

# The Great Lakes and

St. Lawrence Cities Initiative and the Canada-Ontario
Agreement

Mayor Brian McMullan, City of St. Catharines

June 17-18, 2010

#### 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





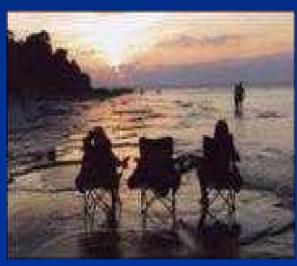
# What is the Canada Ontario Agreement (COA)?



- 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

#### At the Shoreline: A Mayors' Collaborative Action Plan to Protect the Great Lakes





On May 5%, 2009, the Great Lakes Mayors and Chairs Committee presented their report. At the Shorthus: A Mayors' Collaborative Action Plan to Proces the Great Label, to the Contario Ministers of Environment. Natural Resources, and Agriculture, Frod and Rand Affairs at the first Provincial-Municipal Great Lakes Summit in Totonto. 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

#### 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 provincesewage 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

## History









□ Waterworks in 1875

□ Sewers to waterways 1912

■ Wastewater treatment 1951







Port Dalhousie Harbour and Canal Entrance circa. 1920

### Pollution Control Plan

Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative
Alliance des villes des Grands Lacs et du Saint-Laurent

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

Prepared by



- □ 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

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## **CSO** Tanks



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





#### 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: <u>www.glslcities.org</u>
- □ Contact GLSLCI:

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