



## MAKING WAVES July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2015

### ***Successful Cities Initiative Planning Meeting with Mayor Twolan***

Mayor Mitch Twolan (Huron-Kinloss, Ontario), Cities Initiative chair, traveled to Chicago this week to meet

with Cities Initiative staff and discuss priorities for this coming year. The group had a productive discussion about Great Lakes issues and will spend the next year working on issues from Phragmites and Asian Carp, to oil transportation and green infrastructure, and many in between. The Cities Initiative's actions are primarily guided by the resolutions passed by the membership each year ([read the 2015 resolutions here](#)). We thank all of our members for a productive 2014-2015 year, and we look forward to working with all of you for the continued protection and restoration of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence in 2015-2016.



Cities Initiative Staff and Chair Twolan

### ***Consultations on Binational Lake Erie Phosphorus Targets***

Developing phosphorus reduction targets is a key commitment of the 2012 Canada-U.S. Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. The targets being proposed for Lake Erie are the result of the work of a binational subcommittee made up of government agencies and many other partners. The Government of Canada is now seeking feedback from the public to inform the final targets and the development of phosphorus reduction plans. [Click here to comment on these targets until August 31, 2015 \(open to the general public\)](#).

### ***Water Walkers Transect Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Basin***

The 2015 Sacred Water Walk is well underway. The dedicated walkers will transect nearly the entire Great Lakes-St. Lawrence basin by walking from Saint Germaine, Quebec, to Madeline Island, Wisconsin, between June 29th and September 9th. The walk is held to honor the river, the lakes, and the spirit of water, and is centered in the Ojibway ceremonial understandings of water. This year's walk is also focused on raising awareness of the recent oil spills and train derailments in the Great Lakes Region. The walkers are currently on their way from Oshawa to Toronto. [Click here to read more about the walk](#), and [click here to view a map of the walkers' route](#).

### ***More Quebec Municipalities Support Microbeads Ban***

The electronic petition supported by Hull MNA Maryse Gaudreault is gaining in popularity thanks to Cities Initiative members. In early July, municipal councils in Sorel-Tracy and Salaberry-de-Valleyfield adopted resolutions supporting the petition. Elected officials in both municipalities are asking the Quebec government to ban plastic microbeads in personal care products, such as toothpastes and exfoliants. They also encourage their citizens to sign the electronic petition on the National Assembly's website. The City of Montreal and the Quebec Metropolitan Community have



also taken action against microbeads in the recent weeks. To see the petition (in French), visit: <https://www.assnat.qc.ca/fr/exprimez-votre-opinion/petition/Petition-5365/index.html>

### ***Great Lakes Commission Seeks Blue Accounting Project Pilot Cities***

The Great Lakes Commission is seeking additional municipal water supply system managers who are willing to contribute information about delivering high-quality municipal water, conserving water and energy in the process of water treatment and distribution, and planning for infrastructure maintenance. At the 2015 Annual Meeting, the Commission presented on this project, entitled the "Great Lakes Blue Accounting Safe and Sustainable Domestic Water Supply" pilot. [Click here for more information about the Great Lakes Blue Accounting program](#), and if you are interested in participating or would like more information, please contact Steve Cole at [scole@glc.org](mailto:scole@glc.org) or (734) 971-9135.

### ***Ontario MOECC Seeking Applications for the Environmental Excellence Award***

The Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change is accepting applications for the 2015 Minister's Award for Environmental Excellence. This year, the award focuses on climate change adaptation and mitigation, particularly in the areas of greenhouse gas reduction, air quality improvements, improving resilience, and highlighting specific leadership and best practices that allow for innovative climate change adaptation. Municipalities may apply in conjunction with non-municipal organizations. [Click here for application information \(due October 30th, 2015\)](#).

### ***Mayors Convene in Vatican to Discuss Climate Change***

Sixty mayors from around the world are gathered in the Vatican this week to meet with Pope Francis about actions on climate change. The group supports a "bold climate agreement" ahead of the Paris climate talks, which will be held in December 2015. The group is also pursuing solutions that will particularly support vulnerable and poor populations in the face of significant climate changes. [Read about the proceedings here.](#)

### ***"Vacant to Vibrant" Seeks Green Infrastructure Maintenance Insight from Municipal Staff***

"Vacant to Vibrant," a green infrastructure initiative in Gary, IN; Cleveland, OH; and Buffalo, NY; seeks input from sustainability managers, city planners, and other municipal staff on issues surrounding Green Infrastructure Maintenance. Maintenance is often a key barrier to the continued success of green infrastructure projects, and the Vacant to Vibrant team is convening a meeting in mid-August in Buffalo, NY to gather information on methods for implementing successful maintenance plans. The meeting will be supported by the Delta Institute - please contact Sandra Albo at [salbro@cbgarden.org](mailto:salbro@cbgarden.org) for more information. "Vacant to Vibrant" is a Great Lakes Protection Fund-supported project.



## ***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](mailto:laura.bretheim@glslcities.org)