



THE GREAT LAKES UNITED

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an international coalition to conserve and protect the Great Lakes/St. Lawrence River ecosystem

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Shore Owners Play Politics with Great Lakes

by Terry Yonker
GLU Executive Director

A small, vocal coalition of lake front owners is stepping up its demands for control of water levels and flows in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River. In an eleventh-hour effort to influence the recommendations of the Levels Reference Study Board of the International Joint Commission, a group of shore owners is playing politics with the future health of the Great Lakes--St. Lawrence River Basin Ecosystem. They are lobbying for the construction of dams, dredging of connecting channels, and manipulation of water levels with the mistaken notion that control of natural variations in water levels will prevent most of the damage to shoreline properties subject to serious erosion and flooding.

There are approximately 100,000 owners of lake shore and riverfront property on the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River. There are 42,000,000 other citizens living in the Great Lakes--St.

Lawrence River Basin Ecosystem who depend on the health of that ecosystem for their very existence. A group that at most represents less than 2/10 percent of the population of the ecosystem is determined that the governments of Canada and the United States spend more than a billion dollars to protect property owners from a threat that would exist even if water level fluctuations were controlled.

It is estimated that only a small percentage of the 100,000 riparians are actually experiencing serious erosion and flooding problems due to fluctuating water levels. Erosion of lake front properties has been shown through site studies to be caused principally by storm events, not high water levels. The 12-foot storm surges that are experienced on Lake Erie would not be appreciably dampened by a reduction of water levels of a foot or two. High bluffs along Lake Michigan may experience a temporary reduction in erosion if the amplitude of lake level variations were reduced by a

couple of feet, but the impact of storms, and the eventual erosion of the bluff regardless of the controls applied, would be inevitable.

The governments of Canada and the U.S. (and their respective tax payers) will be asked to foot the bill for:

- the construction of a dam across the Niagara River between Buffalo, NY and Fort Erie, Ontario;
- dredging of the Niagara River downstream from Buffalo and Fort Erie;
- further balancing of water levels between Lake Superior and Lakes Michigan-Huron by increased regulation of Lake Superior; and
- further actions to control levels and flows in the St. Lawrence River and Lake Ontario.

It is estimated that the cost/benefit ratio for construction and operation of the proposed works is .5 or less, which means that for every \$10 invested in controls, a maximum of \$5 of damage protection might be realized. In the unlikely event that even one-tenth of the property owners are actually experiencing serious damage from flooding and erosion problems that could be mitigated through the construction of control works, the bill would amount to over \$100,000 per affected property.

The damage that new level controls would cause to ecosystem wetlands, wildlife habitat, and fish spawning areas would be devastating, studies show.

Healthy, diverse wetlands depend on water level fluctuations. The periodic inundation of wetlands forces out woody vegetation and shrubs that encroach on wetlands during low water periods. Lower water levels then allow the regeneration of wetland vegetation through the germination and growth of seeds and

NEWS FLASH

On January 25, 1993, the Levels Reference Study Board voted to oppose the construction of control works described in this article. The decision will be hotly contested by the shore owners coalition at the upcoming February hearings. The no vote was caused by the last-minute revelation that damage to the St. Lawrence River and the cost of dredging and shore protection structures to handle extreme water flows would have cost more than \$4 billion.

Love of the Lakes Runs Deep for New Director

by Tim Bristol, GLU volunteer

If you're reading this, chances are you're a fellow citizen of the Great Lakes Basin and you probably agree that these freshwater oceans are our lifeblood.

Terry Yonker is a man who understands this common bond we share as residents of the Great Lakes region.

Yonker, who became the new director of GLU on August 3, 1992, is a native of Michigan, but he's quick to point out that he has always considered himself a "citizen of the Great Lakes Basin." He believes protecting the Lakes is an issue too important to be defined by boundaries that may be politically real but have little bearing on the ebb and flow of the Lakes.

Yonker uses Niagara falls as an example of the Basin's interconnectedness. "You look at Niagara Falls and you think that's a lot of water. But when you stop and consider the size of the entire Great Lakes basin and then you look at the falls again, you realize this is all we've got. Almost all the Great Lakes water narrows and passes through this point sooner or later," he said.

Yonker, who comes to GLU with a wealth of coalition-building experience, has dealt with everything from grassroots organizations to private industry.

Before accepting the position at GLU, Yonker was director of the Michigan Audubon Society for five years. Yonker said he's excited about working for GLU because it will give him a chance to

become even more involved with his driving passion--Great Lakes issues.

"Michigan Audubon is a large organization, a conservation conglomerate," says Yonker. "It encompasses the entire state of Michigan, supports 35 employees, operates two nature centers, 15 wildlife sanctuaries, and supports 45 local chapters. But GLU gave me the oppor-



tunity to take a job with a basin-wide perspective."

After attending University of Wisconsin at Madison where he received a degree in sociology/human ecology and meteorology, he soon found himself being swept up in a wave of environmental consciousness, the likes of which North

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U.S. Election A Breath of Fresh Air

by Bruce Kershner
GLU Editor/Field Coordinator

This November's U.S. elections brought relief to the environmental community and hope that the last 12 years of unfavorable policies have finally ended. The election of Bill Clinton and Al Gore have brought hope that protecting the environment will be seen as a priority, not as a conflict with business agendas. The contrast is particularly dramatic between Al Gore, an environmental leader in the Senate, and Dan Quayle, whose Council on Competitiveness attacked a wide range of environmental regulations.

