



The Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation



Another great summer season come and gone, but we are still hard at work on Lake Huron! Between our Coastal Conservation Youth Corps, beginning the Green Ribbon Champion site assessments, gearing up for our virtual conference, and working with our Coast Watchers citizen scientists, there is never a dull moment at the Coastal Centre!

## Free Beach Assessments Happening Now!

Do you live on the shoreline in the Township of Huron-Kinloss, Municipality of Kincardine, or Town of Saugeen Shores? Do you want to learn more about the best ways to care for your beach?



Participants in our Green Ribbon Champion program will receive a free beach assessment of their shoreline property and a beach care toolkit. Our expert staff will spend 1-2 hours with you and afterwards you will be provided with a dune restoration proposal with recommendations to help improve the health of your beach. If you decide you would like to implement some of our suggestions, we can provide some materials and volunteers to help you during the fall!

Beach assessments in Huron-Kinloss, Kincardine, and Saugeen Shores are happening now throughout the fall. If you are interested in learning more please visit [www.lakehuron.ca/grc](http://www.lakehuron.ca/grc).

Green Ribbon Champion is made possible with support from the Nuclear Waste Management Organization, Lush, the Town of Saugeen Shores, and the Lake Huron-Georgian Bay Watershed Framework for Community Action.

**SIGN UP  
NOW**

Green Ribbon Champion is made possible with support from:



## GEOLOGY FUN is all around us on Lake Huron

*Image adjacent by Jenna McGuire.*

*Article written by Hannah Cann*

There is so much we overlook on a traditional visit to the Lake Huron coastline. One of the most obvious things is right under our feet! Cobble beaches hold many long-forgotten secrets of the formation of the Great Lakes, in the very pebbles that make up their surfaces. Going back over 400 million years ago, our Earth was covered in much different landscapes, glaciers, and oceans. At this time, the Great Lakes region was actually 'tropical' hosting coral and animals such as small squid whom have been encapsulated in fossil form. If you take a close look at the rocks under your feet, you notice different colors, patterns, and even some of these fossils tucked in in a jumble, fun for any amateur geologist to sort through. The diversity of rocks we now see in these cobble beach formations are thanks to the receding glacier over 10,000 years ago which scaped and reshaped our landscape depositing till and rock in its wake.

Pictured to your right is what is known as a Petoskey Stone, or a "Hexagonaria" stone. This stone contains a fossilized coral that lived in the shallow seas that once covered the Great Lakes Basin during the Devonian era (Approx 350 million years ago). When these coral died, sediment covered their calcium carbonate exoskeleton structures, eventually fossilizing into the Alpena limestone outcrop.

**FUN FACT: Petoskey Stone is the state stone of Michigan!**

*(Image at right: from Michigan Rocks YouTube).*





*Pictured above: A live Hexagonaria which forms the unique pattern in Petoskey Stone. Image from the Petoskey Chamber of Commerce*



*Pictured above: A handful of Petoskey Stones. Image by JewelleryJake.com*

Next time you are enjoying a cobble beach, look around and see if you can find yourself an ancient artifact of the pre-glacial period of the Great Lakes Basin. If you won't get the chance to visit a Lake Huron cobble beach any time soon, check out this fantastic [YouTube video](#) of a Rock Hunter/ Geologist on our beautiful Lake. He shows and describes many amazing rock types and fossils we can find on Lake Huron in a very nice way- tagging along on his cool rock hunt!

*Share your next cool rock or beach glass find with us on our socials!*

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## **Coastal Conservation Youth Corps Completes meaningful projects on Lake Huron's coast.**

This August, the LHCCC hosted 15 ambitious local youth in Goderich Ontario as part of the Coastal Conservation Youth Corps program. This experience is a hands-on and immersive-learning based approach to learning about coastal conservation on Lake Huron. These young professionals got the chance to put their acquired knowledge to work in the form of a restoration project at Goderich Main Beach, micro-plastic sampling in the nearshore waters, conducting beach clean-ups, and doing a wetland/woodland species inventory in a nearby coastal wetland complex.

The teams of CCYC were also able to 'take over' our social media for a time, helping to communicate their findings, interesting information they discovered, and actions they thought we could all take to reduce our impacts on Lake Huron. We hope you enjoyed reading some of their posts and seeing them in action!

To share some of the 'results' they were most proud of, we would like to show you the results of their 15-minute beach clean-ups and micro-plastic sampling.



### Micro-plastics Samples

(Taken in a 1L water bottle in the nearshore waters at Goderich Main Beach, filtered using rudimentary technology, analyzed under microscope for presence of plastic fibres, microbeads, fragments, and films).

Samples collected: 6

# Fibres: 23

# Microbeads: 0

# Fragments: 25

### Shoreline Clean-up Results

(Completed on Goderich Main Beach. Constraints include other members of the community and city staff who were cleaning up the beach at the same time that were not included in our data recovery.

Full results available January 2021).



Distance Cleaned: 550 metres total  
Total weight of garbage collected: 1.84 kg  
Cigarette butts: 249  
Small plastic pieces <2.5mm: 115  
Foam: 121  
Paper items: 108  
Food wrappers: 90



We will be running 3 more groups of the Coastal Conservation Youth Corps from September-October this year. If you, or someone you know in Grades 9-12 would be interested in participating, registration is still open for some sessions! To find out more, visit our [website](#).

The CCYC program is generously supported by:



An agency of the Government of Ontario  
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## ***It's Botany Week on the LHCCC Social Media!***

Our amazing Coastal Conservation Youth Corps have been busy identifying plants in a locally significant wetland/woodland complex in Goderich. They have seen some absolutely

amazing plants during this time and have learned some plant identification skills along the way!

We thought it might be fun to bring this plant ID to you through our social media accounts for the first week of **SEPTEMBER** in the form of **BOTANY WEEK!** Tag along for the wild ride as we identify some cool and beautiful species found in our very own coastal corridor on Lake Huron!

Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#) for #BotanyWeek!



## 'IS THE COAST CLEAR?' Conference Goes Virtual!

We are sorry to say that we won't be able to gather in person this year for our biennial 'Is the Coast Clear?' Lake Huron conference. Instead we will be holding a virtual educational series on Lake Huron over the course of several weeks this fall.



The virtual conference will launch on Tuesday, September 29th with live panel interviews, presentations, and virtual networking sessions. The best part? You can learn about Lake Huron in your pajamas! Check out our [website](#) for more information as we put together a fantastic program for you!

If you have previously purchased tickets for our in-person conference you should have received an email outlining your options. If you did not receive this email please [contact us](#).

[REGISTER NOW!](#)

## BOARD MEMBER WANTED

We are looking for a passionate and enthusiastic volunteer to join our Board of Directors as Treasurer. For more information please visit our [website](#).

# BOARD MEMBER WANTED!



THE COASTAL  
CENTRE IS LOOKING  
FOR A VOLUNTEER  
TREASURER TO JOIN  
OUR BOARD!

[WWW.LAKEHURON.CA/CAREERS](http://WWW.LAKEHURON.CA/CAREERS)

Did you know that the Coastal Centre is a registered charitable organization and **97% of our work is funded through donations and grants?**

Your contributions help keep our communication and educational programs alive, including this newsletter.

**It's thanks to YOU**, our wonderful donors and supporters, that we are able to run important programs that help protect the **lake you love!**

Your gift today will help ensure we pass on a positive environmental legacy to our future generations. We can't do it without you!

**DONATE TODAY!**

*The Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation 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.*



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