

Wege Small Cities Sustainability Best Practices Award



The world's largest source of surface freshwater is in peril and needs leadership to protect it. The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative (GLSLCI) is a bi-national coalition of mayors and other local officials that works actively with federal, state, provincial, tribal and first nation governments to advance the protection and restoration of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River.

While large cities have the resources to act, small cities – with populations of under 100,000 – often do not. The Wege Small Cities Sustainability Best Practices Award program awards \$5,000 to one small GLSLCI member city in the U.S. or Canada working to protect the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence and improve the quality of the water resource for future generations. This award was originated by the host of the GLSLCI 2007 annual meeting, the City of Grand Rapids, with support from the Wege Foundation. GLSLCI, in partnership with the Wege Foundation, is proud to continue the tradition of this annual award to encourage environmental stewardship and recognize effort and results.

What
Cities with populations under 100,000 are encouraged to submit a sustainable and meaningful project for consideration for an award that balances economic, social, and environmental aspects within the community that could be used as a best practice in other cities.

How
Small cities are encouraged to submit a 500-word description of a new or existing project that clearly delineates triple bottom line aspects (economic vitality, social equity and environmental stewardship) and the resulting community impact on Great Lakes-St. Lawrence water resources. Include a cover sheet describing why the project should be considered for the award and what the community will do with the associated \$5,000 grant award.

When
Submittals are due by May 8, 2009. If you are mailing hardcopies, they must be sent to the GLSLCI office postmarked no later than May 8, 2009 to be considered. Submittals will be reviewed and an award winner selected by the GLSLCI Board of Directors.

The award winner will present their project to Annual Conference attendees during a 5-minute time slot at the Awards Luncheon on Friday, June 19, 2009.

The award winner will be expected to return to the Annual Conference the following year with a report on their use of the award monies. This will ensure accountability, development of best practices, and education on triple bottom line strategies that can be

used by any city in development of sustainable best practices within their communities.

Submittal Guidelines:

1. Prepare a 500-word description of a new or existing project that clearly delineates triple bottom line aspects (economic vitality, social equity and environmental stewardship) and the resulting community impact on Great Lakes-St. Lawrence water resources. The program must be one that is currently operating.
2. You may select as many programs within your city as you wish to nominate, but a separate submittal must be completed for each program you submit.
3. Include a cover sheet describing why the project should be considered for the award and what the community will do with the associated \$5,000 grant award.
4. Electronic submissions in PDF format are preferred. If you are sending a hardcopy, staple the pages together for each submittal. Do not use binders, report covers, folders, etc. Please send only one (1) copy of each submittal.
5. Provide your contact information, phone and email.
6. Submittals are due by May 8, 2009. If you are sending hardcopies, they must be postmarked by May 8, 2009. You may send hardcopies by regular mail, Federal Express, UPS or other mail system.

Send electronically to:
Pam Kaput
pkaput@glslcities.org

Send hardcopy to:
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative
Attn: Pam Kaput
177 North State Street, Suite 500
Chicago, Illinois 60601

Timeline:

Monday, March 9, 2009Call for submittals

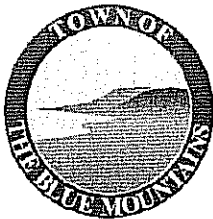
Friday, May 8, 2009.....Submittals due

Friday, June 5, 2009Winner notified

Friday, June 19, 2009Award presented

Questions?

For more information, contact Melissa Soline at 312.201.4517 or melissa.soline@glslcities.org



Town of The Blue Mountains
P.O. Box 310, 26 Bridge Street East
Thornbury, ON N0H 2P0

Tel: (519) 599-3131 / Fax (519) 599-7723

Email: info@thebluemountains.ca

Website: www.thebluemountains.ca

Wege Small Cities Best Practices Award Submission
The Blue Mountains

The Blue Mountains is a Four Season Tourist Destination that has unique natural characteristics. The Town is blessed with the Niagara Escarpment and the Nottawasaga Bay Shoreline on either side of the Highway 26 Corridor. The Town has also been extremely fortunate to have great Leadership from our Mayor Ellen Anderson in supporting the Town's Initiatives.