The contrast is just as great for Clinton's new cabinet. Former Arizona Governor Bruce Babbitt, an environmentalist, will head the U.S.'s primary public lands agency, the Department of Interior. He replaces Manuel Lujan, who almost always sided with resource exploiters and industry. Gore's environmental staffer, Carol Browner, who will head the EPA, brought cheers from environmentalists. She replaces well-meaning but impotent William Reilly, who regularly got overruled by the Bush Administration. Two cabinet appointees are seen as unknown to environmentalists and it is hoped they will be receptive. These are Mike Esby of the Department of Agriculture, the second largest public lands agency, and Donna Shalala

of Health and Human Services, which includes the Federal Drug Administration. Only one appointee, Hazel O'Leary who will head Department of Energy, raises concern because of her role in industry in siting a radioactive waste disposal site in Minnesota.

In the U.S. Congress, environmentalists were very pleased with most of the results, though there were some disappointments. In the Senate, Great Lakes supporters cheered the election of Wisconsin's Russ Feingold (who beat moderate Republican Bob Kasten) and Illinois' Carol Moseley Braun, as well as the reelection of Ohio's Sen. John Glenn. But lakes advocates were disappointed at the defeat of New York's strong environmentalist Attorney-General Bob Abrams to incumbent Sen. Al D'Amato, who has a dismal record. Also noteworthy is N.Y. Senator Pat Moynihan, who just became the new Finance Committee Chair, a hopeful sign for Great Lakes funding.

In the House, many strong environmental supporters were elected: Ohio's Eric Fingerhut (replacing retiring Great Lakes friend Dennis Eckert); NY's Maurice Hinchey (whose State Assembly seat was replaced by another environmental supporter); Ohio's Sharrod Brown will represent the Black River area. Some major environmental foes were defeated: Michigan's Guy

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New Director Sees Expanded Grassroots Effort for GLU

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America had never seen before. The publishing of Silent Spring, the implementation of the Clean Water Act and the arrival of other environmentally aware writings made average Americans, as well as their government, sit up and take notice of the harm they were doing to their land, air and water. For Yonker, who comes from a family whose love for the Lakes runs deep, the country's new-found concern meant opportunity.

Having nothing to lose, Yonker sent a letter to Michigan Governor Milliken in February of 1969. By May, he was working for the Governor. He says it was an exciting time. One of their first assignments was to do the unheard of: shut down industrial operations on the Detroit and St. Clair Rivers that were releasing mercury into the water.

"It was our first real toxics emergency. We found mercury levels up to 2 ppm in fish," said Yonker. "But at the time we had absolutely nothing to go on, there were no records to compare our findings to. It was an extremely steep learning curve for me but then again, it was for all of us."

Yonker went on to work for the state of Michigan for 17 years before moving on to Audubon. What he considers as one of the best projects he was involved with was the establishment of the Great Lakes Regional Corporate Environmental Council. The binational organization was designed to bring industry and environmental groups together in a non-

adversarial atmosphere. There was no government intervention and no media involvement and that, says Yonker, allowed conversation between the two sides to be uncharacteristically open and honest. He said he hopes to foster that same air of cooperation between GLU and its member organizations.

"I think one of our main objectives is the care and feeding of our coalition; there are more groups that need more support. I think we need to be more single-minded about doing that," he said.

Among his other past accomplishments, Yonker says he is particularly proud of the Great Lakes Regional Corporate Environmental Council's drive to develop a more comprehensive recycling program throughout the basin. Using a pragmatic approach to the problem, the council was able to convince some of Michigan's biggest companies and environmental groups to purchase only recycled paper for printing operations.

"What we did is create a market in the basin for recycled paper."

As Yonker talks about these accomplishments very matter-of-factly, it's apparent that the welfare of the Lakes and their citizens are his overriding passion—not padding for his portfolio.

He speaks in a clear, subdued voice about a range of topics, from family to the trout flies he ties, but the conversation always comes back to the environment and particularly, the Great Lakes. Tall, trim and athletic looking, the 49-year old Yonker, is a man who gets as

Lakes' Future Lies in Levels Decision

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very well lower water levels permanently by .5 to 1.5 meters or more within the next 50 years. Construction works installed today may be worthless a few years from now.

The Level Reference Study Board will likely recommend other shoreline management measures to reduce damage from fluctuating water levels. These measures include land use setbacks, flood elevation requirements, shoreline alteration requirements, real estate disclosure, changes in flood and erosion insurance programs, relocation of resi-

much of his knowledge about the Great Lakes from personal experience as he does from books and meetings. An avid sailor, Yonker talked about a month-long trip he, his brothers and several friends took around the Lakes last summer. He saw the Lakes both as a dangerous adversary as he battled waves and storms and as victim when they came across sick and dying fish and waterfowl.

"Throughout the trip I was constantly struck with the reality of how powerful and at the same time how fragile the Lakes really are," he said.

Now that the break-in period is over, he hopes to get some of his plans for GLU on the table. He said one of his major priorities will be to assess the success or failure of the governments in implementing the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. "If things are not progressing the way they should be, it's up to us to point that out."

dences away from the shore, and limitations on the construction of infrastructure improvements in hazard-prone areas. There is widespread support for these non-structural measures.

The Great Lakes United Board of Directors adopted a resolution on January 17, 1993, reaffirming GLU's opposition to the construction of major additional structural works and GLU's support for land use management measures as the most acceptable and efficient methods to alleviate adverse impacts from fluctuating water levels.

Hearings will be held on the final draft report of the Level Reference Study Board on February 22 in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario; on February 23 in Chicago, Illinois; on February 24 in Buffalo, New York; and on February 25 in Dorval, Quebec. Individual GLU members and members of the GLU coalition are urged to speak out at these hearings.

Write or call Terry Yonker, GLU's executive director, for more information.

