



The Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation



"Life starts all over again when it gets crisp in the fall."
—F. Scott Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby*

Welcome to the October edition of our E-Newsletter! Although the 'beach days' are done for many of us, there is so much beauty to behold when Autumn befalls Lake Huron. We hope you and your families are planning for a safe and joyous Thanksgiving weekend, and we hope you spend some time enjoying the coastal corridor of Lake Huron.

Calling all young students from grades 9-12!



Are you looking to learn more about Lake Huron, get your hands dirty into some shoreline projects like dune restoration, microplastic sampling, and woodlot ecology, AND earn volunteer hours for school?

The Coastal Conservation Youth Corps program will run its last session for the season over two weekends (October 17-18th and 24-25th).

To register please [click here](#).

Apple Valley Perfect Conditions on Lake Huron's Coast

Did you know that right here on Lake Huron's shores lies a

unique sub-climatic region perfect for fruit growers! Between the soil and bedrock nutrient content of the Niagara Escarpment and the moderated weather caused by Georgian Bay and the Bruce/Saugeen Peninsula, this area is the perfect region for delicious apple farms, which is why this section of Grey County has the highest density of Apple Growers in the province, giving it the appropriate name of the "Apple Pie Trail"!



Originally non-native to North America, Apples were introduced in the 17th Century by colonists with the first apple orchard planted in Boston Mass. Since this introduction, their popularity has grown with this fruit being one of the highest selling in supermarkets and farmers markets alike. The first known planting of an apple orchard in Southern Georgian Bay dates back to 1846!



Although very common, apple trees are quite finicky. Depending on the variety, they are restricted by narrow windows of heartiness zones and rely on seasonal temperatures in the spring to hold steady as to not lose their blossoms to a cold snap or late season snowstorm. Grey County, shadowed by the Niagara Escarpment and the southern shores of Georgian Bay affords fruit trees in this area the luxury of moderate climates and rare harsh conditions. The dolomitic limestone and the light to medium textured soils in this region courtesy of the glacial recession and Niagara Escarpment also create a naturally neutral soil environment perfect for fruit growing.

"The major apple-producing areas in Ontario are spread along the shores of Lake Ontario, Lake Erie, Lake Huron and Georgian Bay. These large, deep bodies of water are the main reason that apples are one of Ontario's biggest and most diverse fruit crops," says OMAFRA. Fruit grows in the Georgian Bay area,

according to OMAFRA, "thanks to the deep cool water of the Nottawasaga Bay. The bay temperature changes slowly and moderates the air temperature, reducing chances of late spring or early fall frosts. In addition, the towering Niagara Escarpment creates a protective boundary to the south. These two geographical features create a special climate confined to a small, yet productive, area." ([Niagara Escarpment Views, 2018](#)).

It must have crossed your mind by now, HOW can you mean an area like the Beaver Valley and Blue Mountain area have a 'mild' climate, with all the snow they get every year! "The snow helps to insulate trees, and cooler summertime temperatures prevent sunburn on the apples. If you are too close to the mountain, it's too cold. The soil changes just km away, so the same variety of apples will ripen a few days apart." Ontario's favourite apple, and Canada's national apple, the McIntosh Red was an early apple to take root in the area." ([Niagara Escarpment Views, 2018](#)).



Whether you appreciate Lake Huron and Georgian Bay for the spectacular views, the recreation opportunities, or the delicious fruit and vegetables grown within the coastal

corridor, take this season to appreciate our Lake's contribution to your own delicious baked goods, the humble apple! Better yet, take a drive up to southern Georgian Bay and enjoy the views, the apples, and the local businesses creating magic from these delicious fruits.

What the Dune!

Article by Allan Masoudi, Coastal Stewardship Assistant

Almost everyone loves to visit the beach but not a lot of people know what a dune even is! A dune is simply a large mass of sand with vegetation. In this case we will only be talking about coastal dunes on beaches. Dunes can grow naturally with dune grass (picture above), as the grass captures blown sand and as such dunes maintain themselves! A fully matured dune can grow within just 1 year! Dune grass gives dunes structure as their roots spread throughout the sand.

The reason why dunes are so important is because of the structure they give to the beach that helps slow down erosion, which protects properties near the beach. The roots of the dune grass also help filter out foreign chemicals entering the water. Dunes not only act as coastal protection, they are more effective and less expensive than human-made coastal protection; Coastal protection made by humans also has to be maintained while dunes are self-sufficient.



Fun Fact! A mature sand dune's estimated worth is 3000\$ per metre!

Dunes can form naturally but with 2 inexpensive and non-labour intensive methods we can kick-start dune growth. With the use of simple wooden fences sand collection is increased. Planting clumps of dune grass all over the sand will help with dune stabilization as well.

Coastal sand dunes provide numerous benefits to the beach and its residents, but it also provides a big ecology boost to the environment as the grass provides small organisms with homes, protection for prey and many more positive changes to its beach.

Free beach assessments are available to residents in Huron-Kinloss, Kincardine and Saugeen shores this fall. If you would like to participate visit our [website](#).

To find more information about beaches and dunes click [here](#).



