

Chicago, July 16, 2004

Resolution # 5

Presented by: **Peter KETCHUM**, Reeve, Township of The Archipelago, Ontario

**WATER LEVELS IN LAKES MICHIGAN, HURON AND GEORGIAN BAY**

WHEREAS, the International Association of Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Mayors is concerned about the economic and environmental impact of the recent low water levels in the middle lakes – Lakes Michigan and Huron/Georgian Bay; and

WHEREAS, the other Great Lakes have control structures that can hold back water and maintain levels so those lakes have not experienced the same low levels; and

WHEREAS, the St. Clair and Detroit Rivers have a long history of mining for gravel, dredging, hardening of shorelines and scouring or erosion of the riverbed that has reduced the resistance to flow in the St. Clair River; and

WHEREAS, the International Joint Commission has recognized their 1917 Order for mitigation in the St. Clair River as still valid and has not been superceded by any subsequent binational agreement; and

WHEREAS, recent research by Baird Coastal Engineers has shown that Lakes Michigan and Huron/Georgian Bay have been permanently lowered by 50cm due to the above mentioned channel alterations, an amount unacceptable by any standards; and

WHEREAS, the International Joint Commission continues to work within the Boundary Waters Treaty and seek enforcement of the 1917 Order requiring compensating works to be put in place,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the International Association of Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Mayors recommend to the International Joint Commission and both Federal governments to respect the International Joint Commission's 1917 Order and the Boundary Waters Treaty. The Association also recommends that the Commission put in place submerged control structures in the St. Clair and/or Detroit as set out in the Order; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that as this Order was created in 1917, and there has been additional dredging and hardening of shoreline, the Township of The Archipelago recognizes there might be other control mechanisms that take into consideration changes in water course and scientific advances. Therefore, it may be more appropriate not to limit the International Joint Commission to its 1917 Order. The intent of the Association is that the solutions put in place contribute to the return of the waters withdrawn and prevent further water withdrawal; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Association ask that actions be taken as quickly as possible since under climate change predictions there is likely to be further drastic changes that could exacerbate the current conditions.

**CARRIED**