



The Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation

## Holiday Edition 2017

*Keeping a Great Lake great since 1998!*

### Lake Huron Holiday Cards

*Spread some holiday cheer this season and support the Coastal Centre!*



Show Lake Huron your support this holiday season by purchasing our Lake Huron greeting cards! These cards feature original art by conservation artist Rhiannon Moore and are blank inside for your message. Each package is \$20 and includes 10 cards and envelopes.

Holiday cards can be purchased at our office, online, or by contacting us.

All of the proceeds from the sale of these cards support the work of the Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation.

Visit <https://www.lakehuron.ca/holiday-cards> for more information.

### Have a Green Holiday

*Staying Eco-Friendly this Christmas*

*by: Tineasha Brenot, Coastal Technologist*

The holidays are an incredible time of year. The snow has fallen (hopefully!) just enough to make everything sparkle and everyone is excited to get together with friends and family they haven't seen in a while.

While enjoying your holidays, take a moment to consider



some options that can help reduce your ecological impact. Christmas gifts and family dinners can create a lot of waste, and decorations like Christmas lights can use a lot of energy. Consumerism and packaging can add to the ever present problem of plastic pollution being faced across the globe. This emerging issue has gained significant attention when it comes to oceans, but recent research in three of the Great Lakes, including Lake Huron, suggests alarming concentrations of plastic, which may be greater than samples taken from the infamous Great Pacific Garbage Patch.

Plastic bags used for Christmas shopping are light enough to be picked up and carried by the wind, sometimes transporting them into our Great Lakes and oceans. Plastics in our waterways never really disappear; they break down into smaller and smaller pieces called microplastics, causing harm to our aquatic ecosystems. Plastics can cause water quality issues by attracting environmental pollutants in toxic levels. Wildlife can be affected by microplastics when they try to ingest them, raising many potential concerns for the health of these animals, and increasing the possibility of the accumulation of toxins through the food chain.



**Here are a few ways that you can have a more sustainable holiday:**

**Use reusable utensils and dishes.**

It may seem easier to deal with the mess when using disposable dishes, but it can have a big impact in landfills at the end of the holidays. Filling the sink with soapy water ahead of time or emptying the dishwasher can help make cleanup faster after dinner. Or

you can put your friends and family to work, to make the cleanup more fun! If you do choose disposable, make sure you choose biodegradable or compostable options instead of plastic or styrofoam.

**Make DIY gifts.**

Homemade gifts are a thoughtful and meaningful way to give a gift without the consumption impact. It also means that you can reduce the amount of packaging being used. Homemade bath and body products, baked goods, hot chocolate or soup kits, themed gift baskets, upcycled scarves, and bird and bat houses are only some ideas of what you can make as a DIY gift.

**Bring your own bags.**

Reusable shopping bags aren't just for grocery shopping. Remember to bring them with you when you are hunting for that perfect Christmas gift!

**Travelling? Consider carpooling or taking public transit.**

Not only is travelling together a good way to catch up, it's an affordable way to be environmentally friendly by reducing your carbon footprint.

**Give experiential gifts.**

A memory lasts a lifetime. Concert tickets, a weekend getaway, cooking classes, guitar lessons, a seasonal Provincial Parks pass, or membership to a museum can create new experiences and give a unique opportunity to give a meaningful gift.

**Recycle your gift wrap.**



Keep as much gift wrap intact from the holidays and reuse it for the following year. Even better, use newspaper, old maps, old calendars, or get creative with all sorts of recycled and eco-friendly gift wrapping solutions. Scarves, tea towels, a tablecloth, reusable fabric, jars, tins, baskets, and flower pots can all be used as a more sustainable and interesting way to wrap your gifts. Avoid using decorative plastic pieces like plastic wrap, ribbons, and bows.

### **Have a candlelit dinner.**

Consider turning off the lights for the night and light some candles. It will make you feel extra festive and conserve energy.



### **Consider what's on your plate.**

Look for more local options to fill up your holiday feasts. Avoid prepared dishes with all the extra packaging and processed fillers, and make some tasty, homemade options. Add a few extra vegetarian options to the table to diversify the meal and to reduce the need to serve meat options. You may be surprised how quickly they get gobbled up.

### **Give generously.**

Whether it's volunteering your time or giving financial support, environmental charities like the Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation rely on the continued support from people like you!

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## **November 28th is Giving Tuesday!**

Giving Tuesday takes place each year after Black Friday and Cyber Monday and is an opportunity for charities, companies, and individuals to join together and rally for their favourite cause. It started in 2012 as a movement to create an international day of giving at the beginning of the holiday season, giving people a chance to pass on their Black Friday savings to their charity of choice.

On Giving Tuesday, support the work of the Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation. Your generosity helps us to provide programs that will protect our lake for generations to come. Charitable tax receipts will be provided for all donations.

Visit <https://www.lakehuron.ca/donate> for more information.

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*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!**