The Eastern Hog-nosed snake

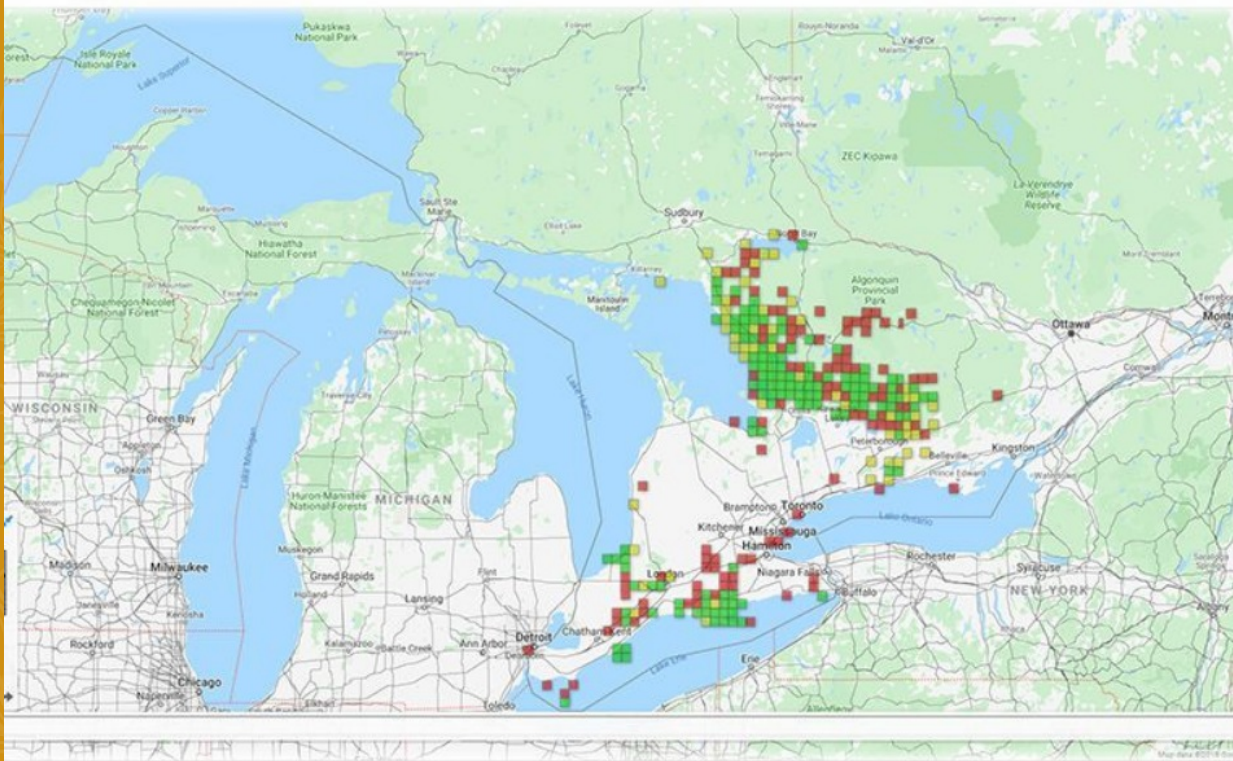
Article by Sylvain Flynn, Coastal
Stewardship Assistant

The Eastern Hog-nosed snake can be found in Eastern North America, more specifically on the eastern shores of Georgian Bay. However, a small percentage can also be found in Huron County. This adorable looking reptile has a unique upturned nose which in turn gives it a very distinct look. Their color varies between black, grey, and olive, while juveniles have a blotched pattern. Although harmless to humans, the Eastern Hog-nosed snake does inject venom into its prey to immobilize them. When feeling disturbed, they flatten their neck and hiss loudly to mimic a cobra, going as far as rolling onto their back and playing dead to deter predators, releasing a foul-smelling odor in the process.



The animal is currently listed as threatened, which means that they are likely to be endangered in the near future if precautions are not taken. Threats include agriculture and recreational development (environmental degradation), road mortality, and human persecution, since people often mistake them for a more dangerous species due to their unique defensive measures. They are protected under the Ontario Fish and Wildlife Conservation act, as well as the Federal Species at Risk Act. Some measures are in place to protect this species, which includes education and outreach (pamphlets, educational videos, presentations), monitoring, and research (demographics, movement patterns, habitats).

If you see a Hog-nosed snake in Huron County, please take a photo and contact the Huron Stewardship Council immediately at 226-868-3160. With your help, we will be able to gather the necessary data to mitigate, and quite possibly reverse the damage we have caused to this species.



The above map shows documented locations in Ontario.

Fun fact: The longest Hog-nosed snake ever recorded was 46 inches, or 1.16 meters long which is half the height of a door!

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THE COASTAL
CENTRE IS LOOKING
FOR A VOLUNTEER
TREASURER TO JOIN
OUR BOARD!

WWW.LAKEHURON.CA/CAREERS

BOARD MEMBER WANTED

We are looking for a passionate and enthusiastic volunteer to join our Board of Directors as Treasurer. For more information please visit our [website](http://www.lakehuron.ca/careers).

Did you know that the Coastal Centre is a registered charitable organization and **97% of our work is funded through donations and grants?**

Your contributions help keep our communication and educational programs alive, including this newsletter.

It's thanks to YOU, our wonderful donors and supporters, that we are able to run important programs that help protect the **lake you love!**

Your gift today will help ensure we pass on a positive environmental legacy to our future generations. We can't do it without you!

DONATE TODAY!

The Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation is a registered charity founded in 1998 with the goals of protecting and restoring Lake Huron's coastal environment. We are the voice for Lake Huron.



www.lakehuron.ca