In 2005 the Town's Recreation Department initiated an application to Green Leaf Environmental Communication Inc. and received a two Green Leaf Anchor out of a possible five Green Leaf Anchor designation. After a second review, Green Leaf Environmental Communication Inc. the Thornbury Harbour was designated a Five Green Leaf Anchor designation. The award was given based on a stringent eco-rating checklist, including a review of environment management and policies, water quality and habitat preservation, hazardous substance handling, conservation, energy efficiency and waste reduction.

In 2007 the Town applied for Blue Flag Designation at two Town Beaches. Little River Park is located beside the Thornbury Harbour Facility. In 2008 the Town received its Blue Flag Designation; the Blue Flag designation is a highly respected and recognized international eco-label. Blue Flag beaches meet strict criteria that cover everything from water quality to environmental programs.

The Town has taken the initiative to ensure that environmental sustainability and promotion of education of source water protection, environmental best practices, species of Georgian Bay and its tributaries, the importance of the watershed as well the significance of the Thornbury Dam's unique fish ladder. The area has become a focal point in the Community and has created a strong sense of pride in the community. These projects have created a wonderful point of interest within the core business area of Thornbury and Clarksburg while making safe waterfront areas and protecting the fresh waters of Georgian Bay and the Nottawasaga Bay area. Stewardship and accessibility of Trails, Fish Ladder, Beaches, Harbour and Beaver River have been an example of social equity. The Harbour in particular has been a great example of stewardship and working with members of the Yacht Club with winter storage of boats, the elimination of open air sanding of hulls, draining of antifreeze and oils are all contained and properly disposed of through partnership with the Town as well as other best practices..

The achievement of a five Green Leaf Anchor Designation for the Harbour Facility and a Blue Flag Designation at a beach not more than 100 feet from a fully functioning Marina as well as a major outlet of the Beaver River entering Georgian Bay in such close proximity credits such efforts in protecting our Great lakes.

The Community as a recipient of this award would continue efforts to promote and educate how sustainable practices that result in a positive community impact on the Great Lakes – St. Lawrence water resources.

The Blue Mountains will be a progressive four season community, building on its agricultural and recreational features, offering a healthy and supportive lifestyle to a diverse range of residents, businesses and visitors.

and habitat preservation, hazardous substance handling, conservation, energy efficiency and waste reduction.

In 2007 the Town applied for Blue Flag Designation at two Town Beaches. Little River Park is located beside the Thornbury Harbour Facility. In 2008 the Town received its Blue Flag Designation; the Blue Flag designation is a highly respected and recognized international eco-label. Blue Flag beaches meet strict criteria that cover everything from water quality to environmental programs. In addition Northwinds Beach in the Craighleith area also received a Blue Flag Designation and giving The Blue Mountains the honor of having two beaches with that designation.

The Blue Mountains will be a progressive four season community, building on its agricultural and recreational features, offering a healthy and supportive lifestyle to a diverse range of residents, businesses and visitors.



