



The Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation

April 2019

Keeping a Great Lake great since 1998!



## The Great Goderich Shoreline Cleanup



Door Prizes!

First 50 people to register get a Plastic Free Huron tote bag.

### Menesetung Bridge

Check in at Menesetung Trail head off of North Harbour Rd W. (The Big Rock)

### Goderich Main Beach

Check ins will be coordinated at The Pavillion across from Beach Street Station.

### Free Lunch!!!

11:30 - 12:30  
Bring your own gloves and mugs to reduce waste!

High School Volunteer Hours



Rain or Shine!

DRESS FOR THE WEATHER!

**APRIL 13, 2019**  
10 AM

For more information or to inquire about volunteering, contact Tineasha at [coastalcentre@lakehuron.ca](mailto:coastalcentre@lakehuron.ca)

Get ready for our annual Great Goderich beach cleanup coming this month! That's right, on Saturday April 13, 2019 come down to the Goderich Main Beach or Menesetung Bridge to help keep your beach clean.

We will be starting the cleanup at 10 AM and going through until around 12 PM when we will enjoy a free bbq lunch provided by Zehrs. Hot drinks will be provided; make sure to bring your own coffee cup! If you can, also bring a pair of gloves and a bucket to help reduce waste! Door prizes have been generously provided by the Yoga Den and Tony Alcorn.

Lake Huron receives approximately 600 metric tons of plastic pollution annually, which can pose a significant threat to water quality and wildlife.



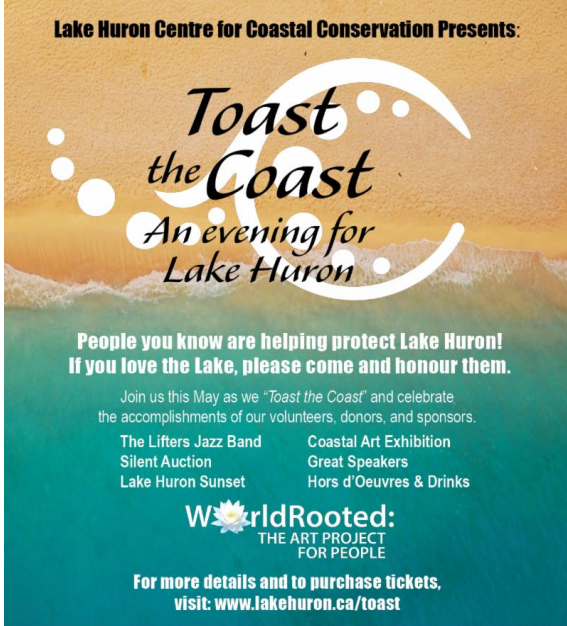
One of the ways we work to address plastic pollution on Lake Huron is by holding beach cleanups along the shoreline. Beach cleanups are a great way to raise awareness about plastic pollution and encourage people to become involved in coastal stewardship.

We would like to say a special thanks to Jim and Barbara Hollingworth, Zehrs, and Compass Minerals for their generous sponsorship of this important event!

Join us as we *Toast the Coast* and celebrate Lake Huron, and the accomplishments of our volunteers, donors and sponsors!

Enjoy the view of the lake while listening to a live jazz band and short talks on different perspectives and ways of interacting with the lake by a coastal scientist, an artist, and a First Nations community member. Immerse yourself in a coastal art exhibition, meet the artists, join the silent auction, win great prizes, and enjoy the music, hors d'oeuvres and drinks.

Most of all, celebrate the lake and the people and organizations who work to keep it GREAT! All proceeds will support important work done by LHCCC and its many volunteers!



**Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation Presents:**

# Toast the Coast

An evening for  
Lake Huron

**People you know are helping protect Lake Huron!  
If you love the Lake, please come and honour them.**

Join us this May as we "Toast the Coast" and celebrate the accomplishments of our volunteers, donors, and sponsors.

