

December 26, 2012

Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority awarded Great Lakes Guardian Community Fund grant

Dear Editor,

Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority has been awarded a \$23,000 grant through Ontario's Great Lakes Guardian Community Fund to help protect Lake Huron.

The Conservation Authority will use the funds to clear Phragmites, an invasive plant, in the Port Franks community of Lake Huron's Lambton Shores and to establish native plants. Phragmites overwhelm native plants and wildlife, resulting in reduced biodiversity and access to swimming and fishing areas along the coast. With less Phragmites, area wetlands and coastal dune systems will be healthier.

"Congratulations to the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority for

helping to protect our Great Lakes," said Environment Minister Jim Bradley. "This is a great example of an organization helping to ensure that our Great Lakes are drinkable, swimmable and fishable."

Ontario is helping communities protect their part of the Great Lakes through the Great Lakes Guardian Community Fund which offers grants to community groups for activities such as cleaning up a beach or shoreline, restoring a wetland, or creating a coastal or riverside trail.

For more information on the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority project, contact: Tom Prout, General Manager, Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority at 519-235-2610 or tprout@abca.on.ca

Lindsay Davidson (ENE)