



MAKING WAVES

May 11, 2009

Register for the 2009 Annual Meeting!!

Visit www.greatlakes-troisrivieres.com to register for the GLSLCI 2009 Annual Member Meeting and Conference which will be held June 17-19, 2009 in Trois-Rivières, Quebec. This is an important event for members to attend as we will vote on resolutions that guide the policy direction of the organization. Invited keynote speakers include: Premier of Quebec Jean Charest, Quebec Environment Minister Line Beauchamp, Mayor David Miller of Toronto, U.S. Congressman James Oberstar and U.S. EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson.

Ontario Mayors Issue Five Point Action Plan



Ontario mayors presented a five point collaborative action plan to the Ontario Government on May 5, 2009, at the first ever Great Lakes Summit in Toronto, hosted by the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative and the Government of Ontario. The summit was the culmination of the first phase of the [Canada-Ontario Agreement Memorandum of Cooperation](#) process, which was started last July 2008 at the GLSLCI Annual Meeting. In the Mayors' report, *At the Shoreline: A Mayors' Collaborative*

Action Plan to Protect the Great Lakes, Ontario Great Lakes Mayors called for a new collaborative approach involving all three orders of government to tackle long standing problems of explosive algae growth, beach closures, and untreated sewage and stormwater entering the lakes. The report calls for a tripartite table to coordinate protection efforts and investments amongst the three orders of government. The Mayors also call for an economic study to build a strong business case for Great Lakes investments. GLSLCI members in attendance at the event included Mayor Lynn Peterson of Thunder Bay, Mayor David Miller of Toronto, Mayor Ellen Anderson of the Town of the Blue Mountains, Mayor Brian McMullan of St. Catharines, Mayor Deb Shewfelt of Goderich, and Regional Chair Peter Partington of the Region of Niagara. Please visit www.gslscities.org/coamoc.htm for more information and to see the full report.

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Milwaukee - A United Nations Global Compact City

The City of Milwaukee has been designated by the United Nations as a U.N. Global Compact City. Milwaukee's efforts on improving water quality and water management, which include the development of a framework, led by the Milwaukee 7 Water Council, to maintain and improve water quality system dynamics, health and sustainability, freshwater and technology, helped land the City the designation. Milwaukee is proud to be only one of two global U.N. cities to focus on water. For more information on Milwaukee's designation, please click [here](#).

Waterfront Plan Discussed by Georgian Bay Communities

Local, provincial and federal officials met on April 16, 2009 to discuss a regional waterfront plan for the Georgian Bay. GLSLCI members in attendance included Mayor Ellen Anderson of the Town of the Blue Mountains, Mayor Cal Patterson of Wasaga Beach, Mayor Scott Warnock of Tay, Warden Milt McIver of Bruce county, Mayor James Downer of Midland, and Deputy Mayor George Lawrence of Tiny. Illegal dredging, and its impact on the ecosystem and shoreline, as well as shoreline development, which can change the landscape of beaches and intensify runoff into the lakes, were topics discussed by the group. There was overwhelming support for a waterfront management plan for Georgian Bay to help address such issues. Municipal leaders agreed that an integrated plan would be the best solution to advance and educate the public on shoreline health.

Stimulus Funds for New Great Lakes Research Vessels

Two new state-of-the-art Great Lakes research vessels will be cruising Lakes Erie and Ontario in the near future. Michigan Senators Carl Levin and Debbie Stabenow announced that \$30 million in stimulus funds will be used to build the vessels. These new research vessels will replace two U.S. Geological Survey vessels that are nearly 50 years old.

Legislation on Pharmaceuticals

Bill 1145 regarding the implementation of the *National Water Research and Development Initiative Act* passed the U.S. House of Representatives and has been referred to the Senate. A key component in the bill is to encourage necessary research on the presence of pharmaceuticals in drinking water. The Senate has referred the bill to the Committee on Environment and Public Works. To see a copy of the bill, please visit <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/z?d111:h.r.01145>. GLSLCI members passed a resolution ([Resolution #11](#)) in 2008 calling for a more focused approach by the federal governments in the U.S. and Canada on the proper collection and disposal of pharmaceuticals and personal care products (PPCPs). GLSLCI plans to launch a PPCP effort

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at the 2009 Annual Meeting, an element of which will be to encourage more research on the impacts of PPCPs on our waterways.

International Joint Commission Report on St. Clair River

The International Upper Great Lakes Study Board has released a draft report on the St. Clair River, entitled *Impacts on Upper Great Lakes Water Levels: St. Clair River*. The Study Board, comprised of 10 binational leaders and experts, researched the water level decline in the St. Clair River from 1962 to 2006. The report identifies three factors contributing to the decline: a possible ice-jam in the mid 1980's, changes in climate patterns, and the long-term glacial isostatic adjustment (the rebounding of the earth's crust after the retreat of the glaciers). The Study Board concluded that climatic changes have been the largest factor in the decreasing water levels of the St. Clair River. They recommend continued research and data collection to assess additional impacts climate change may have upon Great Lakes water levels. The Study Board is now accepting comments on the report as well as holding meetings across the basin in May and June. A full report from the IJC committee can be found on their website at www.iugls.org, along with a list of the public meeting locations and times.

Membership

We are pleased to welcome our newest member, Ville de Montréal-Est to the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative!! Join the 63 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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