The Lifters Jazz Band	Coastal Art Exhibition
Silent Auction	Great Speakers
Lake Huron Sunset	Hors d'Oeuvres & Drinks

**WorldRooted:**  
THE ART PROJECT  
FOR PEOPLE

**For more details and to purchase tickets,  
visit: [www.lakehuron.ca/toast](http://www.lakehuron.ca/toast)**

**Where:**  
Beach Street Station,  
2 Beach Street, Goderich

**When:**  
Saturday, May 4  
7:00 PM to 11:00 PM

Proceeds will support important work done by LHCCC and its many volunteers!



For more information and to buy tickets, come into our office located at 76 Courthouse Square Goderich, Ontario, N7A 1M6 or visit our website [Lakehuron.ca/Toast](http://Lakehuron.ca/Toast)

We are looking for a part-time **Coastal Outreach Specialist** to join our exciting, innovative organization.

Visit [www.lakehuron.ca/careers-and-volunteers](http://www.lakehuron.ca/careers-and-volunteers) for more details.



The Coastal Centre is  
**HIRING!**  
FIND OUT MORE AT  
[WWW.LAKEHURON.CA](http://WWW.LAKEHURON.CA)

## Watch out for Invasive Species!

So spring weather is right around the corner (hopefully) - you know what that means? Yep, sunshine and beach

time! We've waited all winter for the warmth and sun. But what does the change in season mean for our local coastal environment? The spring flowers start to break through the cold and snow to proudly reveal their colors and our giant blue lake returns from the icy clutches of winter. But with all this excitement comes the ever-present problem of invasive species, namely invasive plants! Now if you've been following us for long enough (or any conservation site in Ontario) then you will already know about one of our most loathed plants, *Phragmites australis*. But there are a few that we need to be wary of and different ways to deal with each of them.



I bet you might be asking "what even is an invasive species? What's the big worry? Aren't we supposed to be saving the plants?" Well my friends, let me tell you. An invasive species is a species that isn't native to a specific ecosystem and can grow so rapidly that it is a danger to its surroundings. Bear in mind though that not all introduced species are invasive. Let's take *Phragmites*, or European Common Reed, for an example; this plant came over from Europe and is far more aggressive than our local species of Common Reed. Although these plants are fine in their natural habitats, over here in Ontario they grow bunched tightly together and leave no room or sunlight for our native species of plants to grow. This means less habitat is available for wildlife to use. They push out and kill our own natural plants and animals, some of which are already critically endangered. They also release toxins into the soil that inhibits the growth of other plants, and can change the way water moves through an area. Not to mention, since they grow up to 15 feet tall, they block the view of our world-renowned sunset and make it much more difficult to access the lake. So now you can see why we don't like them!

As responsible conservationists we must be on a lookout for these evil-doers as the spring arrives and continues to summer. We are responsible for the land we live on, whether our lake remains its beautiful self or succumbs to the overbearing weight of its many foes, is down to us. Keeping that in mind, here is a list of some of the invasive plants that we face today.



### **Phragmites**

European Common Reed, or *Phragmites australis*, gets its origins from Europe and Asia. Our native variety of common reed is a lot less aggressive and in turn tends to get out grown by its larger European counterpart. Phragmites can grow up to 15ft tall, and so tightly together that other species can be starved of sunlight.

### Control

Phragmites is a type a grass so cutting does work, however it must be cut at the right time of the season. If you cut it just before the end of July then most of its energy reserves will be closer to the top of the plant, so this will help reduce it greatly. Cutting works best if the Phragmites is growing in water, and the plant is cut as close to the bottom of the water as possible. Depending on the size of the patch you will probably have to do this a few years in a row. After cutting the stalks and seed heads they must be bagged and removed or burnt so the seeds are destroyed.

### **Garlic Mustard**

Garlic mustard is considered one of the most invasive plants in Canada. It can grow anywhere from 15cm to 1m in height and as is already a very real risk to Wood Aster(threatened) and Wood Poppy(endangered). It was most likely brought over from Europe because of its medical properties.

### Control

Because Garlic Mustard sprouts early spring and in its first year it winters as an evergreen, a good time to deal with this is early spring or late fall. For small patches simply pulling it out by the roots will work, for larger areas a few helpers might be required to get through it all. Now the seeds of a Garlic Mustard can survive and germinate for up to six years so it's very important not to compost this plant! That will have the opposite effect.

