

# GREEN RIBBON CHAMPIONS



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The Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation

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





# NON-PROFIT

charitable organization  
established in 1998

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## SCIENCE

based coastal  
restoration, education  
and research

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## STAFF

2 full time staff  
Board of Directors  
Consultants & advisors  
Co-op students & interns





# SAND BEACH & DUNE ECOSYSTEMS



# LAKE HURON'S SAND DUNES

- One of the most rare and fragile ecosystems in Canada
- Sand beaches make up only 2-3% of the entire shoreline
- Highly valued places by millions of residents and seasonal visitors





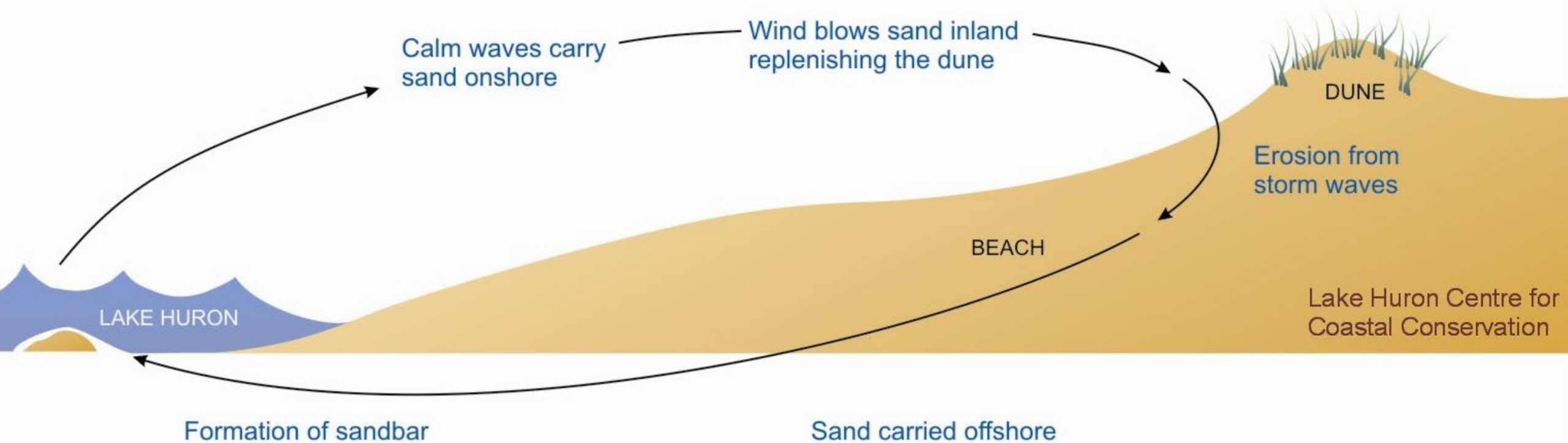
# WHY DUNES MATTER

- Shore and property protection from storms
- Flood reduction
- Increase resilience to climate change
- Improve beach sand quality
- Protect drinking water quality
- Habitat for rare plants and wildlife
- Increased property value





# HOW A BEACH WORKS





# KEY INGREDIENTS FOR HEALTHY DUNES

1. PLENTIFUL SUPPLY OF SAND
2. WIND, WATER AND WAVE ACTION
3. AN OBSTACLE TO TRAP THE SAND (VEGETATION OR SAND FENCING)

**Without beach grass, our beaches would become very coarse!**

*Fine-grained sand*



*Coarse grained sand*





# THE ROLE OF VEGETATION

## SLOW SURFACE RUNOFF

- Helps reduce erosion by stabilizing the sand/soil and absorbing water

## FILTER POLLUTANTS

- Absorb carbon dioxide
- Catch nutrients before they flow to the lake

## HABITAT FOR WILDLIFE

- Create habitat for coastal species including shorebirds, turtles, pollinators





# THREATS TO BEACHES

## INVASIVE SPECIES

- Phragmites, Spotted Knapweed, etc.

## MOTORIZED VEHICLES

- Compact the sand
- Damage native beach plants
- Disturb nesting, feeding of shorebirds

## EXCESSIVE BEACH RAKING

- Aerates and dries the sand, making it vulnerable to wind erosion
- Lowers the beach profile = wet beaches!
- Removes the strand line (valuable food source for wildlife)





# RECOMMENDATIONS FROM OUR COASTAL ACTION PLAN RESEARCH



25% OF THE  
SOUTHEASTERN SHORES

2-3% OF LAKE HURON'S  
TOTAL SHORELINE

## **Sand beaches and dunes**

1. Mechanical beach grooming should be avoided where possible.
2. Hardened shorelines should be naturalized. Natural environments like dunes provide more effective flood protection and erosion prevention than human-made structures.