President's Message

A quiet but determined struggle is now taking place between the corporate and environmental community. The focus is the Great Lakes Initiative, a U.S. federal proposal that would establish stronger regulation of municipal sewage treatment plants and businesses discharging treated wastewater into the Great Lakes. Until recently, the corporate sector, supported by the now-departed Bush administration and a number of state governors, has been successful in preventing publication of the document in the *Federal Register*. This would allow comment from the public, including the regulated community, which could modify and perhaps improve the document. The end result would be reduction of the toxic loading of the lakes (137 pollutants would be regulated).

The question before us is: Why would the business community oppose the initiative's publication and the environmental and economic benefits that would accrue from cleaner lakes? Pennsylvania's reasons were published in an *Erie Daily Times* article of September 2, 1992. The article summarized the views of local industries presented at a meeting of the Manufacturer's Association of Northwest Pennsylvania called specifically to discuss the initiative's impact on local businesses and municipalities. The state Department of Environmental Resources was represented; no representation was solicited from the nongovernmental environmental community.

Following are industry's arguments against the proposal, with our responses:

Cost. A local tannery led the charge here arguing that being forced to comply with the draft proposal would "blow us out of the market." The regulation of

municipal treatment plants, an industry study concluded, "could increase the average homeowner's sewer bill in the region by \$75 per year." Further, industries that discharge into such systems would also see costs rise.

Our response: True, the initiative will cost companies, municipalities and residents a significant amount of money (EPA officials say that these cost projections have been dramatically overestimated by industry). But after all, we are the polluters, and in my view should bear the burden. Besides, what is the cost of continuing the current level of poisoning of the environment, ourselves included?

Cost-benefit ratio. International Paper's Hammermill plant argued that based on the above study "only 20 percent of Great Lakes pollution comes from point sources. Do you want to spend \$2.7 billion to address 20 percent of the pollution?" In other words, too much money for too little benefit.

Our response: First of all, 20 percent in my view is a hell of a lot! One of the benefits would be a reduction in environmentally generated illnesses: cancers, respiratory diseases, behavioral abnormalities. And what about the benefit to a \$4 billion fishery now increasingly plagued by contaminated fish advisories? Would a Great Lakes bald eagle population free of contaminants and normally reproducing itself be worth something? How about the reopening of beaches long closed in the Basin -- would their use not improve the lakes' tourist economy? This *will* cost, but there are tremendous benefits to be realized from removing "only" 20 percent!

Competitive disadvantage is claimed by the Manufacturer's Association and International Paper: new business will

not locate in the Basin because of the initiative's restrictions; those remaining will incur higher regulatory costs, placing them at a competitive disadvantage with their counterparts in other areas of the country. They claim, "We're not sure that the Great Lakes Initiative, which is based on somewhat shaky data, is really needed." And to this point the Manufacturer's Association is working to organize businesses, municipalities and residents in the region to "moderate" the initiative.

Our response: Competitive disadvantage will disappear if we have the courage to apply the principles of the Great Lakes Initiative to the rest of the nation. Why couldn't the Great Lakes community, including its businesses, serve as an exemplar to the rest of the country? Why couldn't we lead the charge for environmental change! By doing so we remove competitive disadvantage and enjoy a much more healthful environment.

This would also give us the incentive to develop environmentally friendly technologies and create the jobs that we all need, not just for the 21st century, but for the next several centuries.

Finally, for the environmental community, light has appeared at the end of this tunnel. A few days ago a federal judge ruled that the initiative must be published in the *Federal Register* for public comment within the next 120 days (by April). Let's all participate in this democratic process for a cleaner Great Lakes and a healthier world.

I would appreciate hearing your response to these ideas. Please contact me at 814-824-2345 (work), 814-899-9676 (home), or at 2534 East 33rd Street, Erie, Pennsylvania 16510.

—Dick Kubiak

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Local Groups Work to Protect 1000 Islands

by Thomas Catter,

St. Lawrence-Eastern Ontario Commission

"Tom! Sissy here. Remember that Eaglewing UTM I gave you off the Bardett Point light? It's a live one. About a tenth acre—la real beauty for a bald—maybe a 4. Get me the parcel number and dig out the ESP data. Gerry's already checking for habitat. I think the owner's interested, and the board will act if the bio row score is high enough—but it could go fast, so we'd better get a move on. Gotta hit the water now...catch me after 2 on the island phone...Click!"

High seas intrigue? No, just another day of technical jargon in a three-way partnership to protect dwindling reserves of small, natural-state islands and emergent shoals in the St. Lawrence River. But we're a bit ahead of ourselves here—let's start at the beginning.

The Thousand Islands area is a striking waterscape—North America's third largest river threading its way through an enchanting labyrinth of bedrock-dominated islands and shoals concentrated in the first 48 miles (77 km) of the St. Lawrence River's flow to the Atlantic. A navigator's nightmare, the Thousand Islands area sustains critical habitat for vast numbers of resident and migratory species. The area's visual and biological resources are of world-class quality.

Blessed with scenic beauty, abundant shoreline access to navigable waters and renowned sportfishing, the Thousand Islands area has attracted intensive human development, mostly concentrated

on the mainland and larger islands.

Small islands and shoals were traditionally bypassed as generally unsuited to development, offering far too little living space to warrant the cost of construction. By the mid-1980s, however, shoreline property was at a premium in

man presence. One small island suddenly erupted in a barrage of repetitive, simulated gunfire; a scare tactic designed to drive gulls and terns from their nesting grounds.

Clearly, centuries of benign Native and Euro-American stewardship on hab-

itable structures and docks alter the co-existence equations, transforming human presence to a position of dominance over their biological and visual character.

