



Dune restoration runs in the family: "Dad, I need more grass!"

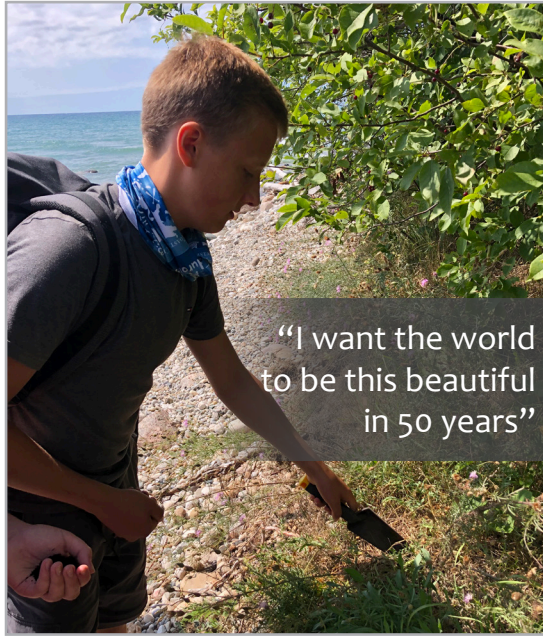
2022: A YEAR OF POSSIBILITIES

2021 has been a year of adaptation and change. The pandemic has presented unique challenges, but has also provided opportunities to identify new avenues to drive change. Because of the tremendous support from people like you, our organization will emerge from the pandemic stronger, better-equipped, and with increased capacity to reach our mission of providing people and communities with the knowledge, tools, and inspiration to protect the Great Lakes. Your donations have been hard at work, protecting this precious resource for all of the people who live, work, and play along our coast. 2022 is a year of new possibilities and we are excited to announce that we are beginning with a new name and a new look. Our name going forward will be the Lake Huron Coastal Centre and we have a new logo to go with it. After 23 years it was time for an update, but we

kept the main design concept of the original logo since it represents the coastal priorities of our organization: coastal processes, water quality, climate change, and biodiversity. As an organization we also value equity and are striving to make community-based nature programming and scientific research more inclusive and welcoming. One of the goals of our new Strategic Plan is to engage diverse audiences by providing hands-on educational opportunities, like our Coastal Conservation Youth Corps, Green Ribbon Champion beach stewardship program, and Coast Watchers citizen science program. It has been inspiring and heartwarming to see these programs flourish and grow over the past year. It has been wonderful to work with communities and families again this year, and we look forward to another fantastic year ahead of taking action to protect Lake Huron.

~ Erinn Lawrie, Executive Director

COASTAL CONSERVATION YOUTH CORPS



With your support, this year the Coastal Conservation Youth Corps (CCYC) provided opportunities for 42 youth to learn about topics such as water quality, coastal ecology, and habitat restoration while volunteering on hands-on projects that benefit their community.

Your donations helped expand the program to two shoreline communities this year, Goderich and Saugeen Shores, and incorporated a greater focus on communication, teamwork and leadership - all highly transferable skills for the youth participants' future careers.

“The skills I learned in this program are definitely important to be taught to the next generation so that we can effectively preserve our coastlines. It was nice to feel I was able to contribute to something beyond myself.”

~Emily





At a life phase when youth start to synthesize their ideals and hopes for the future, the educational components of CCYC can inform their world view, spark a passion, and hopefully inspire youth to take initiative to find solutions for environmental challenges. Available to all, regardless of background or socio-economic status, and at no cost, this program provides a foundation in environmental conservation that may frame future decision making and long-term goal setting.

CCYC youth spent almost 1,000 hours this summer and fall gaining direct experience with conservation activities like dune restoration, species identification, invasive plant removal, shoreline cleanups, a microplastic study, and sustainable community planning.

“I believe that many skills I’ve learned might be valuable for future jobs.”

~Kendall

The CCYC program offers early hands-on experience, a way for young people to gauge interest (or not!) in environmental studies and explore potential career options. The hours participants spend in the program are also credited towards the volunteer hours required for their high school diploma.

