



## Foreword

The Aquatic Ecosystem Health and Management Society (AEHMS) and the Lake Huron Binational Partnership jointly sponsored an exciting conference entitled “**State of Lake Huron (SOLH): Ecosystem change, habitat and management**” at Honey Harbour on the shores of scenic Georgian Bay. This was the 8th in a series of “State of the Lake” conferences and the second one on Lake Huron organized by AEHMS. Previous lakes covered included: Lakes Huron, Erie, Ontario, Michigan, Winnipeg, Victoria and Tanganyika. The first Lake Huron conference was organized by the Society in 1995 in Windsor, Ontario, which resulted in the publication of a book. These conferences have been designed to integrate, synthesize, and publish state-of-the-lake information about various Great Lakes of the World, either in the peer-reviewed book series published by AEHMS: *Ecovision World Monograph Series*, or in its international primary journal: *Aquatic Ecosystem Health & Management* published by AEHMS/Taylor & Francis (Philadelphia, USA). The AEHMS has an impressive track record of publishing special issues (*Large Lakes of the World, 2000; Ecosystem Health of Lake Baikal, 2000; Freshwater Fish Habitat, Science and management, 2002; Resilience and Integrity of Aquatic Ecosystems, 2002; Comparing Great Lakes of the world, 2003; Great Lake Victoria fisheries, 2007*) and monographs (*The Lake Huron Ecosystem, 1995; State of Lake Erie, 1999; Phytoplankton Dynamics in the North American Great Lakes, 2000; Great Lakes of the World-GLOW, 2001; State of Lake Ontario, 2003; State of Lake Michigan, 2005; Pulse of Lake Erie, 2008*).

Lake Huron is the second largest amongst the Laurentian Great Lakes and fourth in the world’s largest lakes. Convening of SOLH conference was the result of growing awareness and concern about the rapid changes in the lake’s ecosystem; including food web alterations, effects of non-native species, the depleting lower food web resources and the challenging complexity of integrating topics such as ecosystem health, ecological integrity, biodiversity, restoration and sustainable development. The theme of the conference reflected a great variety and large range of topics and concepts in an attempt to bring together an integrated and state-of-the-art view of the status of the changing and “forgotten” Lake Huron ecosystem. The Steering and Program Committees worked diligently to solicit and assemble a large number of presentations in a coherent and interesting fashion. The program was made of 62 platform and 5 poster presentations organized into 7 sessions:

1. Geology, physical limnology, hydrology and climate
2. Nearshore water quality concerns and land-lake interactions
3. Ecosystems: structure, function and change
4. Fishes and fisheries management
5. Wildlife population: status and trends
6. Habitats: status, stressors and protection
7. Ecosystem management

Due to differing stages of submission of various papers, including peer-review and processing for publication, the Steering and Publication Committees decided to publish SOLH manuscripts in two parts to expedite their release to the scientific community. This issue is Part I, which consists of 9 manuscripts:

7 deal with geology, physical limnology, hydrology and climate; two of them focus on toxic algal blooms. The manuscripts for Part II will focus on nutrients, the nearshore region and food web. They are under preparation for publication.

We take this opportunity to thank various conference committees and the AEHMS for their efforts in making this conference successful, resulting in the dissemination of much needed information about Lake Huron. We would sincerely like to thank Environment Canada and the USEPA for the financial support. Also is greatly appreciated the continued support and encouragement of the Lake Huron Binational Partnership towards the convening and organization of SOLH. Finally, we thank all the participants for making the State of Lake Huron conference productive and successful!

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