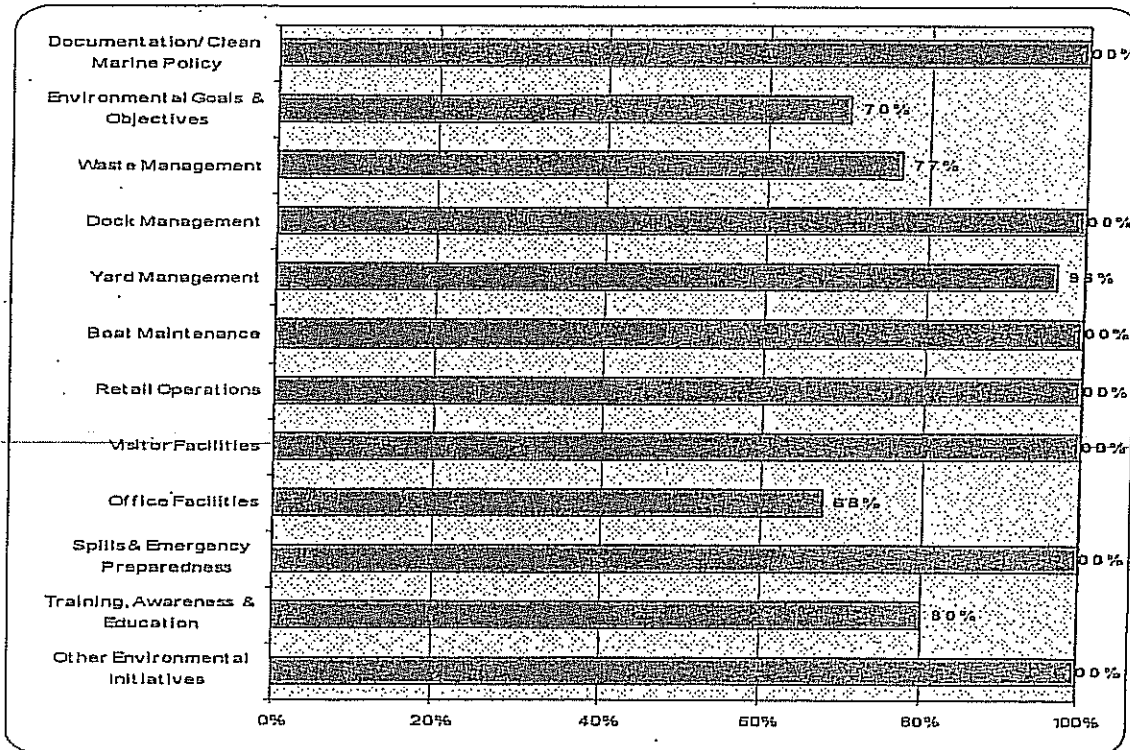
ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION AND RATING REPORT

Thornbury Harbour, Thornbury, ON

Overview

Thornbury Harbour is a public marina located on Georgian Bay in Thornbury, Ontario. Serving primarily medium-sized power and sail boats, it has storage capacity for 585 craft. Originally completed in 1990, its primary services include docking, mooring, fuel docks, pump-out facilities, and yard services.

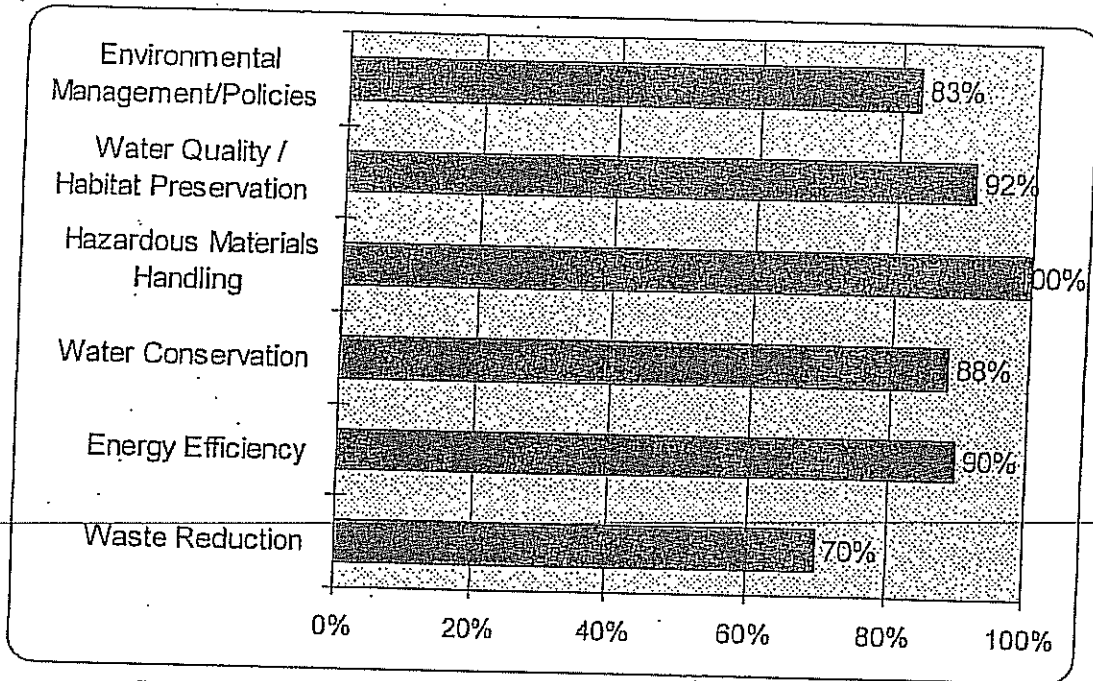
The facility was evaluated by Jim Matsell, on behalf of GreenLeaf Environmental Communications, Inc., in May 2005 and given a rating of 2 Green Leaf Anchors, based on an overall Eco-Rating Checklist score of 64%. The marina was re-evaluated by Gary Smith, on behalf of GreenLeaf Environmental Communications, Inc., in August 2008 and greatly improved its rating to 5 Green Leaf Anchors, based on an overall Eco-Rating Checklist score of 98.2%. The following chart summarizes scoring for the different areas of your marina operations.



