

# The GREAT LAKES UNTIED

Vol. 1, No. 1 Great Lakes Untied -- A Binational Alternative to a Great Lakes/St. Lawrence Ecosystem Spring 1992

## IJC FORMS TASK FORCE TO STUDY VIRTUAL ELIMINATION OF GREAT LAKES

Responding to pressure from the parties, the IJC has established a task force to study virtual elimination of the Great Lakes. An unidentified spokesperson for the Quayle Competitiveness Council stated, "We looked at the cost of cleaning up the Great Lakes, evaluated the alternatives, and urged the State Department to consider the least cost alternative -- eliminating the Great Lakes altogether."

The IJC, in a typical response, established a task force to study the problem and report back to the Commission by 1993. The public can expect the final report sometime in 1998,

according to an IJC spokesperson re-assigned to packing up the library.

The task force is considering the following strategies for eliminating the Great Lakes: 1) accelerating global warming; 2) drilling holes in river bottoms in major Great Lakes cities and storing the Great Lakes in abandoned urban tunnels and buildings; and, 3) accelerating sedimentation and lakefilling, thus creating new sites for landfills, airports, and radioactive waste storage.

The Great Lakes Fishery Commission noted that eliminating the Great Lakes

could serve as a successful strategy for eliminating the sea lamprey and other exotic species, although they preferred to pursue current strategies, such as increasing their research budget.

A spokesperson for the IJC stated that this task force would serve as a model for expanded citizen participation: "The IJC will require that all members of its task forces are citizens of their country. Illegal aliens will not be allowed to participate on IJC task forces. We hope this puts to rest any concerns about citizen involvement."

## CANADIANS SLIGHTLY OFFENDED BY RULE MAKING PROCESS

Canadian environmentalists expressed that they were "really quite off put" with recent rule making activities associated with Canada's Green Plan and MISA. An unidentified, but very gracious spokesperson said, "This makes us all quite uncomfortable. The entire

process has been, well, most unpolite. We're just taken aback!"

These vehement reactions were echoed in the group's press release which stated, "If you're not going to treat us fairly, perhaps we had better re-define the process

in a timely and responsible manner. And, we really mean it." Meanwhile, American groups stated, "Canadian governments are raping and plundering environmental regulations at all levels."

## GREAT LAKES RESEARCH OFFICE FINDS HOME ON RETIRED ICE BREAKER

The Great Lakes political football of the 1980s--the ill fated Great Lakes research office--was finally funded in the 1992 HUD and Really Independent Agencies appropriation. For years, key congressional leaders fought any proposed siting for the office that was not in their home district, effectively killing the project. But, a quiet compromise in the late hours of this year's funding debate appears to have settled the dispute.

The office will be located on a U.S. Coast Guard retired ice breaker, no longer needed for winter navigation activities in the St. Mary's

River. The boat will visit every Congressional district that borders on the Great Lakes for two weeks each year, plus or minus two weeks, as determined by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the extended winter shipping season.

Now, every Great Lakes Congressman and Senator will be able to have his or her picture taken on the boat, and can also hold a local press conference on the importance of Great Lakes research while standing in front of some sophisticated looking equipment. The boat will serve as home to the now orphaned IJC research

library. Although access will be limited, IJC staff and other researchers will still be able to retrieve data through marine radio and LORAN C. The original plans for a comprehensive data base have been scuttled, because, "Everyone who thought it was a good idea originally is mad at some one now."

To feign bi-national cooperation, once a year the boat will call on a Canadian port to provide tours to school children and photo opportunities with Canadian environmental agencies and David Suzuki.

## MULTIPLE MULDOON SITINGS

Demonstrating unprecedented scheduling capabilities, ubiquitous Canadian environmentalist Paul Muldoon has been sighted at every environmental meeting in the last 6 months in both Canada and the United States. Environment Canada has initiated an investigation into the matter, speculating that Muldoon is either several clones or the most recent look alike craze. Ms. Blou Green, Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Unexplained Citizen Action Phenomena, stated, "We're afraid that the Muldoon craze may catch on. Like Elvis, people will start sighting him at fast food restaurants and

regulatory procedure drafting sessions. This is most troubling -- C'est troublant." Muldoon was unavailable for comment because he was at a meeting.

## ENGLER AND KURAS CALL GOLF COURSE STUDY JUNK SCIENCE

Michigan's Governor Engler and Mega-developer Bob Kuras denounced research that claims pesticides and fertilizers from the proposed Homestead golf course will pollute the Crystal River in Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore.

