



## MAKING WAVES

July 6th, 2015

### ***Successful Annual Meeting- Thanks to Sarnia/Lambton County!***

Thank you to many of you who attended the 2015 Annual Meeting and Conference, and for making it a collaborative and productive event. The Cities Initiative was honored to welcome distinguished guest, Premier Kathleen Wynne of Ontario, who gave the Keynote Address. Attendees heard from panelists about Nutrient Action Collaboratives, Shoreline Restoration projects, and Oil Transportation in the Great Lakes Region. Cities Initiative pilot projects and student collaborative projects were also featured. [Click here to access archived presentations from the meeting.](#) We hope to see you at the conference next year, to be held in Niagara Falls, New York.



### ***Now Live - New Cities Initiative Website!***

For the past six months, the Cities Initiative has been working on a new, improved, and more user-friendly website. As of early June, the website is now live! Please take a look at the new [gslscities.org](http://gslscities.org). The new site features a clean design, new layout, newsletter sign-up, and improved organization. Take a look at the [Members Map](#) to view the entire membership of the Cities Initiative. Archival information will be added in the coming months. If you are not able to find a particular piece of information, please feel free to email [laura.bretheim@gslscities.org](mailto:laura.bretheim@gslscities.org).

### ***Ohio, Michigan, and Ontario Commit to Action on Nutrients***

At the Council of Great Lakes Governors' Leadership Summit, the Governors of Ohio and Michigan, and the Premier of Ontario committed to taking action to reduce nutrient runoff into Lake Erie by 40% by 2025. This agreement is a landmark announcement that aims to prevent high levels of nutrient loadings, which lead harmful algal blooms like those that affected Toledo, Ohio in August 2014. [Read more here.](#)

### ***Québec Maritime Strategy Launched***

On June 29th, Québec Premier Philippe Couillard, along with four Québec ministers and Cities Initiative vice-chair and Montréal Mayor Denis Coderre, announced the launch of the Québec Maritime Strategy. The Maritime Strategy Action Plan is the first of its kind in Quebec, and it aims to create jobs and spur growth in Quebec's maritime economy. Minister Jean D'Amour, responsible for the implementation of the Maritime Strategy, declared, "we estimate that 30,000 jobs will be created in all regions. Tourism, fishing, transportation logistics, research and maritime transport are some of



the sectors that will generate positive effects on employment, " The Cities Initiative will continue to monitor the Strategy and ensure municipal participation in the projects.

### ***Microbeads Action in Quebec and Wisconsin***

The City of Montréal and the Québec Metropolitan Community recently passed resolutions calling for action on microbeads. The City of Montreal urged its residents to sign the online petition that calls for federal action on microbeads, and the City itself called on the federal government to classify microbeads as a toxic substance. The Quebec Metropolitan Community called on Quebec ministries to continue to research microbeads and to classify the plastics as a toxic substance. Read the resolutions here (in French).

Wisconsin joined Illinois and Indiana as the third Great Lakes state to officially ban microbeads. Governor Scott Walker signed legislation in early July that calls for companies to phase microbeads out of personal care products by the end of 2017, and out of all products by the end of 2019. [Read more here.](#)

### ***Municipal Water Priorities***

The Canadian Municipal Water Consortium recently released the [Canadian Municipal Water Priorities Report](#), which contains helpful insights on municipal water management that may be of interest to Cities Initiative members. They conclude that water management is fundamentally an exercise in risk management and that the challenges posed by aging infrastructure, urbanization, population growth and climate change require integrated strategic approaches

### ***G7 Nations Agree on Fossil Fuel Reductions***

In early June, the G7 nations agreed, for the first time, on a long-term, global carbon reduction goal. The United States, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, and the UK agreed that fossil fuel emissions should be phased out by the end of the century, with shorter-term goals of 40 to 70 percent reductions by 2050 from 2010 levels. [Read more about the agreement here.](#)

### ***EPA Community Resource Website***

The U.S. EPA released a new website that provides resources on sustainable development, health, and compliance protocol. Some of the resources include MyEnvironment, which is a system for accessing environmental data in a particular area, and a listing of community grant opportunities from the EPA. [Click here to visit the community resource website.](#)

### ***Federal Funding for Green Infrastructure in Lake Michigan Cities***

The Cities of Muskegon, Michigan: Highland Park and Wilmette, Illinois; and Michigan City, Indiana, have been granted funding from the US EPA for green infrastructure projects that will allow rain water to filter back into the groundwater rather than entering the stormwater stream and ending up in Lake Michigan. The projects will prevent millions of gallons of water from entering Lake



Michigan. Muskegon, Highland Park, and Michigan City are all members of the Cities Initiative. [Read more about the project here.](#)

### ***MRC L'Assomption Strategy for Stream Sustainable Management***

The MRC L'Assomption, northeast of Montréal, under leadership of its warden, Repentigny Mayor Chantal Deschamps, is leading a sustainable management strategy. The Strategy aims to identify problems, to rally stakeholders around an action plan targeting improvements to the quality of the water and of aquatic ecosystems, and to encourage the participation of citizens in the future of their water resources.

### ***Cities Initiative Hosts Central Asian and Eastern European Visitors.***

On Friday June 26, 2015, the Cities Initiative hosted a group of ten visitors from Central Asia and Eastern Europe and two U.S. State Department representatives interested in water management and protection of the Great Lakes by the United States and Canada. Dave Ullrich provided background on the formation of the Cities Initiative and the work done on such issues as nutrients, radioactive waste, invasive species, and many others.

### ***Cities Initiatives Sends its Best Wishes to Rimouski Mayor Eric Forest***

Mayor Eric Forest, of Rimouski, QC, has been forced to stop all professional activities for the coming weeks following successful heart surgery. Mayor Forest is recovering well and is now resting. All members and staff of the Cities Initiative wish Mayor Forest a speedy recovery.

### ***Resource Highlight: Asian Carp in the Illinois River***

U.S. and Illinois officials recently prepared a map showing the presence of Asian Carp in the Illinois River and their proximity to Lake Michigan. The Cities Initiative continues to be actively engaged in building a regional consensus on how best to prevent the carp and other invasive species from reaching the Great Lakes, or from other invasive species from getting into the Mississippi River basin. [View the map 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 Bretheim at [laura.bretheim@glslicities.org](mailto:laura.bretheim@glslicities.org)