, Executive Director, LHCCC



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!