The support of donors like you is critical to providing ongoing access to coastal literacy and experiential learning for young people in your community.

Let’s keep our youth talking, engaged and excited about the shared waters and shoreline they are inheriting.

“I now know more ways to conserve...and keep the Great Lakes great!”



“I learned so much about a variety of things and that makes me want to continue learning”

BUILDING DUNES & BUILDING COMMUNITY

Sand dunes provide us with so many benefits, or “ecosystem services”; they include sand management, some protection from flooding and wind erosion, improved water quality, carbon storage, and increased property values. Declining quality of beach-dune ecosystems has devastating negative effects on wildlife, water quality, infrastructure, economy, tourism, and social well-being. Green Ribbon Champion (GRC) is a community-based restoration program that works with lakefront property owners and volunteers to restore sand dune ecosystems. We have been running the program in the Township of Huron-Kinloss, Municipality of Kincardine, and Town of Saugeen Shores for several years. With your donations and additional funding we look forward to expanding the program to even more

areas of the shoreline. LHCC staff visited 46 beachfront properties and evaluated them based on five aspects of a healthy beach. Staff met 1-on-1 with participants to complete a beach assessment, discuss coastal processes, and provide advice and educational resources. Staff then worked with landowners to create a personalized restoration plan for the property and recommendation that can be implemented to improve beach health.





We shared information about coastal ecosystems and conservation with over 71,000 individuals through social media, workshops, presentations, newsletter articles, media interviews, and many, many, conversations at the beach!



With your help we were able to successfully complete 46 community dune restoration projects this year, restoring close to 40,000m² of Lake Huron beaches and dunes!

Our program attracted 71 enthusiastic volunteers who donated their time to plant native dune plants, install sand fencing, remove invasive species, and install interpretive signs. A huge THANK YOU to our wonderful volunteers, donors, community partners, property owners, and sponsors who made this possible.

The methods used in GRC are simple, cost effective, and can be applied to almost any beach-dune ecosystem. The real-life impact of this year's restoration work will result in



a more resilient shoreline, erosion protection habitat for wildlife, and healthier beaches that attract tourism. As the dunes build over time, these positive impacts will become more visible, strengthening our shoreline. With the help of generous donations we will see lasting impacts on Lake Huron's beaches for years to come.



39,492m² beach-dune ecosystem restored



46 shoreline properties



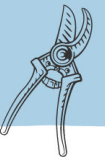
71 dedicated volunteers



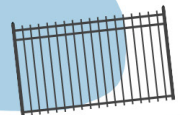
3,500+ native beach plants



90kg invasive species removed



670ft sand fencing installed



27 interpretive signs installed

PUTTING PLASTIC POLLUTION IN ITS PLACE



Disposable items like straws, grocery bags, coffee cups, and water bottles contribute to the massive amount of plastic pollution in the Great Lakes. One study found that there were 1.7 million pieces of microplastic per square mile in Lake Erie - a higher density than some parts of the Great Pacific Garbage Patch. Preliminary research has shown that Lake Huron has a significant amount of large plastic fragments that will eventually break down into microplastics, with higher densities being found close to shore. Data collected in 2018 found that 91% of our Lake Huron water samples contained microplastic. Plastic pollution contributes to soil

and water contamination, wildlife entanglement and ingestion, and drinking water contamination. We are fighting plastic pollution by researching microplastics in Lake Huron. This year we teamed up with our incredible Coast Watchers volunteers to collect lake water samples from Sarnia to Tobermory. Look for this year's microplastic findings in the annual Coast Watchers report. We have also been doing smaller-scale beach cleanups this year to reduce the amount of plastic pollution on our shores. We hope to be able to hold larger public cleanup events again in 2022. We have been missing all of you and can't wait to see you at a future beach cleanup!



ZOOM ZOOM



We weren't able to get together in-person as much as we would have liked this year, but we connected online as much as possible. This year we gave 40 presentations, reaching over 1,200 people! This includes our virtual webinar series over the summer, where we talked about important issues like plastic pollution, shoreline development, and Lake Huron plants and wildlife. You can find the recordings on our website if you missed them!

