



# The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative and the Canada-Ontario Agreement

**Mayor Brian McMullan,  
City of St. Catharines**

June 17-18, 2010

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# Introduction

- ❑ Municipalities have direct responsibilities related to the protection of the Great Lakes
- ❑ Collectively they invest over \$15 billion annually
- ❑ Initiative creates a forum for Mayors to offer strategic advice to government
- ❑ Need to set priorities and share scientific and technical expertise



# What is the Canada Ontario Agreement (COA)?



- ❑ Main agreement on Great Lakes between Canadian federal government and Ontario provincial government
- ❑ Defines federal-provincial Great Lakes priorities, projects, funding and timing
- ❑ No formal municipal involvement in the past
- ❑ Recently extended for one year until March 2011

# What is the COA Memorandum of Cooperation?



- ❑ Framework for Ontario municipalities to discuss Great Lakes priorities with the Ontario provincial government
- ❑ First signed July 2008, recently renewed until 2012
- ❑ Process facilitated by Cities Initiative, and ALL Ontario Great Lakes municipalities are welcome

# The COA-MOC process



- ❑ GLSLCI established a working group of Ontario municipal staff
  - ❑ Developed Mayors' Collaborative Action Plan
  - ❑ Municipal working group and Ontario Government staff meet and jointly identify areas and projects of mutual interest
  - ❑ Hosted two Mayors and Ministers Great Lakes Summits
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# At the Shoreline: A Mayors' Collaborative Action Plan to Protect the Great Lakes



On May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2009, the Great Lakes Mayors and Chairs Committee presented their report, *At the Shoreline: A Mayors' Collaborative Action Plan to Protect the Great Lakes*, to the Ontario Ministers of Environment, Natural Resources, and Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs at the first Provincial-Municipal Great Lakes Summit in Toronto. The report consists of a five point action plan and key recommendations to forge a stronger relationship and strategic coordination among the three orders of government to protect and promote the Great Lakes.



# What is the Mayors five point action plan?



□ Five areas for further collaboration:

- 1) Create a municipal-provincial-federal Great Lakes table
  - 2) Improve and promote beaches and natural shorelines
  - 3) Attack nuisance and toxic algae
  - 4) Reduce untreated sewage and stormwater
  - 5) Build a better business case
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# Better beaches and shorelines



- Goal : Increase beach coordination and funding
- Status: held Beach and Coastal workshop, agreement to create municipal- provincial network, host webinars, work on promotion, share success stories
- New Cities web page Great Lakes, Great Beaches and Coasts





# Reduce Sewage and Stormwater

- Need a significant reduction in untreated sewage and stormwater to Lakes
- Moving up the pipe approaches
- **Status: two new joint project with province-sewage overflow monitoring and reporting, stormwater innovations**



Photo credit: Urban Strategies Inc.

# Better Business Case



- Lakes are an undervalued resource
- As a stand alone region, Great Lakes would be second largest economic power in world
- Need to improve estimates of value of Lakes to aid decision making and investment
- Status: Joint economic valuation project underway- project report fall 2010

# Next Steps



- 3rd phase of COA MOC process
    - Continue work on 4 joint projects:  
beach and coasts/ sewage/stormwater/business case
    - Likely quarterly meetings, and working groups on each issue over next 8 months
    - Plan for third Summit May 2011
    - Ideas and participation welcome
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# History



Port Dalhousie Harbour and Canal Entrance circa. 1920

- ❑ Settled in 1800
- ❑ Canal system in 1829
- ❑ Waterworks in 1875
- ❑ Sewers to waterways 1912
- ❑ Wastewater treatment 1951



# Pollution Control Plan



*Final Report*

**Pollution Control Plan for the  
Cities of St. Catharines and Thorold  
Port Dalhousie and Port Weller  
Sewersheds**

Prepared for  
**City of St. Catharines  
City of Thorold  
Regional Municipality of Niagara**

August 2008



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- ❑ Original PCP in 1990 – updated in 2008
- ❑ Older municipality with combined sanitary sewers
- ❑ 85 Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs)
- ❑ Two tier – Region and City
- ❑ Two wastewater treatment plants – operated by Region



# CSO Tanks



- ❑ Currently six Combined Sewage Facilities
  - ❑ Approximately 15,000 m<sup>3</sup> of storage,
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# Beaches

- ❑ Three municipal beaches
- ❑ Permanently Closed from 1970s until 1994
- ❑ Last 10 years – increased recreational opportunities



- ❑ Sampling completed 7 days a week during season
- ❑ Beaches are indicators of overall water quality in City



# Constructed Wetland



- ❑ Constructed in fall 2007
- ❑ Treatment for residential storm water

- ❑ Partnership between the City and Ontario Power Generation
- ❑ Monitored and maintained by the City



# Brownfields



- ❑ Have reached urban limits
- ❑ Development geared towards intensification
- ❑ Domtar property now restaurants and commercial
- ❑ Maintained historical elements
- ❑ Contaminated sites cleaned up to guidelines



# For more information...



❑ GLSLCI website: [www.glslcities.org](http://www.glslcities.org)

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