



# Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative 2022 Annual Meeting Agenda

June 21-24, 2022

St. Catharines, Ontario

*Powering the Blue Economy: Leveraging the Potential of Our Freshwater Resources*

## TUESDAY, JUNE 21, 2022 – Event Welcome

*\*All times are listed in Eastern Time*

- 3:30-5:00 PM**     **Board Meeting** (*Reserved for Cities Initiative Board members*)  
White Oaks – Studio 456
- 8:00-10:00 PM**   **Welcome Reception & Desserts**  
White Oaks – Garden Patio

## WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22, 2022 – Plenary Speakers and Breakout Sessions

*\*Plenary sessions will take place in White Oaks – Studio 10-11*

*\*All times are listed in Eastern Time*

- 7:30 AM**            **Breakfast buffet open until start of session**
- 8:10 AM**            **Welcome from Cities Initiative Chair**  
Walter Sendzik – Mayor, City of St. Catharines, ON
- 8:25 AM**            **Traditional Opening**  
Strong Water Singers
- 8:45 AM**            **Presenting Sponsor Welcome – St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation**  
Jean Aubry-Morin – Vice President, External Relations
- 9:00 AM**            **Branding Your Community and the Region for Success**  
Stewart Colovin – EVP, Global Brand Strategy at MMGY Global
- 9:40 AM**            **Remarks from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency**  
Michael Regan – Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- 10:00 AM**          **U.S. Government Remarks**  
Hon. Dave Joyce, United States Representative (R-OH)
- 10:05 AM**          **BREAK**
- 10:15 AM**          **Stantec Sponsor Segment – Gaining Financial Support for Municipal Water Programs**  
Nerys Parry – Senior Associate, North America Funding Program, Canada East Lead  
Heidi Peper – Senior Funding Specialist
- 10:30 AM**          **U.S. Government Remarks**  
Brenda Mallory – Chair, White House Council on Environmental Quality, Office of the President
- 10:50 AM**          **Welcome from Co-Host City – Niagara Region**  
Jim Bradley – Regional Chair
- 11:05 AM**          **BREAK**

*\*The following breakout sessions are concurrent.*

**11:15 AM**

**BREAKOUT SESSION ONE – Grand Event Room C**

**Cruising to Success: Leveraging Economic Opportunities from Cruise Tourism**

This session will showcase the growing cruise tourism economy in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River region, how shoreline municipalities are benefitting economically, what they need to do to attract and host cruise vessels, and other considerations for leveraging economic opportunities in this area.

**Moderator:** Bill Steele – Mayor, City of Port Colborne, ON

**Panelists:**

- **Stewart Strathearn**  
Mayor, City of Midland, ON
- **Dave Lorenz**  
Vice President, Travel Michigan and Chair of Cruise the Great Lakes
- **Mila Marshall**  
Clean Water Advocate, Sierra Club-Illinois Chapter
- **Rebecca Yackley**  
Director, Office of Trade and Economic Development, Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation

**11:15 AM**

**BREAKOUT SESSION TWO – Studio 12&13**

**Brownfields to Blue Horizons: Developing Our Waterfronts for the 21st Century**

In this two-part panel session, we will explore how cities can unlock economic opportunities by redeveloping brownfield sites on their waterfronts. We will also examine how and why these major projects should engage the public and incorporate a triple-bottom-line approach (economic, environmental and social).

**Part I:**

**Moderator:** Andrea Densham – Senior Director of Government Affairs and Conservation Policy at the Shedd Aquarium

**Panelists:**

- **Steve Clarke**  
Mayor, City of Orillia, ON
- **John Dickert**  
State and Local Finance Administrator, Wisconsin Department of Revenue
- **Patrick Robson**  
Professor of Environmental Studies, Niagara College

**Part II:**

**Moderator:** Dianne Zimmerman – Environmental Manager, City of Mississauga, ON

**Panelists:**

- **Kate Hayes**  
Senior Manager, Restoration and Management, Credit Valley Conservation Authority
- **Anthony Parente**  
General Manager, Public Works, Region of Peel, ON
- **Brian Sutherland**  
Vice President of Development, Agro Development Corp.



