



## **Cities Initiative announces recipient of Wege Sustainability Award**

*New president named and operations expanded in Quebec*

Milwaukee, June 18, 2010 – At their 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Member Meeting and Conference, hosted by Mayor Tom Barrett of Milwaukee, mayors of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative (Cities Initiative) chose Mayor Denis Lapointe of Salaberry de Valleyfield, Quebec as the 2010/2011 Chair of the organization. Mayor Brian McMullan of the City of St. Catharines, Ontario was selected as Vice Chair and Mayor David Ross of Superior, Wisconsin is the new Secretary/Treasurer.

“I am honored to have been elected Chair of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative as we launch our new CiTTS program,” said Mayor Lapointe. “I am particularly excited about our increased activity in Quebec due to our expanded operations.”

The Cities Initiative recently filled two positions in Quebec, a director of government relations and communications and a manager of policy, to expand its operations in the province and to work on issues related to the protection of the St. Lawrence River.

Mayor Lapointe succeeds Mayor George Heartwell of Grand Rapids, Michigan. “Mayor Heartwell has been a tireless champion of the Cities Initiative and of sustainability in his city of Grand Rapids. We thank him for his efforts and I look forward to working with him through this next year,” said Mayor Lapointe.

Also during the conference, Bayfield, Wisconsin received the fourth annual Wege Small Cities Sustainability Best Practices Award. The Wege award is given to a community with a population of less than 100,000 as seed money for a Great Lakes-St. Lawrence project that balances economic, social, and environmental aspects and that can be used as a best practice in other communities. Bayfield received this year’s Wege Award for its ‘Clean It Green It’ campaign, designed to educate and inspire homeowners to reduce their energy and water consumption and improve their green commitment to their community.

Two cities participating in the Cities Initiative *Water Conservation Framework* were also recognized for their outstanding work on water conservation. The City of Thunder Bay, Ontario was recognized for innovation on water conservation, and the City of Cobourg, Ontario was recognized for its progress on water conservation. Through the Framework, which was launched in 2007, cities have committed to working towards a 15 percent reduction below year 2000 water use levels by the year 2015. Collectively, thirteen of the participants have already achieved a 13% reduction in water consumption- conserving approximately 87 billion gallons or 329 billion litres of water, enough to fill 134,000 Olympic sized swimming pools.



The 2010 Cities Initiative Annual Member Meeting and Conference concluded with a presentation and invitation from Chair Peter Partington to the 2011 Cities Initiative Annual Member Meeting and Conference in Niagara Falls in the Region of Niagara, Ontario.

*The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative is a binational coalition of over 70 mayors and other local officials that works actively with federal, state, tribal, first nation and provincial governments and other stakeholders to advance the protection, restoration and promotion of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River basin.*

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