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March 25, 2009

Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative
177 North State Street, Suite 500
Chicago IL 60601

Attention Pam Kaput:

Subject: Application for Wege Small Cities Sustainability Best Practices Award
Project: Handbook - Caring for Our Waterfront Property for Future Generations

Please consider this as the covering letter for the subject Award. Attached is the required 500-word description of the project, a map of the area, a draft cover page of our next Module and a copy of the 2008 Handbook for your perusal.

The Archipelago abuts on seven Municipalities, three Native Reserves and contains two Provincial Parks. A great many of Georgian Bay's 30,000 Islands fall under our jurisdiction as do six major inland lakes. The Township is also encompassed by, and is a major supporter of, the Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve. Over 90% of our private land is seasonal residential and nearly 70% is water accessible only.

The 60-page Handbook (a CD version with additional material also included) was written produced and mailed to every property owner (3300 total) in June'08 to be used as reference material to assist them in caring for their waterfront property. It was extremely well received thus endorsing our goal to produce and distribute other Modules on an ongoing basis. The associated \$5,000 grant will be put toward the cost of meeting these objectives, should the Township be the successful recipient of the Award.

We submit that the project fits particularly well into the triple bottom line aspects of the Award Program (economic vitality, social equity and environmental stewardship) as outlined in the attached description, along with fulfilling the first two of the Five Pillars of the Wege Foundation's Mission - Education and Environment. This assertion can be best summed up by use of a maxim from the Handbook.

***Return on Investment:* We need to build up equity (financial + environmental) by Caring for Our Waterfront Property for Future Generations.**

Thank you for this opportunity to demonstrate the commitment from our Council, staff and ratepayers in protecting the ecological health and socio-economic worth of the Great Lakes - St. Lawrence water system.

Sincerely,



Stephen Kaegi, CAO

TOWNSHIP OF THE ARCHIPELAGO - PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The following excerpts from the Premise of the Handbook summarize its theme content.

The Township of The Archipelago was incorporated in 1980. One of the driving principles behind its formation was the realization by property owners that development must be carefully managed so as to minimize any negative impact on the delicate environment. In keeping with this conviction the Township has produced this Handbook along with a CD version. Topic suggestions for future Modules are also presented.

The overall rationale of the Handbook is to make us aware of the depreciation, both financial and environmental, that can accrue on our waterfront property through ill-conceived alterations or development. It is a living document that with input from us all will be expanded and improved upon.

A tenant by ecologist Dr. Lee Talbot has been adopted as the Mother-Statement:

Treat the Earth well. It was not given to us by our parents; it was loaned to us by our children.

For many of us more fortunate, our waterfront property has provided soul-cleansing serenity to several generations. We must now take it upon ourselves to protect this precious retreat from environmental degradation for the well-being of several more. It might help to keep reminding ourselves that owning waterfront property is not a right but rather a wonderful privilege. What's more, as is standard for every loan, payback includes interest. Let's give our children back an even better Earth than they have loaned to us!

Module 1 – Our Shoreline & the Ribbon of Life

We have categorized four model ecosystem Zones within our waterfront property. Each Zone is represented by a photo and short narrative collection of actual Archipelago shorelines, which serve as illustrative examples of healthy ecosystems versus those degraded by unnecessary human activities. It is not so much a manual on how to fix our indiscretions but rather an exposé that advocates self-control when dealing with vegetation along our shoreline; always upholding the practice of prevention being the best medicine. It introduces us to the diverse range of plants and animals that call the Ribbon home.

Module 2 – Forest Health

Module 2 gets more into the “how-to’s” of forest and individual tree protection and care, such as; planting (cuttings or seedlings), pruning, damage avoidance, hazardous trees, historical look at forest health, etc.

