



The Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation



## WRAPPING UP CHRISTMAS: WHAT CAN WE DO TO BE MORE SUSTAINABLE?

*By Sylvain Flynn, Coastal Intern*



It's that time of the year again. A time to spend with family and friends (even if it's virtual), and to indulge in your favorite meals and beverages. A time to rush through supermarkets and stores hunting for the best deals, and unfortunately, a time to **produce a substantial amount of waste material.**

The following easy tips will ensure that you have a more sustainable Christmas, by simply reducing your waste.

Let's begin with a few mind-blowing facts:

1. In Canada, approximately **545,000 tonnes of waste** is created by using **single-use wrapping paper and shopping bags**. The average vehicle weighs 1.5 tonnes. Can you imagine the weight of 363,000 vehicles? That is an incredible amount of weight considering how light these materials are on their

own.

2. Canadians use approximately **6 million rolls of tape** to wrap their gifts! An average roll of tape is 1,000 inches. This means that we use **approximately 152,400km of tape per year on Christmas gifts**. That's almost 4 times the circumference of the earth!

3. Within 6 months after the holidays, approximately **99% of what we receive as gifts is discarded**, or no longer in use.



Now, what can we do to lower these incredibly high statistics?

We can begin by refusing to buy any of these items. Even though we can recycle, the harsh reality is that the majority of items destined for recycling will end up in landfills. When shopping, it is important to **bring and use your reusable bags**. Reusable bags can be used for more than groceries!

As for wrapping paper, a lot of it is not recyclable, so we think old newspaper is the way to go! It may not be the most attractive way to wrap gifts, however, Earth will thank you for it. You can also **get creative by using old maps, old calendars, scarves, tea towels, tablecloths, reusable fabric, jars, tins, baskets, and flower pots**. These can all be used as a more sustainable and interesting way to wrap your gifts.

Recycled brown wrapping paper is also available for purchase which you can make more fancy with **stamps or by adding plant cuttings**.

We recommend using twine made of natural materials (cotton, hemp, jute, etc.) rather than plastic bows and ribbons that often **end up on our beaches and wrapped around animals' legs**.



Avoiding glitter is also very helpful; those tiny pieces of plastic are a nightmare to remove and clean.

Finally, we can take the time to **learn how to gift wrap without using tape**. The gift wrap is folded in such a way that the last piece can be tucked into itself.



# POSITION STATEMENT: SAUBLE BEACH DUNE EXCAVATION

The Town of South Bruce Peninsula (TSBP) is proposing to **remove a large section of the dunes at Sauble Beach**, west of Lakeshore Boulevard, and construct a concrete block retaining wall and expand angled parking space.

We are **calling on the Town of South Bruce Peninsula to halt its plan to excavate a significant portion of its coastal dune system** until the proposed project is given a thorough, independent scientific assessment.

As we know, sand dunes provide communities with a number of important benefits, including **natural flood and erosion protection**, habitat for rare wildlife, and improved beach quality for tourism.

As a science-based organization, we have serious concerns that the proposed work could have **multiple long-term impacts to the shoreline environment and local residents**.

To read the Coastal Centre's position statement and media release on this issue visit our [website](#).

Experts Pete Zuzek and Dr. Mary-Louise Byrne have also prepared an ***Independent Review of the Sauble Beach Dune Retaining Wall*** which you can view online [here](#).

Position Statement

## APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR THE GEOFF PEACH MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

The Coastal Centre was founded by two passionate and knowledgeable individuals driven to protect and preserve Lake Huron's coast and waters. Patrick Donnelly M.Sc, who is an important member of our team, and Geoff Peach, who was an environmental



advocate whose actions and influence spanned 3 decades along the Lake Huron coast.

The Geoff Peach Memorial Scholarship Fund was created to continue Geoff's work and that of the Coastal Centre. It is available to university graduate students (Masters and PhD) with conservation and environmental research interests

along Lake Huron on topics such as: Biodiversity, Coastal Processes, Dune Conservation, Water Quality, or Plastic Pollution.

**Two grants per year of up to \$1,500 are available to students interested in conducting research along the Lake Huron coast.**

**The deadline to apply for 2021 is January 30.**

Learn  
More

## SPREAD SOME HOLIDAY CHEER THIS SEASON & SUPPORT LAKE HURON!



Still looking for a Christmas gift? This holiday season you can **give your Mom, Dad, Cousin Tony, or Great-Aunt Esther the gift of a cleaner, healthier Lake Huron** by making a donation in their name to the Coastal Centre.

**Custom E-cards** are available to send to let them know that you made a **donation in their honour!** When [donating online](#), simply click 'in honour of' and select the ecard you like best.

DONATE  
NOW



We want to say a sincere **thank you** to all of you that donated to our Giving Tuesday campaign!

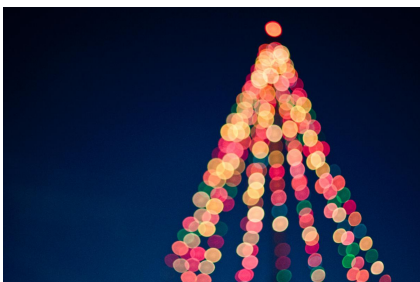
**Thanks to you, we raised \$8,000, surpassing our goal!!**

We were overwhelmed by the **generosity of the people who love our lake.**

The success of our Lake Huron conservation and education programs is thanks to **incredible people like YOU.**

**Your gifts** will allow us to run our **2021 plastic pollution program**, helping to hold community beach cleanups, equip our hard-working volunteers, and collect important data on the amount and type of plastic in Lake Huron.

## HOLIDAY HOURS



Please note that we will be closing for the holidays at 4:00pm on December 23rd and reopening at 8:30am on January 4th.

If you would like to get in touch with us you can send us an [email](#), and we will respond as soon as we can when we re-open in January. We look forward to a busy 2021 working with you to protect Lake Huron!

*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.*

DONATE TODAY!



[www.lakehuron.ca](http://www.lakehuron.ca)