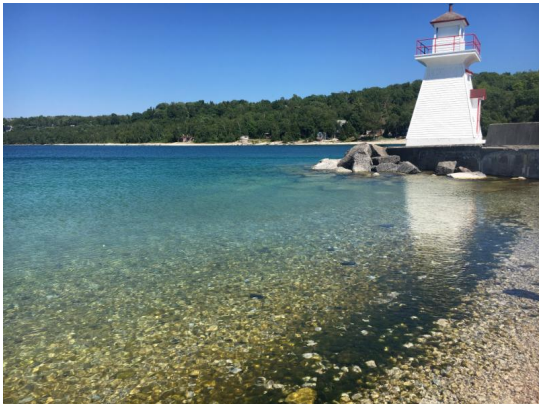




The Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation

AUGUST 2017

Keeping a Great Lake great since 1998!



Volunteers, events, and new staff, OH MY!

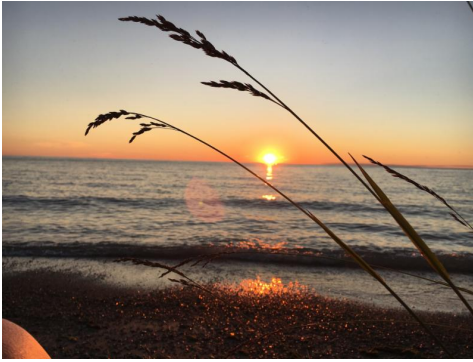
We are excited to present you with the August 2017 newsletter. We have been busy at the Centre working with volunteers, putting on events, and getting to know more about Lake Huron's features and stressors. July was spent doing 14 Volunteer and Outreach events, including the Kincardine Coastal Clean-up (top-left), the Phragmites Public Workshop (top-right), the Bruce Peninsula Environmental Group meeting (bottom-left), and the Reptile Workshop (bottom-right). At these events, we were able to work with 300+ people in our communities! A huge thank-you to everyone who came out and made these events successful. If you didn't get out to these awesome events, we have plenty more coming up for August.

Check our [website](#) and [social media](#) for updates and current information.

A few changes will be shaking up the Coastal Centre for August, and this includes bringing on a new staff member, Tineasha Brenot, who will be starting July 31 as Coastal Technologist. Tineasha has a background working with Phragmites

australis, and turtle conservation. We are looking forward to having her on our team! We will also be losing a staff member this month. Rhiannon Moore, our Coastal Outreach Specialist and microplastic guru is heading to the Northwest Territories and British Columbia to pursue a 2-year masters program in ocean microplastics research. We are sad to see her go, but wish her the best in pursuing her passion and dream of a plastic free ocean! Questions about the Butt Free Beach Program can now be directed to Executive Director, Erinn Lawrie.

Lurgan Beach? This year it is "Lurgan Shoreline"!



By Hannah Cann, Coastal Stewardship Coordinator

Many of you have noticed that Lake Huron's beaches currently hide under a high water level. It's the #1 question I have been asked this year... "When is the lake going to go down again?", "Can someone pull a plug and drain it like a bathtub?", "My dock is under water, help!". In response to this overwhelming question I wanted to write you a quick tale...

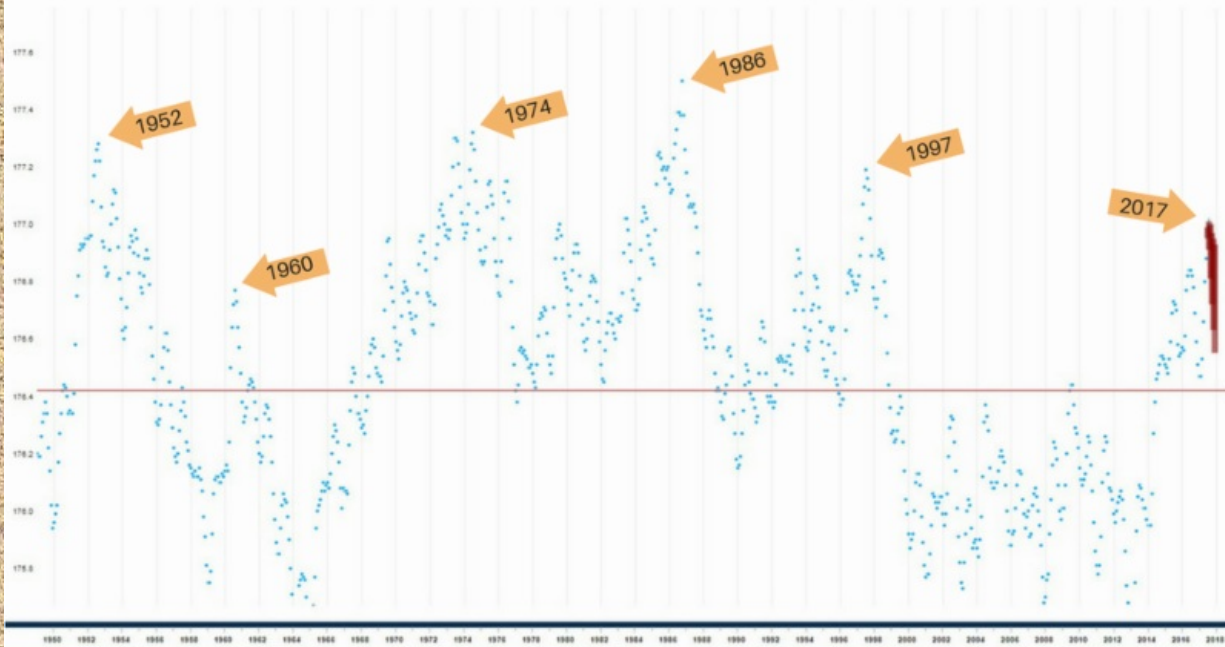
I had the privilege of spending Canada Day at a friend's house in Lurgan Beach (South of Kincardine). We went to the beach to see the gorgeous sunset (pictured above) and low-and-behold, the beach area was almost non-existent! Luckily the residents at Lurgan Beach are very friendly and didn't bite when we shared a log to sit on. We enjoyed the sunset together, and celebrated our beautiful country with a spectacular view. We shared a few laughs too- even though we were 'strangers'.