Concerned with the spectre of small islands and shoals being overwhelmed by development, the Thousand Islands Land Trust (TILT), the Nature Conservancy, and the St. Lawrence-Eastern Ontario Commission (SLEOC) focused their collective expertise on inventory and assessment of small island resources and trends in their development.

The Nature Conservancy compiled field observation records leaving no doubt as to the repercussions that unbridled development would have on native species' habitat on the islands and shoals, some of which serve as the last vestige of viable habitat for threatened species in the Thousand Islands area.

SLEOC-sponsored analysis of visual quality in the area indicated that adequate natural buffering of development on small islands and shoals would prove virtually impossible. TILT and SLEOC documented the presence of 372 U.S. islands and shoals of less than two acres, 51 percent of which were already developed.

The inventory detailed critical resource values attributable to each island and shoal remaining in an undeveloped state, providing TILT a strategic base of operation in leading local efforts toward their protection.

Acting in concert, the three partners are working to monitor and sustain the vital ecological, visual and economic roles small islands and shoals play. The Nature Conservancy and SLEOC now participate in two U.S.-Canada working groups monitoring colonial waterbird and wintering bald eagle populations. These are measures in monitoring small island and shoal habitat utilization by bald eagle, common tern, loon and other critical wildlife species.

SLEOC is working with a consortium of federal and provincial Canadian agencies developing strategies for ecosystem management of TI area resources, including small islands and shoals in both U.S. and Canadian waters.

The partners routinely provide comment to land use regulation proceedings addressing proposals for development on small islands and shoals, and TILT and SLEOC promote open space planning partnerships with area municipal authorities. The Nature Conservancy often puts TILT in contact with landowners considering easement donations on TI-area properties, and supplies baseline documentation required in execution of conservation easements.

TILT raises the funds required to deliver educational services and to negotiate, implement, and manage conservation easements protective of small islands and shoals. Its membership has elected a Canadian citizen to its governing board, thus strengthening Canadian and U.S. cooperation in promoting the role of trusts in protecting island resources throughout the international waters of the St. Lawrence River. In its crowning achievement, TILT has secured protection of twenty-five small islands and shoals in the TI area: fifteen via outright purchase and ten acquired, protected with conservation easements, then deeded over to adjacent, private landowners.

"Well, Sissy, that's 25 down, only 157 to go..."

Sissy Dayforth, director, Thousand Islands Land Trust, and Gerald Smith, Central NY land steward of the Nature Conservancy, helped prepare this article.



Example of once-natural St. Lawrence island, filled in with rock. Note bridge to shore

half of the Thousand Islands area, and seasonal residents and boaters increasingly looked to smaller islands, and even shoals, as lower-cost alternatives to parcels along mainland and larger islands' shores. Human domination began to exert greater influence, with small islands and shoals sprouting seasonal cottages, docks and associated artifacts of persistent hu-

man presence. One small island suddenly erupted in a barrage of repetitive, simulated gunfire; a scare tactic designed to drive gulls and terns from their nesting grounds.

Clearly, centuries of benign Native and Euro-American stewardship on hab-

Illegal Kenosha Diversion Is Ended

by Bruce Kerziner,

GLU Field Coordinator

An illegal out-of-basin diversion of Lake Michigan water that Great Lakes United discovered 18 months ago has been ended. GLU's investigation of the incident prompted investigations by the Michigan attorney general and a committee of the Wisconsin State Senate.

Around August 1991, the city of Kenosha, Wisconsin, a Lake Michigan port just north of Illinois, connected its water line on the outskirts of the city to the sewage treatment plant of a neighboring community. The problem was that this sewage plant discharged into the Mississippi River basin. U.S. law requires that any such movement of Great Lakes water out of the Great Lakes Basin must be approved in advance by the governors all eight states that border the Great Lakes.

However, these approvals were not sought. Furthermore, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources knew about the diversion and let the city go ahead with it anyway, even though the department was responsible for ensuring that the approvals were obtained. Kenosha's intention was to increase the illegal diversion to a volume that would have exceeded the Lowell, Indiana, diversion that raised so much controversy last spring.

GLU members in the Kenosha area became suspicious when they saw the one-way water line being constructed, and alerted GLU staff.

GLU's investigation also turned up similar problems with another diversion by the village of Pleasant Prairie, which the state approved in 1989. GLU found that Wisconsin failed to obtain all of the governors' approvals and that it seemed to have deliberately misled the other governors and the public into believing

that the diversion was temporary. The compliance agreement between Wisconsin and Pleasant Prairie originally required the diversion to be temporary, but that was deleted from the final agreement without the knowledge of the public or, as it appears, top DNR officials.

In fact, the Wisconsin DNR admitted to the Senate investigative committee that its copy of the compliance agreement had been mysteriously altered, with the result that it deleted the provision requiring that the diversion be temporary.

Although the Kenosha diversion has now ended, GLU is pressing for the two investigations to continue. The ending of the diversion does not correct the improper actions and apparent violations of the law that took place for both the Kenosha and Pleasant Prairie diversions. GLU wants the following questions answered:

- Who made the decision not to seek gubernatorial approvals for Kenosha's diversion?
- Who twice altered the Pleasant Prairie compliance agreement?
- Why were the other governors and the public told that the Pleasant Prairie diversion was temporary, when the legal obligation for this had been secretly deleted?

In the meantime, GLU members have discovered possible plans for another illegal diversion to a nearby community. This has raised questions about whether there are other illegal diversions now taking place in the region without public knowledge.

