



The Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation

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2019

Green Ribbon Champion

Coastal Stewardship and Education



Dune Conservation on a Local Scale

Lake Huron dunes are considered one of the rarest and most fragile ecosystems in Canada. The dune ecosystem makes up only about 2% of the Lake Huron shoreline and supports a wide range of flora and fauna, including some very rare and at-risk species. Sand beaches and dunes are highly valued places by Ontario residents and visitors, attracting thousands of people in summer months in search of recreation and relaxation.

The ecosystem services provided by dunes are plentiful and include sand management, flooding and wind erosion

protection, improved water quality, carbon storage, social well-being and increased property values.

Coastal management tailored to the needs and values of a local community is critical to ensure the resiliency and protection of these special coastal ecosystems. With the promotion of local community action we can influence environmental social values and empower shoreline management from within communities and continue to build a network of coastal champions lake-wide.



What is Green Ribbon Champion?



The Green Ribbon Champion (GRC) program is a coastal stewardship and education program that aims to preserve, protect, and enhance coastal ecosystems through education and restoration.

This year we worked with shoreline residents, and dozens of volunteers in the Township of Huron-Kinloss to restore hundreds of meters of sand dunes, regenerating the critical vegetated buffer between the lake and shoreline homes.

By equipping and empowering residents with resources and tools for effective ecosystem management, GRC increased coastal knowledge, resource conservation, sustainable societal values, and social well-being along the Lake Huron shoreline.



Review of this Year's Results



26 shoreline residents in Huron-Kinloss willing to make positive, beneficial changes to the shoreline participated in GRC. With the help of 57 volunteers, 588 metres of beach-dune ecosystem was restored using sustainable ecosystem management techniques. This includes: 5300 stems of Marram grass planted helping to stabilize the beach surface, 49 bags of invasive plants pulled from the shoreline, 300 metres of sand fencing installed to help sand gather building dunes higher, and 20 dune protection signs installed to educate on best practices for shoreline uses. 22 participants are awarded for their commitment and efforts to preserve, protect, and restore coastal ecosystems. GRC met its objective in increasing coastal stewardship and has made a positive impact on the health of Lake Huron's coastal ecosystems.



Before



After

Bringing Communities Together



Each year we supplement our programs with free workshops for members of the public who are interested in learning about coastal ecosystems and ways they can help. Community events such as dune restoration, beach clean-ups, and coastal plant identification workshops provide a great opportunity for concerned citizens to learn about coastal ecosystem management, to meet like-minded citizens in the region, and strengthen relationships.

This year we were able to share information about coastal ecosystems and conservation with over 540 people through events. It is here where citizens can make connections and bring ideas to life in their communities to build upon a network of coastal stewards caring for their shorelines.



Boost your Community's Ecological Literacy

GRC helps governments by working with shoreline property owners and others who use these unique landscapes. We encourage land users to make better decisions by increasing environmental understanding, benefitting both the shoreline environment and municipal land managers.

Municipalities benefit both economically and socially from investing in green infrastructure and supporting innovative solutions to environmental challenges in their community. GRC aims to create real and positive outcomes for individuals and groups through their actions, thereby improving shoreline resiliency, social well-being and quality of life for those that live and frequent the shores.

Equipping residents with the resources and tools to protect and maintain Lake Huron's shoreline benefits those that live along the shoreline, municipalities and coastal communities as a whole.

Success Story: Point Clark



"This was a rewarding experience as well as a joy to participate in helping to preserve our environment. Having received this knowledge and education, we now have the energy and enthusiasm to encourage others along our coastline."

- Shirley Johnstone-Hay and Vern Fry



Dunes are Beneficial for Your Community



Dunes provide many benefits such as:

- Shoreline and property protection from storms
- Flood reduction
- Keeping sand (a non-renewable resource!) on the beach
- Protecting drinking water quality
- Increased property value
- Habitat for wildlife

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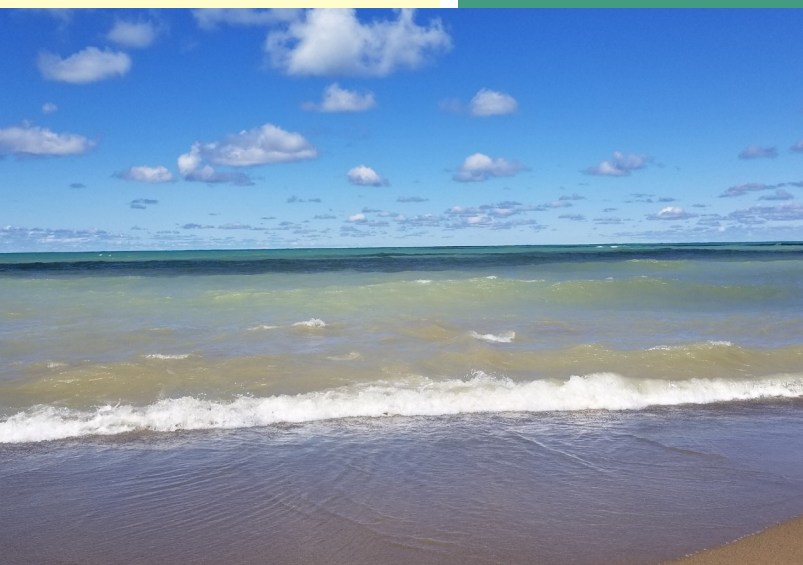
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You Can Help!



When people come together in the spirit of conservation, important things happen. The effectiveness of our programs depends on a growing network of people just like you!

You can help by making a donation! Did you know we are a registered charitable organization and 97% of our work is funded through donations and grants? A financial gift to the Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation will help us to continue the Green Ribbon Champion program in 2020 and beyond! All donations over \$25 will receive a charitable tax receipt.

www.lakehuron.ca/donate

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