



## **MAKING WAVES**

**December 18, 2009**

### ***Cities Initiative Board of Directors Gathers in Chicago***

Mayor Richard M. Daley and the City of Chicago hosted the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative Board of Directors on December 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>, 2009 for the annual Midyear Board meeting. The Board addressed a number of policy issues at the meeting, including the renegotiation of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, the implementation of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Compact and Agreement, and wind energy, to name a few. The Board also approved adding Cities Initiative staff in the Province of Quebec to better serve membership and to ensure local government is well represented on St. Lawrence issues. At a press conference during the meeting, the Board called for a formal role for local government in renegotiating and implementing the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement and emphasized the need to focus on shoreline restoration in the Agreement. For a summary of the meeting, please visit [www.glslcities.org/news.htm](http://www.glslcities.org/news.htm).

### ***Toronto Mayor Miller Takes a Stand in Copenhagen***

Mayor David Miller of Toronto and Founding Canadian Chair of the Cities Initiative, along with 100 other municipal leaders from around the globe are meeting in Copenhagen this week. Mayor Miller is the Chair of the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group and leading the way at the Mayors Climate Summit. The Mayors Summit, running alongside the U.N. Climate Change conference, is focused on municipal reduction of greenhouse gases among other vital climate topics. You can follow actions in Copenhagen at the C40 website, [www.c40cities.org](http://www.c40cities.org) or read more about Mayor Miller in Copenhagen at [http://www.toronto.ca/livegreen/mayor\\_summit.html](http://www.toronto.ca/livegreen/mayor_summit.html).

### ***Toronto Focuses on “Green Standard” in New Building Construction***

Toronto’s city council made a push in the “green” direction to establish standards for new sustainable development within the city. Council adopted a two-tiered set of performance standards to be implemented by the City Planning Division in all new low, middle and high-rise construction. The stricter standards focus on reducing light pollution and increasing bird friendly structures. In addition, construction features will work to achieve higher air quality, improved ecology, energy efficiency and overall quality and efficiency of water usage. More details on the Toronto Green Standards can be found at <http://www.toronto.ca/planning/greendevlopment.htm>.

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*George K. Heartwell, Mayor of Grand Rapids, Chair*

*Richard M. Daley, Mayor of Chicago, Founding United States Chair*

*David Miller, Mayor of Toronto, Founding Canadian Chair*



### ***Climate Change Affecting the Great Lakes Water Levels***

The *International Upper Great Lakes Study Board* has released its final report exploring the drop in the water levels of Lakes Huron and Michigan in recent years. The study identifies climate change as the “most significant factor” to changes in water levels. With less precipitation in summer, high winds around the water causing more evaporation and less ice coverage of the lakes in winter, water levels in Lakes Huron and Michigan have been declining. The report involving more than 100 scientists from both the U.S. and Canada found that since 1973, three of the four smallest ice covers on Lakes Erie, Huron, Michigan and Superior occurred in the last ten years. The report hopes to spark interest from both countries to address climate change and the flow of the declining upper lakes into Lake Erie. For more information and to read the study, please visit [http://www.iugls.org/en/home\\_accueil.htm](http://www.iugls.org/en/home_accueil.htm).

### ***Save the Date – Cities Initiative Annual Member Meeting & Conference!***

Mark your calendars - the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative 2010 Annual Member Meeting and Conference will be held June 16-18, 2010 in Milwaukee, WI! Stay tuned for more information on the 2010 Annual Member Meeting and Conference.

### ***Membership***

Join the 70 Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative members in protecting and restoring the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River by clicking [here](#) for a membership application. 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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