Update on Lowell Diversion

Meanwhile, congressional legislation introduced in 1992 intended to allow the

Lowell diversion (vetoed by Michigan Governor Engler last May) was killed in committee by now-retired Rep. Henry Nowak (D-NY), a longtime Great Lakes champion who headed a key subcommittee. However, Rep. Pete Visclosky (D-In.) has reintroduced the bill in the current Congress. We must work to defeat this bill.

The authors of one of the diversion bills was Rep. Jim Jontz (D-Indiana), whose district included Lowell. Ironically, Jontz was known as a strong friend of the Great Lakes, with an excellent 100 percent rating by the League of Conservation Voters. Jontz was defeated in the November election.

Future Diversions

The publicity about the Kenosha, Pleasant Prairie and Lowell diversions has had another effect. The Council of Great Lakes Governors is currently devising a Basin-wide strategy to address water-use and diversion decisions in a rational and systematic way. The plan will be presented to the public for their review during 1993.

Despite these developments, interest in diverting Great Lakes water by other communities remains high. One major diversion proposal that has surfaced could divert 57 million gallons a day (compared to Lowell's 1.2 to 3.2 million gallons per day) from Lake Huron to Toronto, thus bypassing Lake Erie and its connecting channels.

Vigilant GLU members have been responsible for detecting and ending illegal diversions, and have helped defeat various other diversion proposals. If you live near the Great Lakes watershed boundary and suspect that water is being piped across the watershed line without being returned, please contact GLU!

Lake Superior and Zero Discharge

The Effort By Government

by Chuck Ledin, Wisconsin DNR, and Jake VanderWal, Ontario Ministry of the Environment

At its Fifth Biennial Meeting in Hamilton, Ontario in 1989, the International Joint Commission (IJC) recommended that, "The parties designate Lake Superior as a demonstration area where no point source discharge of any toxic chemical will be permitted."

In response to this challenge, the governments of Canada and the United States formed a Task Force of Senior Managers to outline "A Binational Program to Restore and Protect the Lake Superior Basin." This program reflects a strong commitment of the governments of Canada and the U.S., the states of Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and the province of Ontario to restore degraded areas of the basin and protect this Great Lake for future generations.

In the early development of this program it was recognized that dealing with toxic chemicals alone, as specified under Annex 2 of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, would limit the effectiveness of any efforts to protect the Lake Superior ecosystem in the long term. Thus, a broader, more extensive and comprehensive approach to managing the watershed evolved. The Lake Superior Binational Program was released at the IJC's 1991 Sixth Biennial Meeting in Traverse City, Michigan.

The ultimate goal of this program is to restore and protect the integrity of the Lake Superior ecosystem through the development of creative pollution prevention strategies, enhanced regulatory measures, and, where necessary, remedial programs. The unique character and pristine nature of Lake Superior will be highlighted through a special designation status, and, as immediate progress is made towards virtual elimination of designated persistent bioaccumulative toxic substances, a broader, long-term program will be developed to protect the basin from the release of other toxic substances and from further habitat destruction.

The broader program embodies a holistic approach to understanding and managing this headwater lake. As part of this program, the state of the basin is being assessed and a "vision" is being developed from which goals and objectives will be stated. This information will provide the foundation necessary to complete a long-term, basin-wide management plan. This broader program will include measures to control point and non-point source impacts, habitat management (with special emphasis on rare or endangered species), and activities to reclaim and restore degraded areas. It will also fulfill commitments under Annex 2 of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (revised, 1978). A monitoring and surveillance strategy will be established to track the success of the program.

The Lake Superior Binational Program builds upon the development of partnerships between all levels of government, and incorporates the expertise of industry, municipalities, universities, aboriginal peoples, environmental organizations and the public. To facilitate citizen input, the Lake Superior Forum was created, and has been supported by the parties. This public advisory group has both Canadian and U.S. co-chairs, and a membership of twenty-two individuals representing the various interest groups identified. Secretariat was origi-

nally provided by the Lake Superior Centre in Duluth, Minnesota, but is now housed on both sides of the border at the Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute in Ashland, WI. and Lakehead University in Thunder Bay, Ontario.

The Lake Superior Forum has conducted 31 stakeholder interviews in the basin to identify barriers to pollution reduction and to propose means of overcoming them. An executive summary is available. The Forum has also endorsed a vision statement (January 31, 1991), and has promoted awareness of the Lake Superior Binational Program through public outreach (e.g., Inland Sea Symposium, Bayfield, WI.; National Council on Air and Stream Improvement, Minneapolis, MN.; Multi-Stakeholder Meeting, Sarnia, Ont.). These activities have been supported by the Governments.

The Superior Work Group, comprised of technical and scientific professionals from each of the sixth jurisdictions, is in the process of developing and implementing the Lake Superior Binational Program. A workplan addressing each of the thirty-seven action items in the Program has been drafted. The development of this document has already stimulated binational dialogue and resulted in greater program coordination between Federal, State and Provincial agencies. New initiatives have been proposed, and some existing programs have been expanded or accelerated to meet the IJC's challenge.

Accomplishments to date include:

Pollution Prevention

- An Environmental Community Action Plan program has been launched by Environment Canada and the Conservation Council of Ontario on the Canadian side of the Lake Superior Basin to introduce this program in four focus communities. Community Action Plans provide a framework for increasing the effectiveness of environmental problem solving, by identifying and prioritizing issues, developing a community network and seeking technical and financial assistance.

- Domtar, Inc., Environment Canada and Environment Ontario have initiated a feasibility study of chlorine free bleaching technologies that will be demonstrated at Domtar's Red Rock Mill. This laboratory program will focus on ozone delignification or oxygen/peroxide delignification as a first stage, enhanced by pretreatment such as with enzymes or sequestering agents. Pulp brightening agents such as hydrogen or sodium hydrosulfite will be used to achieve the target brightness for semi-bleaches pulp. Bleaching technologies that approach 80+ pulp brightness levels will be investigated, thereby increasing the number of mills capable of implementing the research findings.

