



## MAKING WAVES June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015

### ***Minister Glen Murray to give Keynote Address at Cities Initiative Annual Meeting***

The Honourable Glen Murray, Minister of Environment and Climate Change of Ontario, will give the opening keynote address at this year's Annual Meeting. Panel topics include the Cities Initiative's Nutrient Action Collaborative, Shoreline Restoration, and Oil Transportation projects. 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 is June 17-19 in Sarnia-Lambton County, ON. We look forward to seeing many of you in June. Register and book your hotel now to ensure availability!



### ***Quebec and Ontario Ministries Collaborate on Water Management***

Minister Glen Murray, Ontario Minister of the Environment and Climate Change, and Minister David Heurtel, Quebec Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment, and the Fight against Climate Change, announced the joint Ontario-Quebec Committee on Water Management. The committee will include 4 representatives from each province, and they will work on issues surrounding water management and water quality in the Great Lakes – St. Lawrence Region as well as in other shared waters. [Click here to read more about the Joint Committee.](#)

### ***Mayors from Quebec Mobilize against Microbeads***

Action in Quebec regarding microbeads is picking up after a high school student started a petition that caught the eye of Maryse Gaudreault, a Member of the National Assembly. Mayor Denis Lapointe (Salaberry-de-Valleyfield), called on his Quebec Cities Initiative colleagues to support this petition. The deadline for the signature of the petition is August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2015. The petition will then be deposited in the National Assembly by MNA Gaudreault, and will be transferred to a parliamentary committee for public hearing. The Cities Initiative hopes for significant support for the petition, and that this could lead the Government of Quebec to follow many of the Great Lakes states to vote to ban microbeads in personal care products. [Click here to access the petition.](#)



### ***Microbeads Fact Sheet and Videos***

The Cities Initiative has created a summary fact sheet on legislative action on microbeads in the United States and Canada. [Click here to access the fact sheet](#), and [click here to access a video from the 5 Gyres Institute](#), a non-profit working to prevent pollution in global waters.



### ***Obama Administration defines waters of the United States***

There has been confusion and confrontation since the Clean Water Act was passed in 1972 over what waters are included within the jurisdiction of the Federal government in the United States. Unfortunately, a series of court decisions over the years has made the rule unclear. The primary objective of the new rule (referred to as Waters of the U.S., or WOTUS) is to create a clear definition of what constitutes the Waters of the United States, but many opponents believe it is an inappropriate expansion of Federal jurisdiction. Supporters believe it is necessary to protect waters from pollution. At issue, primarily, is the status of low flow streams and wetlands. The new version of the rule adopted this last week basically states that if these streams and wetlands have a significant connection to and affect larger streams, they are included in Federal jurisdiction, and if they do not, they are not included. [Click here for an Executive Summary](#). [Click here to read the full rule](#).

### ***Leamington High School Students Host Successful Algae Bloom Summit***

The Leamington Secondary School Eco-Team hosted an Algae Bloom Summit earlier this month in order to raise awareness about the impact of algae blooms in their community and in the greater Lake Erie area. The students invited community members, scientists, policy-makers, local officials, and NGO staffers, including Leamington Mayor John Paterson, and Cities Initiative Deputy Director Nicola Crawhall. [Watch a video about the event here](#) and [follow the LDSS EcoTeam on Twitter](#) to stay up-to-date on their work.

### ***Saint Lawrence Week, June 4-14***

The David Suzuki foundation and Stratégies Saint Laurent invite Quebeckers to celebrate the St. Lawrence during the 3<sup>rd</sup> Week of the Saint Lawrence, June 4-14. The annual event promotes access to the river through around fifty free activities that celebrate the St. Lawrence. [Click here to learn more \(in French only\)](#).



### ***Resource Highlight: Local Climate Change Adaptation Training from US EPA***

Dr. Joel Scheraga, senior advisor to the US Environmental Protection Agency Administrator, and keynote speaker at the 2014 Annual Meeting in Thunder Bay, recommends this training from the US EPA. The resource explains how a changing climate may affect environmental and public health services (drinking water, drought, fires, floods, etc), describes how communities are already adapting to climate-related challenges, and provides examples of effective strategies that have been implemented in cities and towns across the country. The module also provides links to a number of resources that can help local government officials get started with adaptation planning in their own communities. [Access the training module here](#).

### ***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 Brethem at [laura.brethem@glslcities.org](mailto:laura.brethem@glslcities.org)