



MAKING WAVES

April 22, 2009

Early Registration Discount Available through April 30

Visit www.greatlakes-troisrivieres.com to register and learn more about the GLSLCI 2009 Annual Member Meeting and Conference which will be held June 17-19, 2009 in Trois-Rivières, Quebec. The early registration discount is only available through April 30, 2009. Don't miss this once-a-year opportunity to join with mayors and other local elected officials from around the region to advance the protection and restoration of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River!

Town of Penetanguishene Making Waves on Water Conservation



The Town of Penetanguishene had provided free drinking water for decades to residents not connected to the municipal potable water distribution system and non residents alike. This water was provided through a series of taps connected to the municipal drinking water system. Over the years, people became more concerned about overuse and possible contamination of the water supply. To address these concerns, the Town developed a system to install coin operated water dispensers in public places. Because these devices require power to operate and had some difficulty accessing the power grid, the water dispensers were equipped with solar panels,

which also served to demonstrate the Town's commitment to the environment. The solar power units cost less than \$20,000 but the water dispensers collect approximately \$2,000 in revenue per year. Overuse and contamination are no longer a threat and the low cost (\$0.05 per liter) of water encourages citizens to drink from re-useable containers. To learn more, visit www.gslscities.org/documents/PenetanguisheneWaterCons041709.pdf.

Racine's Education Center is a Success for Students of All Ages

The mission of the Root River Environmental Education Center (REC) in Racine is to educate students of all ages and the community about the importance of the Great Lakes Ecosystem. With grants from the University of Wisconsin–Parkside Center for Community Partners and the City of Racine Department of Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services, the REC has been a success! Programs such as “Safe Water Is My Responsibility” and city-wide

177 North State Street, Suite 500, Chicago, Illinois 60601 ~ (312) 201-4516 phone ~ (312) 553-4355 fax
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Lynn Peterson, Mayor of Thunder Bay, Chair

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David Miller, Mayor of Toronto, Founding Canadian Chair



“Make-A-Difference Days”, the REC has educated more than 3,000 students, both young and old. An ambition of the REC is to improve the math and science scores of students in the Racine school district by offering educational programs geared towards Middle and High School age students. In addition to education, the summer bike and canoe rental program has brought more than 2,800 residents to the Root River. To learn more about the REC, please visit www.glslcities.org/documents/BestPractice-Racine-REC.pdf.



Dune Swales Enhance Racine’s Beaches

The City of Racine continues to be a trailblazer on the issue of better beach management. In 2004, the City began creating dune swales at the beach in order to help mitigate historic issues impacting the beach and water quality, including structural maintenance, deterrence of nuisance waterfowl, and infiltration of non-point source pollution. By increasing vegetation around the beach through the creation of dune swales, non-point source runoff, coastal erosion and the affects

of wind kicking up sand have all been mitigated and the city has been able to reduce its daily maintenance on the boardwalk. The creation of the dune swales has enhanced the natural landscape of the beach, as well as the overall experience for beachgoers. For more information, please visit www.glslcities.org/documents/BestPractice-Racine-DuneSwales.pdf.

Recovery Act Funding Goes to Work for the Great Lakes

Plans are already being made in the U.S. to utilize American Recovery and Reinvestment Act dollars to improve the Great Lakes region at the Outboard Marine Corporation (OMC) contamination site. Plant 2, a 1,060,000 square-foot former manufacturing facility situated on a 60 acre plot of land, is one of four cleanup projects that make up the OMC site. The OMC site, an EPA national priority since 1983, is located on Lake Michigan, approximately 40 miles north of Chicago in Waukegan. The fifty years of operation at Plant 2 left it contaminated with dangerous substances such as polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and trichloroethylene (TCE). EPA will use the \$10 to \$25 million allocated to this site from the Recovery Act to demolish the facility and remove contamination. The City of Waukegan has plans to redevelop this lakefront area and the environmental and economic benefits of this project will certainly reverberate throughout the region.

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Best Practices Rolling in!

Since GLSLCI put out a call for best practices from its member cities, great projects have been rolling in. We are always interested in hearing about what cities are doing on Great Lakes and St. Lawrence protection and restoration, so please continue to send us examples of best practices from your cities. Please visit our best practices webpage at www.gslscities.org/projects.htm to download and complete a one page best practices template. You can email it back to Melissa Soline at melissa.soline@gslscities.org and the information will be posted on our best practices webpage and highlighted in Making Waves.

Membership

Join the 62 Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative members in protecting and restoring the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River by clicking [here](#). If you are already a member, please encourage your neighboring communities to join, and be sure to renew your membership when you receive your notice.

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