



2016 Annual Meeting and Conference
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative
Version of April 15, 2016 – All times subject to change, more speakers to come

Hotel and Conference Center Location: <https://goo.gl/ktkcA5>

TUESDAY, JUNE 14, 2016

3:00 pm – 9:00 pm Registration – *Sheraton at the Falls Hotel Foyer*

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15, 2016-MEMBERS' ACTIVITIES

8:00 am – 5:00 pm Registration – *Conference Center Foyer – Enter on Old Falls Street*

9:00 am Board Meeting – *Conference Center- Red Jacket Room*

11:30 am Lunch- *Conference Center – Red Jacket Room*

12:30 pm Regional Meetings
Ontario – *Conference Center - Cascade Ballroom*
United States – *Conference Center – Hennepin Room*
Québec – *Conference Center Room – Whitney Room*

2:00 pm Members Meeting – *Conference Center Cascade Ballroom*

5:00 pm Break

6:30 pm Departure for Reception – *Main Hotel Entrance (3rd St.)*

7:00-10:00 pm Members' Reception and Dinner – *Top of the Falls Restaurant*
(location: <https://goo.gl/MpnMuU>)

10:00pm Niagara Falls Fireworks (buses will start running early for those wishing to return to the hotel before the fireworks. Buses will run until 10:30 after the fireworks display.)



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THURSDAY, JUNE 16, 2016

All Thursday activities to take place at the Conference and Event Center Niagara Falls (Enter from Old Falls Street)

7:30 am – 5:00 pm Registration- *Grand Foyer (Enter from Old Falls Street)*

7:30 am Breakfast – *Cascade Ballroom*

8:15 am Opening Ceremony – *All Thursday activities in Cascade Ballroom*

8:45 am Keynote Speaker (invited)
The Honorable Andrew Cuomo, Governor, State of New York
The Honorable Charles Schumer, Senator, New York
The Honorable Kirsten Gillibrand, Senator, New York
The Honourable Catherine McKenna, Minister of Environment and Climate Change of Canada

9:30 am Panel Session 1
Safe Drinking Water in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Basin
In light of the Flint, MI tragedy and the Waukesha water diversion application, this session proposes solutions and insight to ensure the future of safe, abundant, clean and fairly-priced water for the millions of Great Lakes and St. Lawrence residents.

10:45 am Break with Sponsors

11:00 am Panel Session 2
Climate Change Adaptation, Mitigation and Innovation
This session will discuss how Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities are working to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions, tools to assess vulnerability and innovation in renewable energy.

12:15 pm Lunch

12:30 pm Lunch speaker

1:15 pm Cities Initiative Members – Media Conference – Room TBD

1:15 pm Conference Attendees – Networking Break – Grand Foyer



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2:00 pm

Panel Session 3

Lake Erie Algae Updates, Programs and Impacts on Municipalities

This session explores how the new federal, state and provincial targets for nutrients will impact municipalities and Cities Initiative activities with industry stakeholders, agricultural partners and others to reduce nutrient runoff to Lake Erie.

Moderator: TBD

Panelists: Karl Gebhardt, Deputy Director for Water Resources, Ohio EPA
Don McCabe, Executive Director, Ontario Federation of Agriculture (Invited)
Molly Flanagan, Vice-President of Policy, Alliance for the Great Lakes

3:15 pm

Break

3:30 pm

Keynote Speaker

4:00 pm

Panel Session 4

Municipal Green Urbanism and Sustainability Initiatives

Great Lakes and St. Lawrence municipalities are leaders in new solutions to promote and advance sustainability of our water resources. This session will showcase innovative initiatives, funding mechanisms and key partnerships.

Moderator: TBD

Panelists/Topics: Niagara Greenway Initiative – Speaker TBD
Mississauga Lakeview Waterfront Project – Councillor Jim Tovey, City of Mississauga

5:00 pm

Break

6:00 pm

Cocktail – *Cataract Foyer (Enter on Old Falls Street)*

7:00 pm

Gala Dinner – *Cascade Ballroom*



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FRIDAY, JUNE 17, 2016

- 7:30 am Breakfast – *Conference Center, Cascade Ballroom*
- 8:30 am NASA –DEVELOP Presentation – Great Lakes Ecological Forecasting – Phragmites Habitat
- 8:50 am Panel Session 5
Control Solutions for Phragmites
More than ever, Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities are fighting to control non-native Phragmites, invasive reeds that take over wetlands and cause threats to natural habitats. This session will explore successful control solutions from across the basin.
Moderator: TBD
Panelists: Dr. Janice Gilbert, Ontario Phragmites Working Group
Nancy Vidler, Lambton Shores Phragmites Community Group
Heather Braun, Senior Project Manager, Great Lakes Commission
- 10:00 am Keynote Speaker: The Honourable Vance Badawey, MP, Niagara-Centre
- 10:20 am Presentation from 2017 host – Montréal, QC
- 10:30 am Closing ceremony
- 10:45 am Break
- 11:00 am Departure for Educational Tours – *Main Entrance (3rd St.)*
All tour attendees will receive a boxed lunch at their lunch location. Please register for your tour during the conference registration process. Contact Simon Belisle (simon.belisle@glslcities.org/312-201-4517) if you have already registered for the conference and want to add a tour.

Tour descriptions:

- **Going Green - An Urbanism Tour of Niagara Falls** – Local hosts with the City of Niagara Falls will take participants on a motor coach tour to showcase exemplary waterfront and economic development projects in downtown Niagara Falls, USA. Robert Moses Parkway reconstruction, new Niagara Falls International Railway Station & Intermodal Transportation Center, new hotels and final stages of Niagara Falls State Park enhancements are just some of the projects increasing waterfront access to locals and visitors alike and helping to add critical mass to the downtown landscape. At the



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conclusion of this up close and personal tour enjoy lunch at Whirlpool State Park, one of many beautiful state parks lining the Niagara River which overlooks the Niagara Gorge.

Transportation provided. Free. Tour returns to hotel around 1pm.

- **Go on a Power Trip** –With an original city slogan reading, “King of Power, Queen of Beauty” Niagara Falls, New York is known for creating the hydropower industry. Participants going on the power trip will be taken by motor coach to the Schoellkopf Power Plant Ruins & Niagara Power Project Visitors Center. At the Schoellkopf site visitors take an elevator ride into the Niagara Gorge to discover the remains of the former Schoellkopf Power Plant that collapsed in June 1965. It is now the winter home of the Maid of the Mist Boats as well. The Niagara Power Project Visitors Center reopens in May 2016 after experiencing a major facelift. This new facility will feature interactive and customized experiences highlighting alternative energy, local industry and nearby New York State parks and facilities. Representatives from the Schoellkopf Power Plant Ruins & Niagara Power Project Visitors Center will meet & greet attendees upon their arrival and give a brief narration. **Transportation provided. Free. Tour returns to hotel around 2pm.**
- **For the Naturally Adventurous** – Participants will be transported back in time to the oldest fortress on the Great Lakes and see history come to life with live reenactments and demonstrations at Old Fort Niagara. Afterwards, enjoy a pulse-pounding view of the Niagara Gorge aboard Niagara Jet Adventures enclosed (dry) jet boat experience. Feel the rush of the Devil's Hole Class V white water rapids and experience the magnitude of the world famous Whirlpool! Click [here](#) to view a video of the jetboating experience! **Transportation provided. \$70/person, purchase during the registration process, or contact Simon Belisle if you have already registered to the conference to purchase this tour. Tour returns to hotel around 3pm.**