US EPA is conducting an inventory of hazardous waste sites in the Lake Superior Basin and identifying pollutants disposed of, generated, or stored at these facilities. The three basin states are also conducting facility audits to evaluate further reduction opportunities.

- A U.S.-based agricultural Clean Sweep

by Gayle Coyer, National Wildlife Federation and John Jackson, Ontario Toxic Waste Coalition

The words "zero discharge" are not even mentioned in the governments' article (see adjoining) on the Lake Superior Agreement. This omission, more than anything else, shows the failure of the governments to live up to the commitment made a year ago to achieve zero discharge in Lake Superior.

The Lake Superior Binational Program was released with much fanfare in Traverse City, Michigan, at the International Joint Commission's Sixth Biennial meeting in October 1991. In the Binational Program, the governments with jurisdiction in the Lake Superior basin—Canada, Ontario, the United States, Wisconsin, Michigan and Minnesota—committed "to achieve zero discharge and zero emission of certain designated persistent, bioaccumulative toxic substances, which may degrade the ecosystem of the Lake Superior basin." Regrettably, the governments are not developing programs that will achieve zero discharge. Instead, they are focusing on monitoring and cautious voluntary toxics reduction programs.

The whole point of zero discharge and the thrust of Lake Superior as a demonstration area for zero discharge is a recognition that we must fundamentally shift how we deal with control measures have not and will not work. Only by changing production processes so that we do not use, generate or discharge these substances will zero discharge be achieved.

Achieving zero discharge in Lake Superior means examining existing industries on a sector by sector basis, analyzing the wastestreams of the industries in that sector, and determining alternative production processes to eliminate

program has been implemented to properly dispose of banned or cancelled pesticides to prevent contamination of the watershed in four Minnesota Lake Superior Counties.

- US EPA has launched a Lake Superior "Mini Exchange" to permit individuals and organizations to access a clearinghouse of technical, policy, programmatic, legislative and financial information on efforts to reduce pollution in the area. This information can be accessed by any computer with a modem at (703) 605-1025. For more information, please contact Chris Flaherty, US EPA—Region 5 at (312) 886-4077.

- The Lake Superior Partnership is a joint project between the State of Minnesota and the Western Lake Superior Sanitary District in Duluth to conduct multi-media compliance inspections and identify pollution prevention opportunities. Ten inspections have been undertaken over the past year, each reflecting the type of operation and permits held by that facility. This multi-media inspection, involving air quality, water quality, solid waste, hazardous waste and wastewater pretreatment, demonstrates, at a smaller scale, the holistic approach which is being applied to the Lake Superior watershed. The Lake

Environmentalists Respond

the use and release of persistent toxic pollutants. It means giving special designation in the U.S. and a comparable designation in Canada—to prohibit new or increased sources of persistent toxic pollutants. The designations must be given to the entire Lake and not just little pieces of it, as the governments propose, since pollution knows no boundaries. Bold, innovative programs are also needed to eliminate pollutants that come from the atmosphere.

In its Sixth Biennial Report, the IJC evaluated the Lake Superior Binational Program. The Commission astutely concluded that the Binational Program appeared to be more of a program to reduce and manage persistent toxic pollutants, rather than to eliminate them. The IJC defined for the governments what zero discharge for Lake Superior should mean: prohibit new or increased sources of point source discharges and phase-out existing sources. The Commission also recommended that the governments establish a specific date by which no point source releases of any persistent toxic substance will be allowed into Lake Superior or its tributaries.

The six governments deserve credit for the unprecedented way they are working together to develop programs for Lake Superior. However, the governments still have not gotten it right—they are not implementing programs that will achieve zero discharge. It is up to the citizens of the Great Lakes basin to continue to pressure the governments until they truly understand zero discharge means changing production processes and until programs to do this are implemented for Lake Superior.

The United States Congress has just appropriated an additional \$950,000 for the Lake Superior Binational Program. We call on elected officials to ensure that this money and additional monies from Canada are used for zero discharge programs and not for monitoring and voluntary toxic use reduction programs.

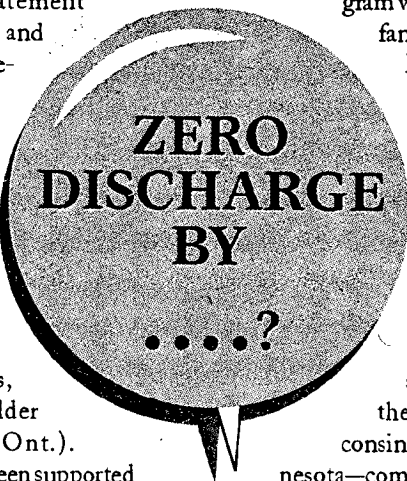
Superior Partnership is an example of government, industry, small business, academia, and environmental organizations working together to reduce the discharge and emissions of toxic substances into the environment.

- The Western Lake Superior Sanitary District (WLSSD) has conducted fourteen household hazardous waste collections in northeast Minnesota in the last year, and has established a permanent hazardous waste collection site as part of their regular operations. Over the last three years, this facility has been utilized on an average of over 3000 households per year, which is effectively diverting tons of hazardous waste from improper disposal at landfill sites. In addition, the WLSSD has developed programs for collecting nickel-cadmium (rechargeable) batteries and button batteries, and is in the process of developing a program for collecting materials containing mercury from small business.