Our checklist review confirms commendable performance in several operational and management areas, including Dock Management, Yard Management, and Spills and Emergency Preparedness. The areas with the highest potential for possible performance improvement were development and monitoring of Environmental Goals and Objectives, Waste Management, Boat Maintenance, and Training, Awareness & Education. Fine-tuning of Office Facilities and Visitor Facilities would also yield further benefits.

Thornbury Harbour's evaluation and rating was based on a review of six parameters: Environmental Management and Policies; Water Quality and Habitat Preservation, Hazardous Substance

Handling/Reduction; Water Conservation, Energy Efficiency and Waste Reduction. Your performance in these key areas is summarized below:



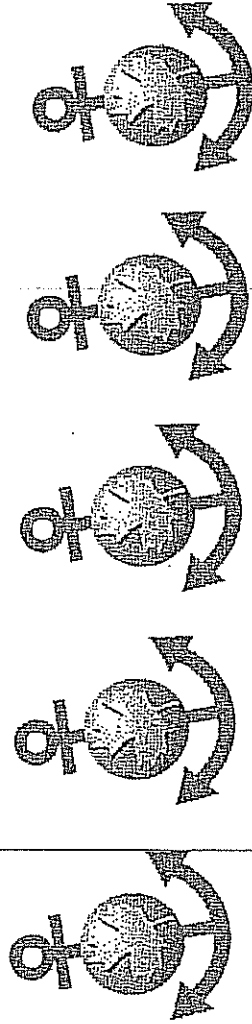
Our assessment confirms that many beneficial environmental initiatives have been undertaken at Thornbury Harbour, but we did note opportunities to further improve your performance. The following pages provide an analysis of your marina's environmental performance, together with specific recommendations for improvement.

We also refer you to the *Clean Marine Practices Handbook* for additional information on the environmental parameters used in your evaluation. This information, in concert with the Clean Marine Workshop, will help to provide you further insight into these key issues and provide advice on improving Thornbury Harbour's GreenLeaf™ Anchor rating.



The Marina identified below has been independently evaluated and rated for its eco-efficiency performance. The award of this Green Leaf™ Eco-Rating indicates that the marina has made a significant commitment to environmental improvement.

Thornbury Municipal Harbour



Date of Issue: October 2008 ~ Expires: October 2011

Issued on behalf of the Ontario Marina Operators Association

Kevin Gallagher, President, GreenLeaf Environmental Consulting Inc.