# GREEN RIBBON CHAMPION

**A stewardship and education program that empowers shoreline residents, providing them with advice, resources, and support to protect, conserve, and restore Lake Huron's beach-dune ecosystems and water quality.**





# OUR PARTNERS





# GRC PROGRAM DELIVERY

- One-on-one Beach Assessments
- Educational Signage for Property
- Recommended Restoration Plan
- Beach Care Toolkit

## AND....

- Educational Workshops & Webinars
- “How-To” Videos
- Media Articles
- Newsletter
- Social Media Campaign





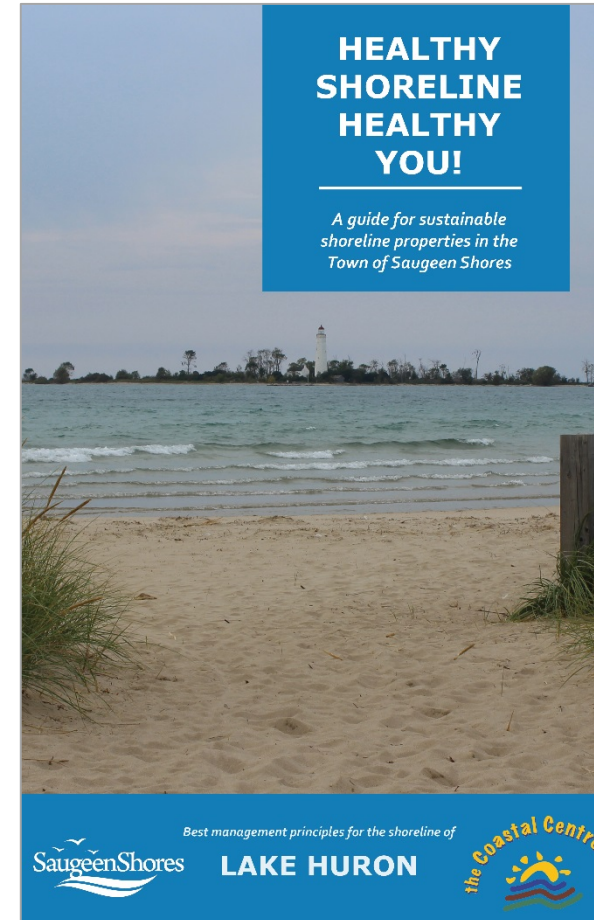
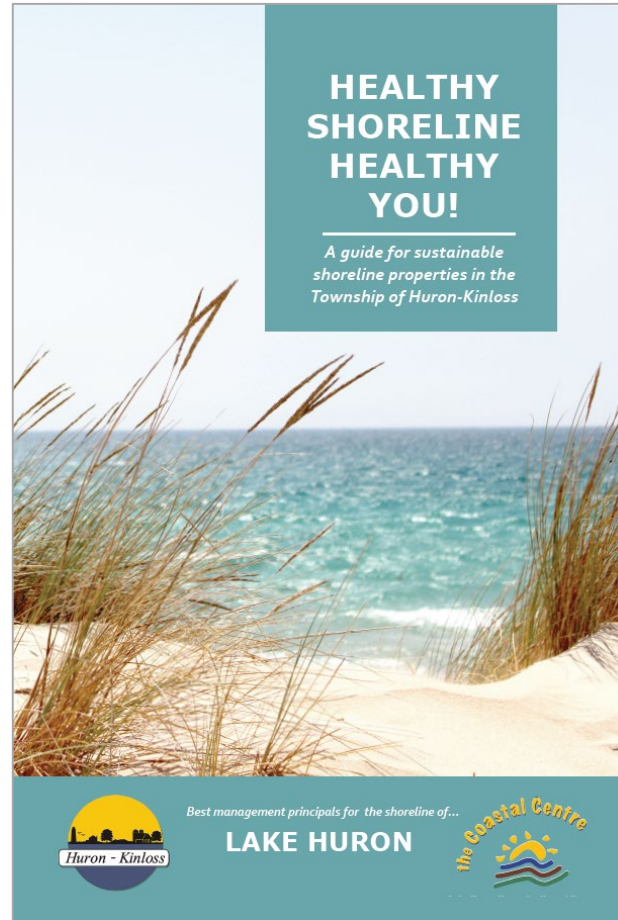
# GRC PROGRAM DELIVERY