[CHECK OUT WWW.LAKEHURON.CA/VIDEOS](http://WWW.LAKEHURON.CA/VIDEOS)

CITIZEN SCIENTISTS AT WORK

The Coastal Centre has been working with volunteer citizen scientists to collect important ecological data on the Lake Huron shoreline for over 16 years. These volunteers are our Coast Watchers! They are the eyes and ears we need on Lake Huron. This year, 165 dedicated Coast Watchers recorded and relayed information to the Coastal Centre and local environmental groups on the status of things like species-at-risk, plastic pollution, and algae blooms along the shoreline.

While collecting data that will help protect Lake Huron, Coast Watchers learn about coastal processes by observing the environment around them. Many Coast Watchers work together with family members or friends to complete their monitoring, or some prefer to work solo, enjoying some quiet time in nature. This incredible citizen science program gives volunteers the opportunity to immerse themselves and learn from the environment weekly during the Coast Watchers season.

Due to the enormous interest and growth of the Coast Watchers program, we are excited to share that we are taking Coast Watchers to the next level! With the help of RBC Tech for Nature, Goderich Rotary Club, and many generous

donors, we will be launching a Coast Watchers mobile app in the spring of 2022. This will

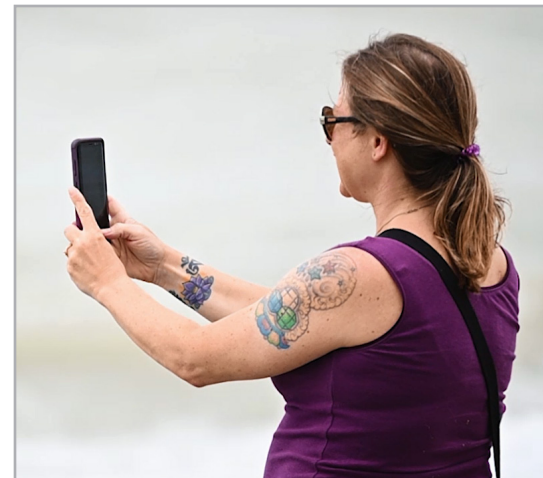
simplify and streamline data collection to allow more data to be analyzed and shared on a large scale.

So, what does this mean for Lake Huron? It means that more data will be collected, more organizations will be informed on environmental issues in real-time and more community members will be engaged with nature.

Being informed on environmental issues is more important now than ever. Climate change and plastic pollution are

urgent issues right now, making it crucial to have long-term data available to guide decision-making at a local level.

Keep an eye out for future announcements on our website and social media (@coastalcentre) to find out how to become a Coast Watcher with our new Coast Watchers mobile app in 2022!



WE NEED YOUR HELP

Did you know that the Coastal Centre is a registered charitable organization and 97% of our work is funded through donations and grants? Your gift today will help ensure we pass on a positive environmental legacy to future generations!

PO Box 477
Goderich, ON, N7A 4C7
226-421-3029
coastalcentre@lakehuron.ca

Charitable Number #872138938RR001

THANK YOU

We are so grateful for the support of corporate partners, local businesses, and community organizations. Your generous contributions make coastal conservation possible!

Ontario
Trillium Foundation



Fondation Trillium
de l'Ontario

An agency of the Government of Ontario
Un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario

BrucePower[™]

Innovation at work

Rotary



Club of Goderich



Foundation



**LAKE
HURON
FOREVER**

ENBRIDGE[®]



ARCHIES



TOYOTA
BOSHOKU
CANADA, INC.

nwmo
NUCLEAR WASTE
MANAGEMENT
ORGANIZATION

LAKE LIFE

Hutten & Co

LAND and SHORE

John Hindmarsh
**ENVIRONMENTAL
TRUST FUND**

GODERICH
printshop
DESIGN | PRINT | COPY

Lake Huron Candle Co.
hand poured ~ 100% soy wax



**ONTARIO POWER
GENERATION**

Yoga  Den



**TD Friends of the
Environment
Foundation**

WWW.LAKEHURON.CA/DONATE