

Kelly Lush

From: Lake Huron Coastal Centre <coastalcentre@lakehuron.ca>
Sent: March 1, 2023 9:01 AM
To: Kelly Lush
Subject: Register to attend our 25th Anniversary IS THE COAST CLEAR? Conference + Coast Watchers Annual Report Highlights



March

Announcements

Is the Coast Clear? Conference

Become a Speaker or Sponsor, or both!



Date: This is a one-day event on Friday, May 5th, 2023

Location: Oakwood Resort in Grand Bend, Ontario

This conference is our largest fundraising event, and supporting it helps us deliver programs like our Coastal Conservation Youth Corps student education program, our Green Ribbon Champion sand dune restoration program, and our Coast Watchers community science data collection program. Take this opportunity for your business, organization, or foundation to be recognized for supporting conservation efforts in and around Lake Huron which support healthy communities in every municipality along the shoreline!

If you're interested in becoming a speaker or sponsor for our 25th Anniversary *Is the Coast Clear?* conference, please click the appropriate button below.

[Speaker Application](#)

[Sponsorship Opportunities](#)

If you are a sponsor, speaker, or volunteer, please contact holly.westbrook@lakehuron.ca before purchasing a ticket.

Registration is open now!

Tickets are available for purchase below.

[Tickets](#)

Please note that the mobile version of our website is currently down for repairs.

We recommend using the desktop version of our website to purchase tickets.

Contact holly.westbrook@lakehuron.ca if you experience any technical issues.

Coast Watchers Report

2022 Results

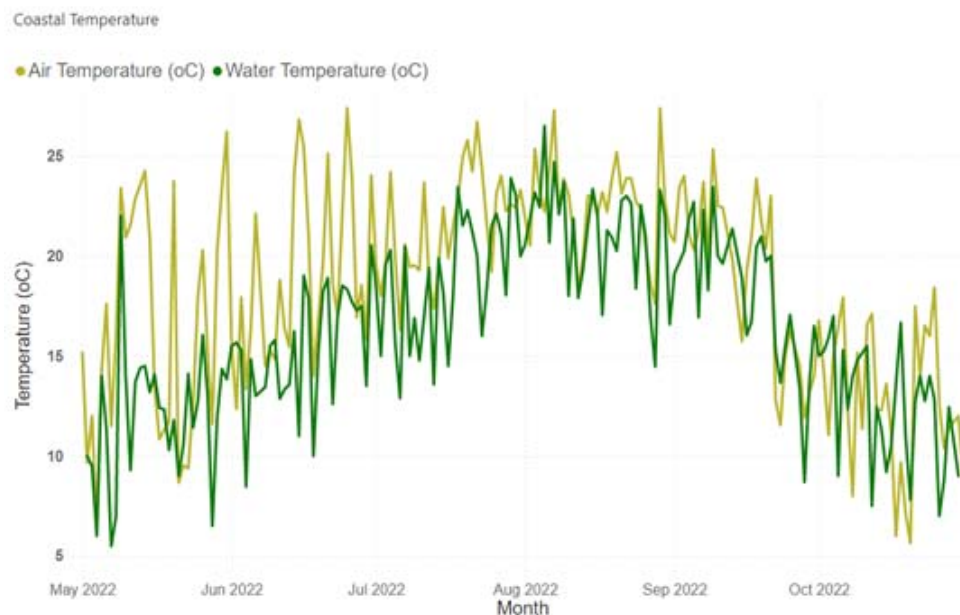
Introduction

Findings from the Coast Watchers Report include qualitative and quantitative measurements taken by Coast Watchers community scientists from May 2022 to October 2022. These findings enable us to compare our most current data to previous years to determine new trends over Coast Watchers' 18-year dataset.

Report Highlights

Coastal Temperature

The graph below shows the comparison of air and water temperature recordings from May 1st to October 31st, 2022. There were 1,754 data points recorded by volunteers for both air and water temperatures. Temperatures are lower in both the spring and fall and peaked in the summer, with the maximum air temperature recorded in June and the maximum water temperature recorded in August.



Wildlife & Die-off Events

Coast Watchers volunteers identified 51 species along the Lake Huron shoreline during the season. Similar to 2021, the most common observations were birds including Gulls (Ring-Billed), Canada Geese, Ducks (Mallard and Mergansers), Cormorants, and Crows, but also included Kingfishers, and Swans.

Three reports of Zebra Mussel die-offs occurred, a common invasive species found in Lake Huron. Reports of 200 and 300 Zebra Mussel shells were reported in mid-June followed by over 1000 Zebra Mussel shells reported on September 5th. All reports occurred at the same monitoring location. A die-off event of invasive species at this scale could be evidence of an unbalanced lake ecosystem.



Human Activity

Human activity is recorded to gain insight into the influence recreation has on Lake Huron's coastal environment. The number of people on beaches was the highest recorded human activity, with an estimated total count to be 5,647 people. Observations of watercraft without motors such as kayaks, canoes, stand up paddleboards, sailboats, and wind surfers were recorded as 1,198, whereas 456 watercrafts with motors were recorded (represented by the burgundy box). 105 (represented by the dark blue box) motorized vehicles were recorded in these observations which included ATV's, tractors and trucks on the shoreline.

Human Activities



Representation From Both Sides

Coast Watchers Pilot in Michigan

With the help of Huron Pines, Coast Watchers expanded to the American side of Lake Huron by welcoming our first Michigan based volunteers in 2022. Huron Pines shares many of the same conservation values as the Lake Huron Coastal Centre, making them an excellent partner for the Coast Watchers program. Their mission is to conserve and enhance Northern Michigan's natural resources to ensure healthy water, protected places and vibrant communities. For almost 50 years, their work across the forests, lakes and streams of Northern Michigan has helped improve economic, environmental, educational, and recreational opportunities.

During the pilot, 10 enthusiastic volunteers monitored sections of shoreline along the 168-mile stretch from Tawas City, MI to Rogers City, MI. Volunteers attended an in-person training session at Mich-e-ke-wis Beach in Alpena, MI to prepare them for the first monitoring season. One big reason for volunteers to participate in the Coast Watchers program is to feel like they are “playing a small part in keeping Lake Huron safe.” Some of the species the Michigan Coast Watchers saw were Monarchs, various gulls, turns, and chickadees. Michigan Coast Watchers are asked to keep an eye out for invasive species such as phragmites, purple loosestrife and spotted knapweed. One of the participants said that their favorite part of the program was, “being part of a group working on a common cause to make a real difference.” The information they collected will help to fill gaps in data collection along the Lake Huron coastline and ensure resiliency and sustainability on a lake-wide scale. Coast Watchers is dedicated to advancing long-term water quality protection, diversity of plant and animal life and supporting healthy, sustainable communities on both sides of the lake. Huron Pines is very excited to continue this partnership and offer the opportunity for Northeast Michigan residents to contribute to community science efforts in 2023.

Click below to learn about how atmospheric conditions, wildlife, species at risk, algae blooms, beach litter, microplastics, human activity, and storm and erosion damage has impacted the Lake Huron shoreline.

Report

Become a Coast Watcher

**Thank you to all of our dedicated Coast Watchers
volunteers, partners and funders!**



The Lake Huron Coastal Centre 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



www.lakehuron.ca

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