Beaches in Canada

CANADA

Beach name	Municipality	Region
Ontario	Toronto	Ontario
Ontario	City of Toronto	Ontario
Ontario	Town of the Blue Mountains	Ontario
Ontario	Town of the Blue Mountains	Ontario
Ontario	Town of Goderich	Ontario
Ontario	Town of South Bruce Peninsula	Ontario
Ontario	Kincardine	Ontario
Ontario	Toronto	Ontario
Ontario	Toronto	Ontario
Ontario	Toronto	Ontario
Ontario	Toronto	Ontario
Ontario	Town of Wasaga	Ontario

Blue Flag Beaches
in Ontario

only Town with
2 Beaches with
Blue Flag

Blue Flag • Scandiagade 13 • DK-2450 Copenhagen SV • Denmark
Tel: +45 33 28 04 10 • coordination@blueflag.org

Little River Beach Park, Beach located in Ontario
ONTARIO



Little River Beach Park is positioned in the tip of Georgian Bay. The pebbled beach has a fully equipped lifesaving station available and amenities including public washrooms, a playground for kids and parking. Trees provide natural shade. This very accessible urban beach situated beside the Thornbury Harbour is a perfect place to spend the day with family and friends.

Little River Park
Blue Flag



Blue Flag • Scandiagade 13 • DK-2450 Copenhagen SV • Denmark
Tel: +45 33 28 04 10 • coordination@blueflag.org



Blue Flag Canada
www.BlueFlag.ca

A program of
ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENCE

February 20, 2009

To the Blue Flag Beach Management Committee
c/o Jeffery Fletcher
Manager of Solid Waste and Environmental Initiatives
Town of the Blue Mountains
26 Bridge St. East
Thornbury, ON N0H 2P0

Re: Great Lakes Regional Jury Meeting held on February 19, 2009

Dear Blue Flag Beach Management Committee members,

On behalf of the Great Lakes Regional Jury, I would like to inform you about the decision regarding the Town of the Blue Mountain's Blue Flag applications and the general discussion and recommendations that emerged from the meeting.

Jury decision

The Great Lakes Regional Jury has approved your applications for Northwinds and Little River Beach Park to be forwarded to the international jury for final consideration as dispensation cases. However, there were a few recommendations the jury would like the Town of the Blue Mountains to consider.

General Comments

The jury was pleased with the Town's commitment to develop additional educational activities to ensure that the program criterion is met during the 2009 season. The jury commented on the great range of activities and one member stated that the activities made both beaches "more of a destination for people".

The jury agreed to accept the reasons for dispensation for both Northwinds and Little River Beach Park. However, members would only accept problems with the lack of coordination of the educational activities as a reason for dispensation this year only. The jury understood that with any new program, there are always issues that need to be resolved and that sometimes, issues are out of the control of the municipality.

Michael Shane from the Lifesaving Society raised a concern regarding the lifesaving station at both beaches. He was curious to know the size of the beach because the general rule is that if the beach is 200 meters or less in size, then one fully equipped lifesaving station is sufficient.

Mr. Shane also raised an issue of safety for the snorkel event. While this is a fantastic educational activity, Mr. Shane recommended that the Town have an emergency plan in place to deal with potential issues or to ensure that there is well trained supervision.

In terms of next steps, the jury would like to know the length of the beach to ensure that one lifesaving station is sufficient. If the beach is greater than 200m, then a second lifesaving station will be required before the start of the 2009 swimming season.

Please notify Jodi Frye of the above by February 25, 2009 so that we are able to forward your application to the international jury in time to meet its deadline.

We are excited about Northwinds and Little River Beach Park joining the ranks of high quality beaches throughout the world again this year. We look forward to raising the Blue Flag.

The International Jury meets on April 23, 2008 to decide the final Blue Flag awards.

If you have any questions about the above, please do not hesitate to contact Jodi Frye, Project Coordinator, Blue Flag Canada at 416-323-9521 ext. 223 or jfrye@environmentaldefence.ca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'SW', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Sarah Winterton
Education and Outreach Director