



MAKING WAVES

May 14th, 2015

Register for the 2015 Annual Meeting!

Conference registration is open! Panel topics will include the Cities Initiative's Nutrient Action Collaborative, Shoreline Restoration and Economic Activity, and Risk Reduction in Oil Transportation. Cities Initiative pilot projects and student collaborative projects will also be featured. [Please click here to access the conference website and registration page.](#) The 2015 Annual Meeting and Conference will take place June 17-19 in Sarnia-Lambton County, ON. We look forward to seeing many of you in June.

Cities Initiative Receives Governor General Award

The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative is deeply honored to receive the Canadian Governor General's Medallion for contributions to strengthening relations between Canada and the United States. The presentation by His Excellency David Johnston in Chicago on April 28, 2015 highlighted the Cities Initiative as a "shining example of stewardship and partnership." He went on to note that "representatives from all sectors with a stake in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence waterways have combined their efforts to preserve this vital natural resource." The Cities Initiative greatly appreciates the recognition from the Governor General.

US EPA Issues Health Advisory for Toxic Algae Levels

On May 6th, the United States Environmental Protection Agency issued a health advisory for safe levels of microcystin (toxic algae) in drinking water supplies. This action follows the growing concern about safe drinking water as spurred by last summer's crisis in Toledo. The advisory, while not a regulation, will help local officials determine the best public health actions as the peak algae bloom season approaches. The advisory levels were established through the best available science and in consultation with Environment Canada. [Click here for a press release and specific information about the advisory levels.](#)

Indiana Passes Ban on Microbeads

On Thursday, April 30th, Indiana Governor Mike Pence signed House Enrolled Act 1185, which bans the sale or production of products containing microbeads. Indiana joins Illinois as the only Great Lakes states to pass bans on microbeads. Minnesota, Wisconsin, New York, Michigan, and Ontario are in the process of reviewing legislation. Action in Quebec may pick up after a high school student started a petition that caught the eye of a Member of the National Assembly. [Watch this two-minute video to learn more about microbeads.](#)



Important Investments at the Port of Montreal

The administration of the Port of Montreal, which held its annual meeting on May 12th, has increased their investment projects. A new \$122 million-dollar container terminal is in construction, which will be the last expansion of the port on the Island of Montreal. The port administration is preparing its next container-handling expansion in the municipality of Contrecoeur, 40 kilometers east of Montreal. This site could accommodate 1.15 million additional containers. In addition, the Port of Montreal continues to search for financing to carry out the restoration of the Iberville passenger terminal and the Alexandra Quay, an investment of 78 million. 45 million dollars of this investment have been announced by the City of Montreal and the government of Quebec, and an announcement from the federal government is expecting in the coming months. [Read more about the investments here.](#)

Grand Rapids Receives Recognition for Recycling Program

The City of Grand Rapids, Michigan, recently received distinction from Governor Rick Snyder for its incentive-based recycling program. The program, entitled “mygrcitypoints,” awards points to customers for their recycling behavior, and the points are then redeemable at local businesses. [Read more about the recycling program here.](#)

Book of St. Lawrence River Underwater Photos Published

In the new book “Québec profond; Splendeurs du fleuve-mer,” (Deep Quebec: Splendors of the Seaway) actress Geneviève Bilodeau and her spouse, scuba-diver Patrick Bourgeois, present splendid photographs from their diversings in the St. Lawrence River. From feathery anemones, to starfish, to crabs, to sea wolves and more, the images show the St. Lawrence in all of its hidden beauty and poetry. [Click here to see the book’s photographs.](#)

Resource Highlight: NOAA’s Lake Level Viewer

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s [Lake Level Viewer](#) allows communities, planners, and local officials to assess how increases and decreases in Great Lakes water levels will affect their communities. [Click here to register for a webinar on using the Lake Level Viewer.](#)

Membership

Please join the 114 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.

If your municipality would like to share news with the Cities Initiative, please email information to Laura Bretheim at laura.bretheim@glslcities.org