



Join the Kincardine Clean-up

Date: Saturday, August 15th, 2026

Time: 10:00am - 12:00pm

Location: Station Beach parking lot



We are looking to our Kincardine community to help protect Lake Huron. Join us for a fun, family-friendly beach clean-up to help keep our lake free of pollution! Volunteers will enjoy a free beach BBQ after.

[Sign-up here](#)

We would like to thank all of our incredible partners and sponsors for helping to make this event happen.



Now Accepting New GRC Participants!

We are excited to invite new participants to register for our Green Ribbon Champion shoreline restoration program.

What does participation in the Green Ribbon Champion program involve?

1. Shoreline property assessment:

a) LHCC staff will learn from you about the unique features of your shoreline property and your specific interests and concerns.

b) Staff will then take observations on native and invasive plant species and characteristics of the dunes or shoreline on or adjacent to your property.

c) These observations will be shared with you at the end of the assessment, along with recommendations to increase the resilience and health of the shoreline environment.

2. Resources will be provided, including a Beach Health Report specific to your shoreline property and a Dune Planting Guide.

3. Follow up restoration: Depending on the recommendations provided, LHCC staff may return to support in planting, invasive removal, and sand fence installation.



This is a completely **free** program, and there is **limited availability!**
Registration is open for shoreline residents in the **Point Clark to Southampton.**

Site visits will be scheduled for Fall 2026 or Summer 2027.

[Register here](#)

More Than just a "Messy" Beach!

By Evan Skinn

At first glance, a beach scattered with driftwood, branches, and other organic material might seem dirty or neglected. Many people feel the need to clean it up, but what if that “mess” is acting as a vital part of the ecosystem?

Driftwood isn't just a convenient spot to rest your towel or perch for a sunset view. It has a story and one that doesn't end when it washes ashore, but rather begins a new chapter in shaping and supporting a coastal ecosystem.

Driftwood's Ecological Superpowers

Driftwood and other natural debris play a critical role in:

- **Creating Habitat:** As driftwood settles, it becomes shelter for insects, amphibians, and invertebrates, which are key food sources for shorebirds like the killdeer and endangered piping plover.
- **Supporting Nesting Grounds:** Shorebirds rely on unmanicured, “messy” beaches to raise their young and seek shelter.
- **Feeding the Soil:** As driftwood decomposes, it releases nutrients that help dune plants like American sea rocket and beach grasses take root and thrive.
- **Stabilizing Shorelines:** Large pieces of driftwood act as natural barriers, reducing erosion from wind and waves and helping shape resilient coastal ecosystems.



Think Twice Before You Burn, Build or Groom

While it's tempting to use driftwood for beach fires, creating structures and forts, or cleaning up organic debris to be more appealing to the eye, doing so can disrupt fragile habitats and reduce biodiversity. That driftwood might be sheltering an amphibian or anchoring a future dune.

So next time you visit the beach, pause before tidying up. That “mess” is a natural piece of the puzzle to create the beaches we enjoy by protecting wildlife, preserving shorelines, and enriching your coastal experience.

References

Myers, L. (2022, October 28). Why driftwood matters. *Ontario parks*. <https://blog.ontarioparks.ca/why-driftwood-matters/>

Ontario Parks blog (2024, August 27). Driftwood: shaping shorelines and completing communities. *Ontario parks*. <https://blog.ontarioparks.ca/why-driftwood-matters/>

Donations directly support Lake Huron Coastal Centre's conservation programs. These programs help provide shoreline communities with unique ways to connect with nature while working to protect the health of Lake Huron.

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