This got me thinking... lakeside dwellers and neighbors using the small remaining beach area in front of their homes and cottages have been under stress with the high levels; but as Canadians, it is in our nature to be friendly, kind, and generous. Many folks along the lake shore have been able to work together to adapt to smaller beach areas while keeping their properties vegetated and resistant to increased wave and wind action. As much as some of us want to, no one can control whether Lake Huron gets higher, lower, or somewhere in between.

I asked my friend if she was concerned about the high water, and her response made me smile... "Five years ago, we had 20 meters of beach, this year we barely have 1, but five years from now, we will have 20 meters of beach again.. it is part of the joy of living on Lake Huron". It made me happy that someone like her, who has been on the beach for 20+ years notices these changes and can forgive cruel Lake Huron for being herself- a flashy lake! Take a look at the chart below this article showing the points of high lake levels of Lake Huron from 1950 to today (from the Great Lakes Water Levels Dashboard). As you can see, the high level fluctuations occur every 10-15 years, and these high levels are chorused with equally low- lows.

I want to reach out to you, folks. We are all feeling the pinch this year with the lake levels, but don't let it get in the way of being kind to your neighbors, sharing your beach, and enjoying a spectacular sunset with strangers and friends. Heck, use it as an excuse to introduce yourselves to the new neighbors a few doors down, or to snoop out your other neighbor's new porch while bringing them some chocolate chip cookies! Lake Huron brings us happiness with the time we spend around her, making lasting memories with our kids, friends, and partners. This year will be known as a year of high lake levels but it is up to us to continue making positive and fun memories. As the wise Canadian comedian "Red-Green" used to say: "Remember- I'm pulling for you. We're all in this together!".

Lake Huron Water Levels



Check out our upcoming events!

Tuesday, August 15:

Coastal Community Workshop
Southampton Residents Association
 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
 Saugeen Shores "The Plex"
 600 Tomlinson Drive, Port Elgin

Thursday, August 17:

Saugeen Shores Waterfront Environment Speaker Series
Interpreting Lake Huron & The Coastal Action Plan
 7pm - 8pm
 Emmett McGrath Pavilion
 Port Elgin Main Beach.

Thursday, August 24:

Grand Bend Coastal Community Workshop
Make your voice heard!
 6:30pm - 8:30pm
 Grand Bend Recreation Centre
 15 Gill Road, Grand Bend.

Monday, August 28:

Coastal Stewardship: Dunes & Gardens
Healthy Lake Huron
Dune Conservation Practices for Lakeshore Residents
 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm
 Port Franks Community Centre
 9997 Port Franks Road

Tuesday, August 22:

Register by Aug 24 to
jvanzwol@scrca.on.ca

**Point Clark Coastal Community
Workshop**

Make your voice heard!

6 pm - 8 pm

Point Clark Community Centre

All are welcome!

[Click here for more event details](#)

Volunteer Spotlight



Young volunteer monitors changes along Lake Huron

Katelyn Krauter is a new volunteer with the Coastal Centre in our Coast Watchers program. As a Coast Watcher, she monitors wind & wave action, human activities, and unique events like algae blooms, plastic pollution, and extreme weather. As a young professional, she likes that this role gives her experience using scientific equipment and doing data collection- valuable for future career opportunities. She says this program is important because Lake Huron is so large, and the only way we could monitor it properly is when many people are contributing sightings and data. Coast Watchers are our "eyes and ears" when it comes to Lake Huron's coastal health. This year, we have 23 Coast Watchers along Lake Huron and Georgian Bay. If you want to volunteer with the Coastal Centre, contact us! Learn about the [Coast Watchers Program](#) here.

The Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation supports 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.

By supporting the efforts of the Centre, you can help to ensure that we pass on a positive environmental legacy to future generations.

DONATE TODAY!

