



## **MAKING WAVES**

### **March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010**

#### ***Chair Heartwell goes to Washington***

Mayor George Heartwell, Chair of GLSLCI, spent three days in Washington the week of February 22 to bring the message from cities to the U.S. Capitol on protecting and restoring the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence. In meetings at the White House, with the Canadian Ambassador to the United States, with high ranking officials from the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Interior, and with several Congressional offices, Mayor Heartwell delivered the GLSLCI position on key issues. The issues covered included the urgency of keeping Asian carp out of the Great Lakes, funding for protection and restoration work, the role of cities in the Water Quality Agreement, and the long term vision for the resource. Pat Carey of Mayor Daley's staff and Mary Morgan of Mayor Ross' staff also attended a number of key meetings. Dave Ullrich provided support to Mayor Heartwell, and also testified on a new Great Lakes governance proposal as part of legislation for a large number of "Great Waters" in the United States. More details on the meetings will be provided in a separate issue of Making Waves.

#### ***Meeting with Canadian Minister of Environment's Office***

On February 10, GLSLCI member Peter Partington, Chair of the Region of Niagara, his chief of staff Neal Roberts, and GLSLCI Deputy Director Nicola Crawhall met with Canadian Environment Minister Jim Prentice's chief of staff, Stephen Kelly. This was the first meeting between Minister Prentice's office and the GLSLCI, so served as an important relationship building opportunity. At the meeting we discussed the importance of the Canada-US Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement renegotiations, as well as the St. Lawrence Plan and the Canada-Ontario Agreement Respecting the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem. We emphasized the importance of including and collaborating with local government on Great Lakes protection. And we learned that the Minister of the Environment is a fly fishing enthusiast.

#### ***GLSLCI panel at FCM Sustainability Communities Conference***

On February 10<sup>th</sup>, Trois Rivières Mayor Yves Levesque, St. Catharines Mayor Brian McMullan, and Niagara Region Chair Peter Partington participated on a panel at the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Sustainable Communities Conference in Ottawa. The bi-annual conference attracts over 600 municipal delegates from across the country, and is the largest municipal sustainability conference of its kind in Canada. With the theme of Cities on the Shoreline: How to Protect your Greatest Asset, each of the heads of council highlighted waterfront and water quality projects in their community, including Trois Rivières's ambitious waterfront redevelopment and technology park, Niagara's 30-year WaterSmart program, and St. Catharines impressive progress on keeping

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their beaches open, conserving water and reducing the amount of stormwater entering the Great Lakes.

### ***New Tree Canada Partnership Funding “Green Streets” Program***

Tree Canada, a not-for-profit organization focused on planting and caring for trees in urban environments, is teaming up with TD Friends of the Environment Foundation to sponsor its *Green Streets* program. The program provides funding to Canadian municipalities to plant and maintain trees in both urban and rural environments. Funding will go to 20 municipalities in Canada totaling \$300,000 for *Green Streets* programs. Decisions on grant awardees will be made in April 2010. For information on how to apply and more details on the program, please visit the Green Streets website at [www.tdgreenstreets.ca](http://www.tdgreenstreets.ca)

### ***Waukegan Clean-up at Superfund Site***

The Chicago Tribune reported that the City of Waukegan received \$18.5 million in Federal stimulus funding to tear down the Outboard Marine Corporation plant that polluted the Waukegan Harbor from 1940-1970. The plant contained PCBs and other harmful contaminants that leaked into the surrounding area for almost 30 years. The plant was designated a Superfund site in 1981. Over 1 million pounds of PCBs were removed by 1993 though the work is not complete. Mayor Robert Sabonjian and EPA constituents kicked off the plant tear down and clean-up in hopes of reclaiming the site with new development and city green space in the coming years.

### ***IJC Public Consultations on St. Clair River***

The International Joint Commission (IJC) will be holding public consultations on its *Impacts on Upper Great Lakes Water Levels: St. Clair River Report*. The International Upper Great Lakes Study Board of the IJC will invite comments on the study at six locations throughout the U.S. and Canada from March 22-31<sup>st</sup>, 2010. For the full study and details for their public hearings please consult the IJC report at

[http://pub.iugls.org/en/Other\\_Publications/IUGLS\\_Summary\\_Report\\_EN.pdf](http://pub.iugls.org/en/Other_Publications/IUGLS_Summary_Report_EN.pdf)

### ***PRECO Funds Water Infrastructure Improvements in Québec***

Programme de renouvellement des conduits (PRECO), a program in Québec focused on the renewal of drinking water and wastewater infrastructure, funded 365 rehabilitation projects in 2009. Through a joint investment of more than \$700 million from municipal, provincial and federal governments, improvements were made to upgrade infrastructures across Québec. Overall, 245 Québec municipalities were recipients of PRECO funding.

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### ***Quebec Positions posted***

As directed by the Board at its December meeting, the Cities Initiative will be hiring two part-time people in Quebec to lead the Cities Initiative's expanding work in that province. The two positions are being advertised in *Le Devoir*, a leading Quebec newspaper, as well as on websites of NGOs and municipal associations. The job competition comes to a close on March 19<sup>th</sup>. To view the job posting, please click on [www.glslcities.org/news/news.cfm](http://www.glslcities.org/news/news.cfm).

### ***New GLSLCI Website***

Come visit the new and improved GLSLCI website. You can visit us at the same address, [www.glslcities.org](http://www.glslcities.org). We hope you find it more user friendly and with the latest Great Lakes and St. Lawrence news!!

### ***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! Visit the Conference website at [www.glslci2010milwaukee.org](http://www.glslci2010milwaukee.org) for the latest news and updates on the Annual Meeting and Conference. Confirmed speakers so far for the annual meeting include Cameron Davis, Special Advisor on the Great Lakes to the US EPA Administrator and the Deputy Mayor of Turku, Finland from the Union of Baltic Cities.

### ***Membership***

Join the 71 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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