Control and Regulation

- A demonstration project to develop comprehensive stormwater management plans for nine Lake Superior cities in the United States is underway. Monitoring stormwater discharge for the presence of

continued on page 5



Canada Right-to-Know Decision Imminent

by John Jackson,
Ontario Toxic Waste Coalition, and
Karen Murphy, GLU Field Coordinator

Imagine having free access to the most up-to-date information on industrial polluters in your community in Canada. Imagine being able to find out the composition and volumes of chemical emissions to the air, water, and soil; the names and locations of the worst polluters in the country; and the extent of waste reduction efforts in Canada with the ease of consulting an almanac.

Gov't Lake Superior Program

continued from page 5

persistent bioaccumulative substances will help to identify sources and lead to greater control. The need for Best Management Practices to control pollution from bulk storage sites along the waterfront in these nine cities will also be evaluated.

- Canada has finalized the Pulp and Paper Regulatory Package to ensure stricter and consistent regulations for pulp and paper mills in Canada, by reducing conventional pollutants and eliminating dioxins. This new legislation sets more stringent effluent limits on BOD and total suspended solids, no acutely lethal effluent, no measurable concentrations of 2,3,4,8-TCDD and 2,3,7,8-TCDF in pulp mill effluent, and a ban on the use of pentachlorophenol treated woodchips by pulp mills. Environment Canada is currently implementing these regulations.

- Ontario's Municipal-Industrial Strategy for Abatement (MISA) is finalizing regulations for the pulp and paper. Negotiations with the pulp and paper sector are currently underway to finalize these regulations. Federal-provincial discussions are being undertaken concurrently to harmonize MISA regulations with recent Canadian Environmental Protection Act and Fisheries Act amendments.

- Lakefilling and Sediment Quality Guidelines were released by the province in June 1992 that will ensure that materials added to Ontario's waters will set safe levels for metals, nutrients and organic compounds.

- In May of 1992 the province released a Candidate Substances List for Bans or Phase-outs, composed of 21 of the most hazardous substances.

- The U.S. initiated a comprehensive lake, tributary and atmospheric monitoring program to further identify sources of persistent bioaccumulating substances. A new International Atmospheric Deposition Network Station has been established on the Keweenaw Peninsula.

Special Designation

- The U.S. will explore the possibility of a Lake Superior Water Trail
- The U.S. and Canada are exploring the potential of a "binational" Lake Superior Biosphere Reserve as part of the UN's Man and the Biosphere Program.
- The U.S. has proposed a designation system for Outstanding National and International Resource Waters in the Lake Superior Basin under the Great Lakes Water Quality Initiative and Environment Canada is considering a similar designation.

Restoring and Protecting the Lake Superior Basin

- The Superior Work Group will issue

four volumes that will identify the agency strategies, chemical threats and impairments, the management challenges and a binational, basin-wide management plan that will restore degraded portions of the Basin, and protect the integrity of this Great Lakes ecosystem.

- Remedial Action Plan programs will be accelerated where possible. Contaminated sediment remediation programs are underway at two Areas of Concern (Torch Lake and Thunder Bay), while degraded aquatic ecosystems are being restored at Thunder and Nipigon Bays.

- The current status and loadings of persistent toxic chemicals in air, water, sediment and biota are being collected as part of the State of the Basin Report. Water quality standards, sediment guidelines and fish consumption advisories will be compared to ambient levels of contaminants. Exceedance of acceptable levels will define "critical" pollutants, and identify where immediate action is necessary to reduce loadings. January 1991 has been established as a baseline from which to measure success.

- The Superior Work Group has identified the need to develop a coordinated and complimentary monitoring and surveillance program to track progress of restoring and protecting Lake Superior. Government agencies are developing standards for identification of chemicals, loadings, use impairments and ecological indicators of environmental health. Over the next five years, existing programs will be integrated and new programs developed to ensure streamlined and efficient reporting of the status of the Lake Superior basin.

As the Binational program develops and unfolds, Lake Superior has its own chapter in IJC's Sixth Biennial Report on Great Lakes Water Quality. The Commission recognized that "over the past two years, no other recommendation has generated more enthusiasm and hard work on the part of governments, non-governmental organizations and individuals to develop such a program."

The program is in its infancy, and as such, it remains exciting and the challenges are great. Success of this program depends on building strong partnerships between government agencies and all other stakeholders. The Parties and jurisdictions have demonstrated a strong commitment to Lake Superior by focusing significant financial and technical resources to build these partnerships and deliver a program to restore and protect this Great Lake. Lake Superior will be the model for the remaining four Great Lakes, and set an example of global proportions!

The authors co-chair the Superior Work Group for a Binational Program to Restore and Protect the Lake Superior Basin.

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soil, and we feel, should provide information on the use and storage of toxic chemicals.

The NPRI is an Environment Canada initiative (recommended in the Green Plan) that could establish an extensive database on the release of specified toxic substances into the air, water, and soil, as well as their use and storage. Based on the U.S. Toxic Release Inventory (TRI), the NPRI would make public the total annual emissions of some 180 specified pollutants, and the names and locations of the emitting facilities. The NPRI would be a powerful tool for community activists.

For the last year a Multi-Stakeholder Committee has been developing the outlines for NPRI: what should be reported, who should report, and what chemicals should be covered. The committee did not agree on a number of key issues. Two of the key issues that will soon be decided by Minister Charest are:

What is being reported?—The Committee could only agree that chemicals being emitted from a facility be reported. This means that large volumes of toxic substances stored, treated, incinerated or recycled on-site are not reported. It also means that the use of toxic substances by a facility are not reported, thus making it impossible to track reductions in the use of these chemicals. Environmental and Labour representatives on the committee also argued that information on the maximum quantity of toxic chemicals stored at a facility at any one time should be reported so that communities could be prepared to respond in the event of an accident involving these chemicals.