Independent Great Lakes scientists and the National Wildlife Federation recently released a study that claims that gravity, in the presence of rain and snow, will almost certainly pull pesticides, fertilizers, and tiny bits of tacky polyester golf clothing into the Crystal River and Lake Michigan.

Engler stated, "There is no convincing evidence that demonstrates that gravity will have any impact on Lake Michigan or the Crystal River. This is junk science. Golf is good for the economy, and any white Republican knows that."

Michigan State Sea Grant released a recent study

showing that Lake Michigan fish contain no golf balls in their tissues. "If gravity was a throat, we'd find golf balls before we found pesticides, and there are no golf balls in Great Lakes fish. Therefore, any linkages between gravity and pesticides are bad science and scare tactics by hysterical and ambitious environmentalists who just want to feather their own nest. Of course, we're not naming names."

A spokesperson for the Michigan League of Women Voters stated, "This is proof positive that Lake Michigan fish are safe to eat."

### AGENDA FOR AGENDAS RELEASED

A joint news conference to announce the agenda for future releases of Citizen's Agendas for the Great Lakes was held today in Chicago and Toronto. A coalition of environmental groups released the 1993 schedule for the release of citizen's blueprints for solving the world's problems.

Beginning in January, the Sierra Club will release it's Citizens' Agenda for Training Canadian Environmentalists in the use of Hardcore U.S. Lobbying Techniques in Queens Park. In February, Great Lakes United will release its Citizen's Agenda for Running Workshops and Conferences. In March, the National Wildlife Federation will release its Citizen's

Agenda for Re-Training of Unemployed Charter Boat Captains.

### EPA SETS UNIFORM STANDARDS

After nearly three years of debate, the EPA has issued uniform standards for the Great Lakes Water Quality Program Officers and others involved in debates over water regulations.

The EPA standards will require program officers to wear blazers and dress slacks and non-descript blue and white dress shirts from Lands End or J.C. Penny. Republican administration officers will wear wing tip shoes. Ties will have patterns of small ducks or small fish. Whole fish ties are prohibited, except for weekends.

Environmentalists argued against lowest common denominator standards, but lost. As a result, brown polyester blazers will be allowed to accommodate current Indiana standards.

EPA failed to issue uniform standards for women, because so few women are in decision-making roles for Great Lakes states.

### HOLLYWOOD OPTIONS "THE YOUNG JIM LUDWIG" SERIES

Seizing on the enormous popularity of ecologist Jim

Ludwig's appearances on Public Television, Spielberg has signed a contract to produce "The Young Jim Ludwig." The series will focus on Ludwig's adventures as a child and adolescent, chasing cormorants across guano filled beaches in the northern Great Lakes, boating on Saginaw Bay, and eating lake trout from the family laboratory.

### GREAT LAKES PROTECTION FUND GRANTEEES SIGN GENERIC COLLABORATION AGREEMENT

In an effort to save paper, time and redundancies, recipients of Great Lakes Protection Fund grants today announced that they will henceforth dispense with the specific collaboration agreements called for by the Fund, and replace them with generic agreements.

The new agreement states "We the funded protectors of the Great Lakes hereby agree to collaborate with anyone and everyone else who is funded to protect the Great Lakes now, and in the future, until the Great Lakes are protected, or the fund runs out of money."

## GLU ANNUAL MEETING TO FOCUS ON CONTAMINATED SENTIMENTS

Ten years after its founding, contaminated sentiments still lurk in the members and leaders of Great Lakes United. The annual meeting will attempt to remediate some of these areas of concern, and establish zones of acceptable tolerance.

"You have to realize that we have ten years of struggle, debate, cooperation and success at the bottom of this organization, and that those sentiments are going to be with the system for generations to come."

Some of the earliest sentiments remain in place. For example, when Abbie Hoffman proclaimed "If you do it your way (i.e., not my way) all you're going to leave this island with is a box of fudge and a newsletter."

According to one spokesperson. "Fudge and newsletters are part of our tradition, but so is ten years of success for the Great Lakes in Congress, Parliament, the EPA, and the Ministry of the Environment. Let's dredge up this old sentiment, disassociate its chemical constituents, and move on to the next decade."

## IN THE NEXT ISSUE

- TOM WASHINGTON SAYS MUCC WILL DECIDE FATE OF GREAT LAKES
- CORPS OF ENGINEERS PROPOSES TO REVERSE THE FLOW OF THE GREAT LAKES
- CANADA CONCLUDES THAT TORONTO WATERFRONT WILL NOT BE SUSTAINABLE
- EPA PROPOSES FLUSHING POLLUTION FROM CHESAPEAKE BAY WITH WATER FROM GREAT LAKES

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