<b>12:45 PM</b>	<b>LUNCH SERVED</b>
<b>1:15 PM</b>	<b>Lunch Keynote</b> Cassie Flynn – Head of Climate Strategies and Policy at United Nations Development Programme
<b>2:00 PM</b>	<b>Remarks from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration</b> Dr. Richard (Rick) Spinrad – Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
<b>2:30 PM</b>	<b>U.S. Government Remarks</b> Hon. Marcy Kaptur, United States Representative (D-OH)
<b>2:35 PM</b>	<b>Remarks from Government of Canada</b> Hon. Chantal Rouleau – Minister for Transport and Minister responsible for the Metropolis and the Montréal Region; MNA for Pointe-aux-Trembles
<b>2:40 PM</b>	<b>Fireside Chat with Senator Tammy Duckworth</b> Hon. Tammy Duckworth, United States Senator (D-IL) <i>Moderated by Billy McKinney – Mayor, City of Zion, Illinois</i>
<b>3:00 PM</b>	<b>BREAK / NON-MEMBERS ADJOURN</b>
<b>3:10-5:00 PM</b>	<b>Member Meeting</b> ( <i>Reserved for Cities Initiative members</i> ) Studio 10&11

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22, 2022 – Gala Event**

*\*The Gala Event will take place at Queen Victoria Place Restaurant near Niagara Falls*

*\*All times are listed in Eastern Time*

<b>6:00 PM</b>	<b>Travel to Queen Victoria Place</b> <i>*Private shuttles will depart from White Oaks at 6:00pm</i>
<b>6:30 PM</b>	<b>Gala Event Begins</b> <i>*Food stations and cocktails will be provided</i>
<b>7:30 PM</b>	<b>Welcome Remarks</b> Jon Altenberg – President and CEO, Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative Jim Diodati – Mayor, City of Niagara Falls, ON
<b>8:30 PM</b>	<b>Currents Light Show and Sightseeing at Niagara Falls</b> <i>*A shuttle will be provided to transport guests a short distance to the viewing area</i>
<b>9:40 PM</b>	<b>Travel Back to White Oaks</b> <i>*Private shuttles will depart from Queen Victoria Place at 9:40pm</i>



**THURSDAY, JUNE 23, 2022 – Plenary Speakers and Breakout Sessions**  
*\*Plenary sessions will take place in White Oaks – Studio 10&11*

*\*All times are listed in Eastern Time*

<b>7:15 AM</b>	<b>Breakfast buffet open until start of session</b>
<b>8:10 AM</b>	<b>Welcome from Cities Initiative Chair</b> Walter Sendzik – Mayor, City of St. Catharines, ON
<b>8:15 AM</b>	<b>Remarks from Government of Canada</b> Terry Duguid – Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada
<b>8:30 AM</b>	<b>Fireside Chat – Plugging the Holes: Innovative Municipal Financing</b> Michael Fenn – Senior Advisor, StrategyCorp and Board Director, OMERS; Former Ontario Deputy Minister Mark Fisher – President and CEO, Council of the Great Lakes Region
<b>9:15 AM</b>	<b>Mayors Leading Transformative Climate Action</b> David Miller – Managing Director at C40 Centre for Urban Climate Policy and Economy; former Mayor of Toronto, ON
<b>9:45 AM</b>	<b>U.S. Government Remarks</b> Hon. Mike Gallagher, United States Representative (R-WI)
<b>9:50 AM</b>	<b>BREAK</b>

