



## **MAKING WAVES**

**August 3, 2010**

### ***21<sup>st</sup> Century Chicago Waterway System***

The Cities Initiative, along with the Great Lakes Commission, announced the launching of an initiative on July 22, 2010 to look for new ways to configure the Chicago Waterway System that will block the flow of invasive species between the Great Lakes and Mississippi River watersheds, while enhancing water quality, flood management, and transportation for the region and the entire basin. The initial funders of the work include the Joyce Foundation and the Great Lakes Protection Fund, and more is expected from other Great Lakes foundations. The work is designed to supplement and accelerate the work being done by the Federal government on the project. Mayor Daley and Mayor Heartwell will serve on the Executive Steering Committee, along with Governor Quinn of Illinois and Governor Strickland of Ohio.

### ***Québec City Bids to Host 2016 Universal Forum of Cultures***

The City of Québec is a final candidate to host the 2016 Universal Forum of Cultures. The Cities Initiative showed its support for Québec's bid to host the event by passing a resolution at the 2010 Annual Meeting last month in Milwaukee. The theme proposed by the city will be "The Culture of Water." With a successful bid for the Forum of Cultures, Québec City hopes to bring international exposure to the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence region. The next host city will be decided on January 7, 2011.

### ***Red Mill Pond Wetlands Begin Restoration***

Through funding from the Army Corps of Engineers and in-kind contributions from local governments and funders, more than 100 acres of local wetland in LaPorte, Indiana will be preserved. The Red Mill Pond restoration project is aided with the help of federal funding through the Great Lakes Fishery Commission. Cities Initiative Executive Director David Ullrich, also Great Lakes Fishery Commissioner, was on hand for the press conference and ground-breaking for the project. The project will protect an Indiana Nature Preserve and restructure a preexisting dam to allow proper flow for fisheries.

### ***Bruce Nuclear Plans Shipment Along Great Lakes and St. Lawrence***

Bruce Power is in the process of seeking approval to ship 16 steam generators with low level radioactive contamination through Owen Sound, ON and the Great lakes and St. Lawrence this fall. The steam generators will be sent to Sweden where they will be recycled and shipped back to Bruce Power. Currently the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission is reviewing the plan before decision on

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the application will be made. The Cities Initiative staff will keep the members updated on this situation.

***Cities Initiative Participates in Beach Water Quality Workshop***

The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative recently participated in a workshop regarding the shift from research to implementation on rapid test methods for beach water quality. The workshop is part of a Water Environment Research Foundation (WERF) funded project that Dr. Julie Kinzelman of the City of Racine Health Department is working on to assess the utility of rapid test methods in inland waters and wastewater through the treatment process. Melissa Soline from the Cities Initiative participated in the workshop to help provide the local government perspective; additional local government representatives were in attendance from Chicago, Milwaukee and Racine. Officials from the U.S. EPA provided an update on the revision of recreational water quality criteria. EPA maintains that they are on track to publish revised criteria by October 2012.

***Kalamazoo River Oil Spill Recovery Efforts***

A pipeline carrying crude oil from Griffith, Indiana to Sarnia, Ontario ruptured on Monday July 26<sup>th</sup>, leaking roughly 1 million gallons of oil into the Talmadge Creek and subsequently into the Kalamazoo River in southwest Michigan. The U.S. EPA continues to lead the clean-up and containment efforts. EPA crews have kept the oil contained to roughly 25 miles of the Kalamazoo. Efforts to safeguard wildlife are also underway. The White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs provided a briefing for mayors on Thursday July 29, 2010. More details on the response effort can be found at [www.epa.gov/enbridgespill](http://www.epa.gov/enbridgespill) and the Cities Initiative staff will continue to provide updates on the spill and recovery.

***Hockey, Thunder Bay, and the Great Lakes***

In the true spirit of Canadian/U.S. cooperation, the Stanley Cup Champion Chicago Blackhawks were led by many Canadian stars, including Patrick Sharp of Thunder Bay, pictured here recently with Mayor Lynn Peterson. Upon further investigation, “Making Waves” learned that Thunder Bay boasts eight current NHL players, including the four Staal brothers, 26 winners of the Stanley Cup, and 103 NHL stars over the years. Any GLSLCI cities wishing to bring NHL history or other key facts to our attention should do so for future editions.





### ***Tall Ships Challenge Sails Across Great Lakes***

Great Lakes United's "Tall Ships Challenge" has sailed across the Great Lakes this summer. The Challenge has stopped to visit many Cities Initiative members involving local residents in water conservation education and youth sailing training. For more information on the Tall Ships Challenge and when you may be seeing the fleet in your port please visit [www.glu.org/tallships](http://www.glu.org/tallships)

### ***Membership***

Join the 73 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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