- Restoration with volunteers, community groups, school groups
- Assistance with restoration materials





# GRC PROGRAM DELIVERY



<https://www.lakehuron.ca/stewardship-plans-and-guides>





# GREEN RIBBON CHAMPIONS

## Green Ribbon Champion Awards

Gold, Silver, Bronze levels



# 2019 HIGHLIGHTS

- 540 People reached with educational programs
- 26 Shoreline residents participated
- 57 Restoration volunteers
- 600m Dune ecosystem restored
- 5,300 Dune grass stems planted

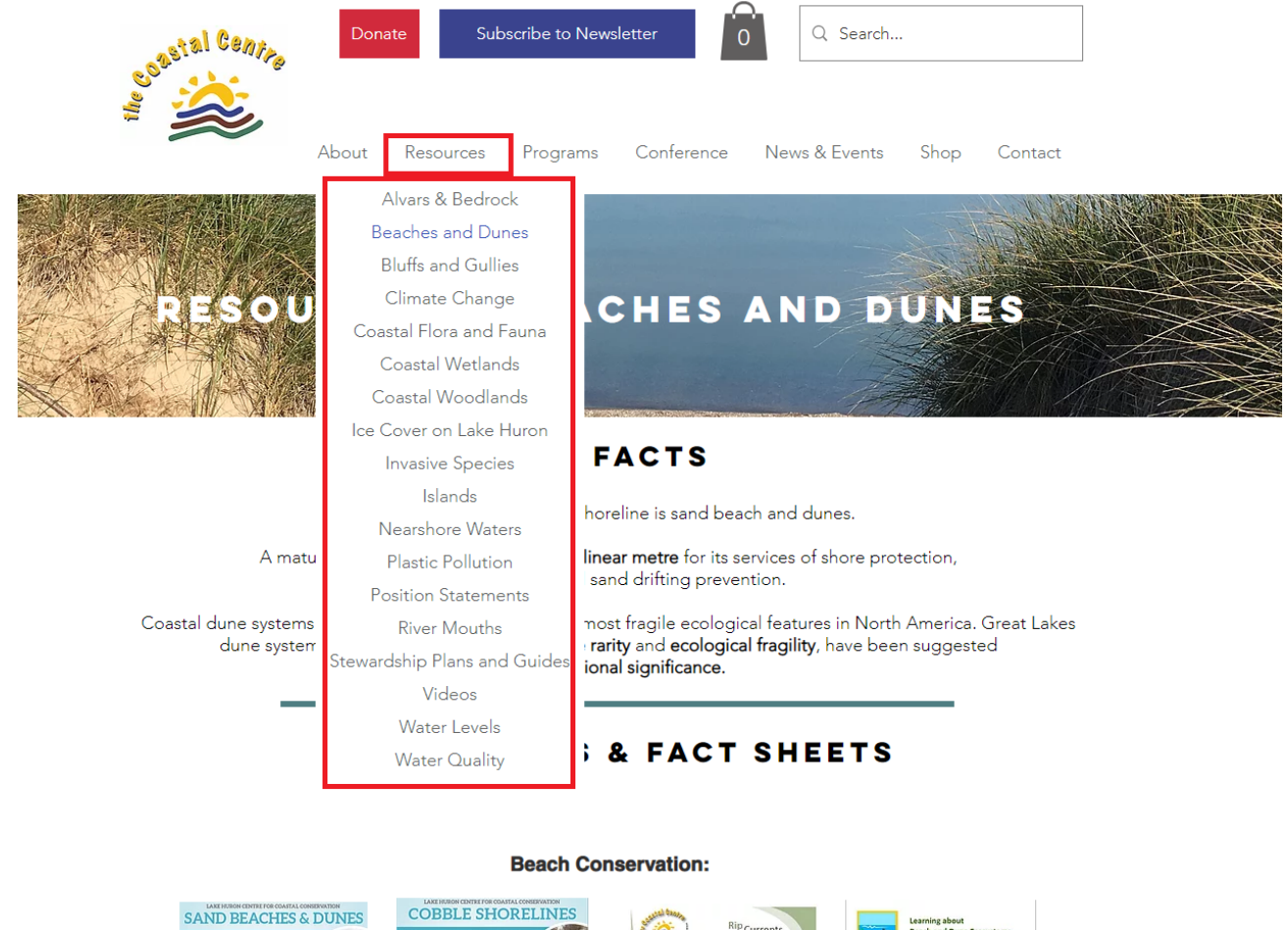




# RESOURCE AVAILABLE



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







The Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation

# THANK-YOU FOR LISTENING!

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