### **Giant Hogweed**

Giant Hogweed is quite a unique one on this list as it poses a direct threat to us. It can grow to about 10ft tall and has a top of white flowers. It can be easily mistaken for flowers such as Cow Parsnip and Angelica however it grows much bigger. It only produces seeds once before they die but they produce on average 50,000 (up to 120,000) winged seeds which are spread by rivers, streams, animals and the wind.

It also is very dangerous to humans. If you get some of the watery sap onto your skin and then expose your skin to sunlight it can burn and cause painful blisters. Purplish scars can still be painful and last for years afterwards.

### Control

Because of the toxic nature of this plant it is very hard to deal with. We recommend calling in the professionals for this one. If you are going to even attempt to deal with it make sure you are completely covered and are wearing a spray suit over top. More mature plant can have roots over a meter deep so they can be a real struggle to remove and deal with it. Put into a bag and let them dry then call and see if your local landfill takes Giant Hogweed.

Do not burn! Do not compost!

### **Conclusion**

Well there we have it the plants you don't want growing on your property in these coming months. This is one of those things that once you see them, you'll never un-see them but that's a good thing, it means we're all more aware about what is happening in the environment around us. Remember to be extra careful when dealing with some of these and do your research before attempting anything.



## The Monarchs are Coming Back!

Monarch butterflies are one of the most majestic and wondrous species we have here in Southern Ontario, and their numbers have been dwindling, until now! That's right, the Monarch butterfly is starting to make a comeback. Over the past few years, overwintering Monarch numbers in Mexico have been at an all time low. Some contributions to the decreasing population include habitat loss,



pesticide and herbicide use in Canada and the USA and illegal logging in Mexico. This year we see a slight increase not only in monarch population but also the amount of their only host plant, Milkweed (genus *Asclepias*).

Monarch butterflies have a life cycle of complete metamorphosis. In the first stage a female will lay her eggs specifically on milkweed plants. She will lay a single egg usually on the underside of the plant. The egg phase lasts about 3-8 days, followed by the larvae stage where the caterpillar is a whopping 2mm in length and begins life by eating its egg. It will continue on by eating the milkweed leaves, and shedding its skin a total of 5 times. The larvae stage lasts approximately 10-14 days. Once the caterpillar is done its larval stage and is ready to be an adult it will wander, looking for a suitable nesting place, it will create a silk pad under a leaf or branch. Once attached, the larvae will shed its final layer of skin. The chrysalis stage lasts approximately 9-15 days. A number of hours after emergence, the adult Monarch butterfly is ready to take flight, and so begins the last stage of its wonderful life. Adults live approximately 2-4 weeks, and their main function is to eat and reproduce. Between May and late summer, there may be up to 3 generations of Monarchs. The final generation that is born, are the ones who will move south to Mexico for the winter. Though the outside may look the same as every other monarch, they are quite different inside. They are genetically adapted to migrate so their reproductive organs are virtually turned off to conserve energy for the trip to Mexico. The last generation of Monarchs in their summer season in Canada have a life span of approximately 9 months in order to see their journey all the way through.

Monarchs are known for their migration patterns. Each year they travel approximately 3,500 KM in just 2 months! The timing of the Monarchs arriving in

Mexico is of utmost importance to the Mexican people, as the monarchs show up during their annual ritual on November 1-3 called “Day of the dead.” Families go to cemeteries to have picnics, parties, and celebrations of their departed loved ones. The returning Monarchs are said to represent the souls returning home to the sacred mountains. The monarchs will create roosts in the Oyamel Fir Forests, which is approximately 3,000 meters above sea level. Monarchs will spend on average about 154 days in their roosts, when they emerge their reproductive organs will switch back on and they will mate, moving to Northern Mexico or Southern Texas to lay their eggs on the newly emerging milkweed plants. The adults will die as they start heading back North. The new generation will continue the journey which could take 3-4 generations to complete.

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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!**

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[Follow our social media for immediate updates all upcoming events and some very interesting quick facts about Lake Huron and its coastal ecosystems!](#)