*\*The following breakout sessions are concurrent.*

<b>10:00 AM</b>	<b>BREAKOUT SESSION ONE – Grand Event Room C</b> <b>Highway H2O: Tapping into the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Seaway</b> This session will showcase the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence marine shipping industry with an emphasis on its benefits for local communities. Speakers will review current trends in maritime commerce, discuss how the maritime industry and port operators can develop stronger relationships with municipalities, and how to work together to develop new economic development opportunities. <b>Moderator:</b> Ken Carey – Senior Manager, Real Estate Business Development, St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation <b>Panelists:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Larissa Fenn</b> Director, Public Affairs and Corporate Secretary, Hamilton-Oshawa Port Authority</li><li>• <b>Chris Heikkinen, CPA</b> Director of Business Development and Communications, Port of Thunder Bay</li><li>• <b>Wes Newton</b> Executive Vice President, Strategy and Business Development, Algoma Central Corp.</li><li>• <b>Adam Tindall-Schlicht</b> Director, Port of Milwaukee</li></ul>
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**10:00 AM**

**BREAKOUT SESSION TWO – Studio 12&13**

**Blue Tech Roundup: Catalyzing Water Innovation Hubs**

This session will focus on highlighting the roles of different types of actors in catalyzing and advancing water technology in the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin and will include reflections on how cities can partner and participate in this process. We will hear from a panel of experts representing city, university, nonprofit, and private perspectives.

**Moderator:** Ryan Sorenson – Mayor, City of Sheboygan, WI

**Panelists:**

- **Roy Brouwer**  
Executive Director Water Institute and Professor at University of Waterloo – Department of Economics
- **Ebie Holst**  
Director of Clusters and Innovation at Cleveland Water Alliance
- **Maja Vodanović**  
Borough Mayor, Montréal, QC
- **Brandon Wong**  
CEO and Co-Founder, Hyfi

**11:30 AM**

**LUNCH SERVED**

**11:55 AM**

**U.S. Government Remarks**

Jayne White – Deputy United States Trade Representative

**12:05 PM**

**Lunch Keynote**

Fabien Cousteau – Aquanaut and Ocean Conservationist

**1:10 PM**

**BREAK**

**2:00-6:00 PM**

**Experiential Tours**

*\*Tour groups will depart White Oaks at 2pm and will make two stops during this time frame*

**Stop 1: St. Catharines Museum and Welland Canals Centre**

Enjoy a stop along the Welland Canal that is home to extraordinary historical collections and exhibits that feature local St. Catharines perspectives, artifacts and stories of the area and its canals. Attendees will enjoy a tour and talk at the museum, be able to watch ships transit the canal on the Lock 3 viewing platform, and visit the Welland Canal Fallen Workers Memorial – which honours the lives of the 138 workers who died while building the Welland Canal from 1913 to 1936.

**Stop 2: Port Dalhousie**

Enjoy the shores of Lake Ontario in Port Dalhousie, a charming heritage district with a history deeply rooted in the development of the Welland Canals and commerce and industry associated with Great Lakes shipping during the 19th Century. Explore Lakeside Park and its sandy beach, take a spin on the historic Lakeside Park Carousel, walk on the newly rehabilitated piers – a \$26-million project by the Government of Canada, and enjoy a beautiful waterfront vista that looks out to the Toronto skyline. While in Port Dalhousie, attendees will also enjoy local craft beer and Niagara wine tastings.



**THURSDAY, JUNE 23, 2022 – Awards Dinner**

*\*The Awards Dinner will take place at the White Oaks – Royal Oak Ballroom*

*\*All times are listed in Eastern Time*

- 6:45 PM**            **Cocktails and Entertainment**  
Live entertainment provided by jazz musicians – Juliet Dunn and Peter Shea
- 7:30 PM**            **Dinner and Guest Speaker**  
Vance Badawey – Member of Parliament, Niagara Centre
- 8:15 PM**            **Dessert Break**
- 8:30 PM**            **Awards Ceremony**
- Transitioning of Cities Initiative Chairs
  - Presentation of annual awards
- 9:40 PM**            **Adjourn**

**FRIDAY, JUNE 24, 2022 – Departure**

*\*Attendees are encouraged to take the day to explore the St. Catharines-Niagara Region*

- 7:00-9:00 AM**      **Breakfast To-Go**  
White Oaks – Studio 10&11