



The Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation

November Newsletter 2018

Keeping a Great Lake great since 1998!

Lake Huron Holiday Cards

Spread some holiday cheer this season and support Lake Huron conservation!



Wish your friends a happy holiday season with our beautiful Lake Huron greeting cards.

Our winter-themed cards feature original art by Rhiannon Moore and Christine Roberts. The inside is blank for your best wishes and the back includes a special message letting people know that you support the work of the Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation! Each package is

\$20 and includes 12 cards and envelopes (4 of each design).

Holiday Cards can be purchased [online](#) or at our Goderich office. You can also find other beautiful Lake Huron gifts at our office, including Lake Huron bumper magnets, grocery totes, and glass straws!

SHOP NOW

Beach Restoration Project and the Importance of Shoreline Restoration

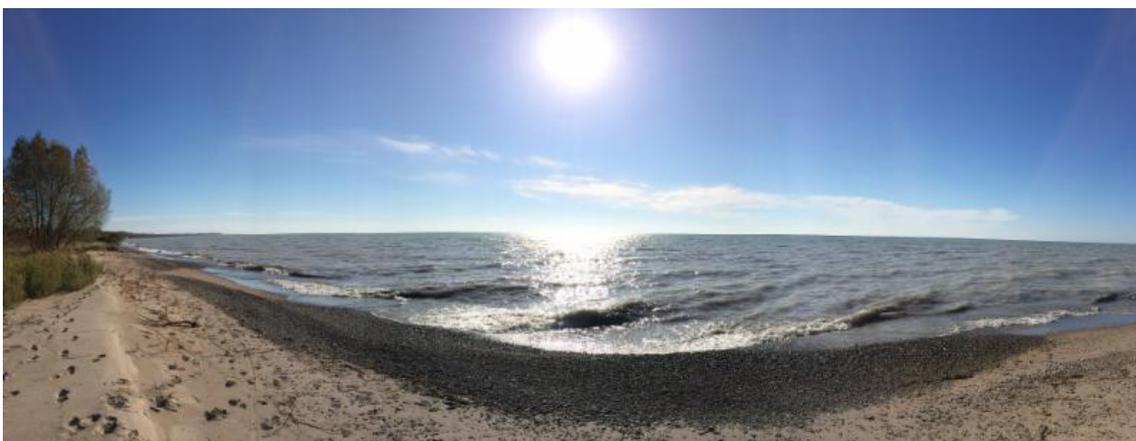
by: Jeremy Harbinson, Stewardship Assistant



Over the past few months, the Coastal Centre has been busy restoring a small section of dunes along Lake Huron's coastline!

You might be wondering what is involved in a dune restoration? Why does the coastline need our assistance anyway? Well firstly, coastal processes like wind, waves, and changing water levels naturally impact and change the shoreline constantly.

On top of this, people love to visit Lake Huron's beaches. Who doesn't?! Leisure activities and enjoyment of the lake adds additional pressures over time on the coastal ecosystem. The stresses and negative impacts caused by public use of the shoreline are not always obvious.

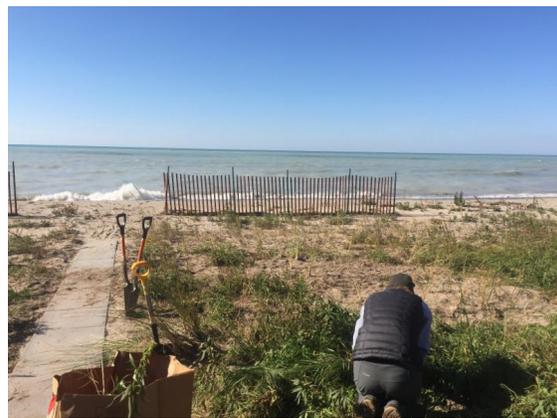


The Coastal Centre's recent restoration project has been implementing stabilization techniques for beach and dune coastal ecosystems. This project has included the strategic installation of sand fencing, removal of invasive plant species, and planting dune grass in an effort to re-establish a healthy coastal ecosystem.

How does all of that help the beach? The use of sand fencing allows for fine particles of sand to become trapped at the base of the stabilizing dune grass, which will continue to grow as the sand builds higher and higher. Build the dune and the vegetation will come!



Invasive plants like spotted knapweed and crowned vetch can displace other plant species and disrupt the natural balance of the invaded ecosystem. Comparatively, native dune plant species like marram grass are critical for holding wind-borne sand, promotes the deposition of sand, and ultimately stabilizes the dunes. Marram or beach grass is the super hero for Lake Huron's coastline!



Shoreline restoration allows dunes a second chance. Without dunes our coastline would be 'doomed'! To learn more about beach and dune ecosystems visit our [website](#).

Ferocious Lake – November storms and the shipwrecks of Lake Huron

by: Jeremy Harbinson, Stewardship Assistant



(Photo Credit: Amy Harbinson)

A storm is a brewing out on the lake! Lake Huron has been sending some angry waves crashing on the shore! Why is the lake so upset?

November is an active month for powerful waves on the Great Lakes. The combined weather processes of arctic air masses and sources of high moisture allow the progression of low pressure systems to build in strength. The jet stream brings these two components together and reaches comparative warm water temperatures for this time of year. All of these weather factors ultimately enhance the wave heights on Lake

Huron.

Big waves are historically not forgiving for boats on the water. The Great Lakes have a long history of shipwrecks.

According to the Great Lakes Shipwreck Museum there have been approximately 6,000 shipwrecks recorded. One shipwreck was excavated in 2004 along the main beach in Southampton!



Peter Rindlisbacher - Painting of the General Hunter

The shipwreck was identified by Ken Cassavoy, Marine Archaeologist, and U.S National Archives as the "General Hunter"; a British naval ship used in the War of 1812. Through this discovery many artifacts were found and the ships story became clearer. It is believed that the General Hunter was lost off the coast of Southampton in 1816. Today the General Hunter lies beneath a sandy beach to stand the test of time and fierce weather off Lake Huron.

Lighthouses are a huge part of safe navigation for all types of boats in the Great Lakes. They truly are the light in dark times on Lake Huron. In fact, the first lighthouse to be constructed along the shoreline of Lake Huron was in Goderich in 1847!

*"Around the beach the sea gulls scream;
Their dismal notes prolong,
They're chanting forth a requiem,
A saddened funeral song.
They skim along the waters blue
And then aloft they soar
In memory of the sailing men
Lost off Lake Huron's shore!"*

-Popular lake song composed on the loss of the schooner Persia with all hands in November, 1969, Parks Canada, 2016



64 Goderich lighthouse, the first on Lake Huron, 1947. Photo by son of Edward.F Bush

The Goderich lighthouse towers 100 feet above the lake on a cliff, and originally was constructed with stone shaped in a square and smooth stature.

Lighthouse constructions in the early 19th century in the Province of Upper Canada often lead to shoreline settlement and development along the Great Lakes.

If you are interested in learning more about the history of lighthouse along the Great Lakes and Upper St. Lawrence check out the 'Parks Canada History' website and article "The Canadian Lighthouse" by Edward F. Bush.

"Let your light shine, so others can navigate to a brighter day!" - Jeremy

November 27th 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.

[DONATE NOW](#)

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!](#)