Module 3 – GIS Web-Mapping Forest Health Site

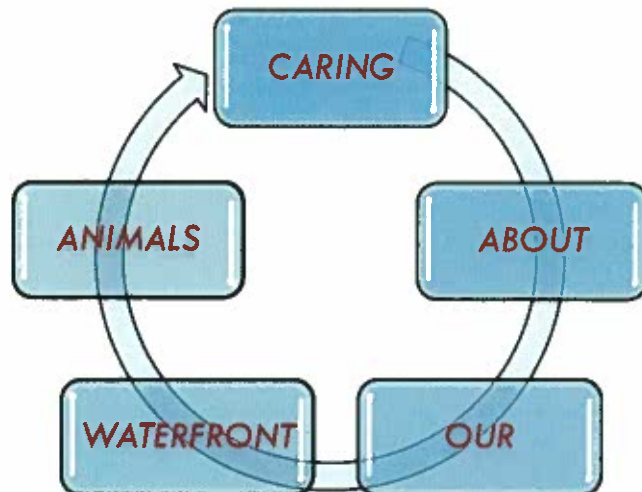
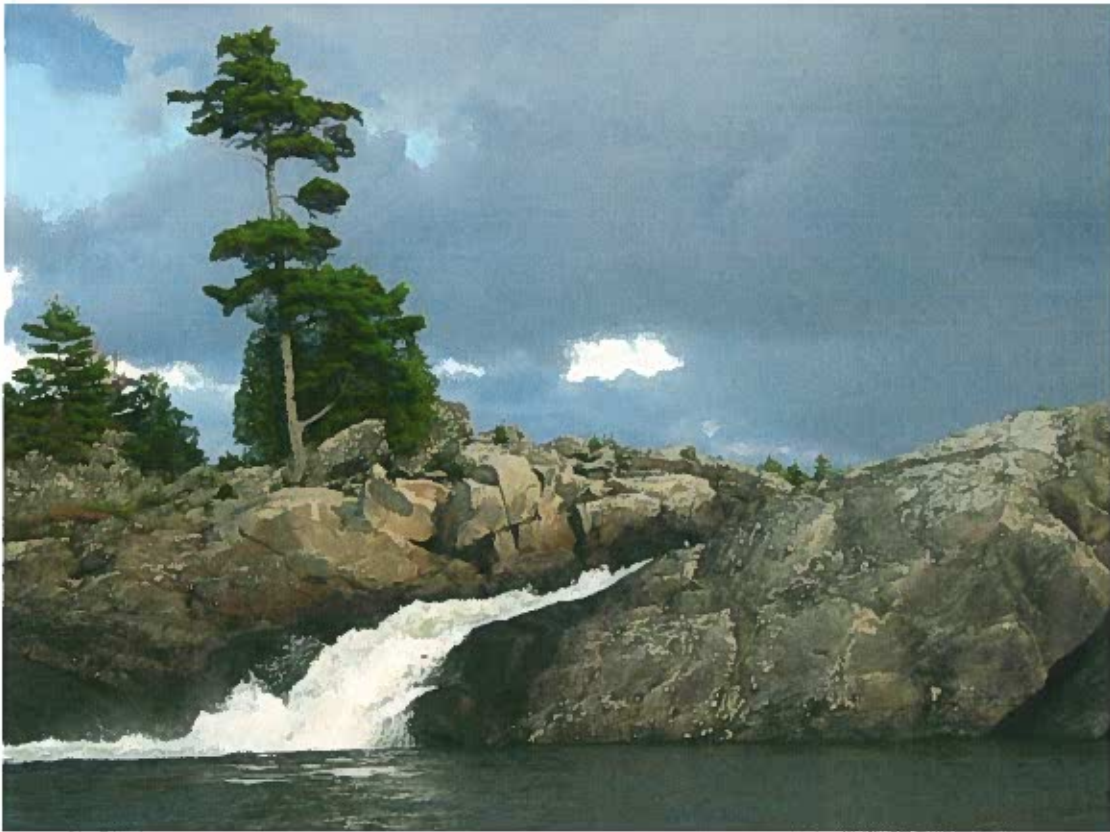
This is an updated version of the Forest Health document that is linked to our GIS interactive web-mapping application (contained on the enclosed CD only). Basic site info is provided for each Forest Zone along with photos and descriptions of associated trees and their pests.



Following is an excerpt from the 2009 draft of *Module 4 – Caring About Our Waterfront Animals*

Module 4 is designed to acquaint or reacquaint ourselves with the animals that share our waterfront property. It presents limited internet research on a mere smattering of critters that live amongst us. Please note that this small sampling is not intended to undervalue any species of fauna that has not been included, for as in the flora realm, what gives us the right to decide which animal is more or less vital to the overall health of an ecosystem.

MODULE 4



THE SEQUEL