Trade Secret and Confidentiality Claims—When potentially sensitive information is reported to the U.S. Toxic Release Inventory, American industry must prove to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency that the release of the data threatens their business and should therefore not be released for public review. In Canada, however, under confidentiality provisions of the Canadian Environmental Protection Act, a request by a company that data be kept confidential automatically ensures that this information is withheld from the NPRI. It is then up to Environment Canada to prove that an industry's report is not confidential and can be reported.

In order for the NPRI to be a community right-to-know program, public access to the data is essential. The Minister needs to take steps to develop a separate legislative mandate for the NPRI that would protect the public's right to know. This could be done by amending CEPA or by developing separate legislation.

Through the Canadian Environmental Network, a caucus of environmental representatives from across Canada was established to review proposals on the NPRI and to provide guidance to the stakeholder committee. Some of our key recommendations are:

Use Environmental Protection Act

We recommend that the Canadian Environmental Protection Act be amended or developed as a separate legislative framework for the NPRI that will protect the public's right to know. New legislation or amendments to CEPA can protect public access to NPRI data by requiring companies to substantiate

upfront the need to keep NPRI reports confidential.

Reporting Information of the Use of Toxic Chemicals

- The purpose of the National Pollutant Release Inventory should be expanded to include information on the use of toxic chemicals.
- Companies should be required to report on the total quantity of a hazardous chemical that is manufactured, processed, used, and generated as by-product prior to any treatment, handling, transfer or release, and report the amount of that substance consumed, recycled or transferred in or as product.
- Information on production activity should be included in order to gauge how production changes affect reductions or increases in the use and release of toxic chemicals.
- Facilities should be required to report the quantity of substance used by "use" category.

Waste Stream Reporting

On-site treatment, recovery, reuse, recycling, and incineration of wastes should be reported under the NPRI. In addition, companies should be required to report the total amount of an NPRI substance generated as waste prior to any treatment, recycling, reuse, recovery, or disposal.

Emergency Response Planning Information

Facilities should be required to report on the maximum quantity of substance on-site at any time during the year.

Reporting Thresholds and NPRI Listed Chemicals

- The use of the 10-employee threshold should be eliminated for future reporting years.
- The number of NPRI chemicals should be significantly expanded in future years.

Public Access to NPRI Data

- The federal government should support a public education programme that could include the preparation of a citizens' guide, an NPRI newsletter, advertising, and training workshops. Most importantly, it should include a toll free number to respond to requests for information.
- The NPRI should be available at municipal and university libraries, regional provincial ministry of the environment offices and at regional Environment Canada offices. People should be able to gain access to the NPRI database without cost at these locations.
- The federal government should facilitate access to and use of the computer database by citizens and community organizations.

The NPRI is expected to go into force later this year, and the toxic releasers will have to report their discharges for 1993. These 1993 data will be released by Environment Canada by the end of 1994.

See comparison of right-to-know programmes on the next two pages.

Some Differences in Right-to-Know Programmes

(See article, "Canada Right-to-Know Decision Imminent," on page 5)					
	U.S. Pollution Prevention Act/EPCRA/ Toxic Release Inventory (1)	Massachusetts/ New Jersey Laws (2)	U.S. Community Right to Know More Act (3) (proposed 1992)	Canadian Chemical Producers Association (4)	Canadian National Pollutant Release Inventory (5) (proposed 1993)
Information reported					
Toxics use data					
Materials accounting information (inputs and outputs) <i>These are starting inventory; amount brought or produced onsite and consumed in production or processed; waste stream and release amounts; ending inventory</i>	no	✓	✓	no	?
Quantity by use category (manufacturing, production, reactant) <i>Useful for estimating the degree of compliance, identifying the source of reductions, estimating fugitive emissions, and prioritizing government action</i>	no	✓ (6)	✓	no	?
Waste stream and release data					
Amount generated as a byproduct <i>Byproducts are all nonproduct outputs of toxic or hazardous substances generated prior to handling, treatment, transfer or release</i>	✓	✓	✓	no	?
Amount recovered/recycled onsite	✓	✓	✓	no	?
Amount treated onsite	✓	✓	✓	no	?
Released to air, land, water	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Shipped offsite for treatment, recovery, reuse, recycling, and disposal	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Production activity index					
Amount of reduction per unit of production	✓	✓	✓	no	?
Storage information					
Maximum quantity of a substance onsite at any time during a year	✓	✓	✓	no	?
Legend This table covers only the primary issues (particularly unresolved issues) addressed by the Multi-Stakeholder Advisory Committee. ✓ indicates that the specific component is part of the legislation or programme. For the National Pollutant Release Inventory, a check indicates consensus on the Multi-Stakeholder Advisory Committee about a specific approach. no indicates that a specific component is not part of the legislation or programme. ? is used only with respect to the National Pollutant Release Inventory. It identifies those issues that the Multi-Stakeholder Advisory Committee did not reach consensus on and therefore remain unresolved. N. A. indicates not applicable to the programme or legislation.					
Notes 1. The Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) is one section of the 1986 U.S. Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act (EPCRA, and also known as SARA Title III). EPCRA requires reporting of routine releases of toxic chemicals and both accidental releases and storage information for hundreds of other chemicals; in particular those that could cause catastrophic accidents. The U.S. Pollution Prevention Act, enacted in 1990, significantly expanded EPCRA's TRI reporting requirements. Additional accident prevention requirements were enacted with the 1991 amendments to the Clean Air Act. 2. Massachusetts passed the Toxic Use Reduction Act in 1989. The act required companies to report process-specific reductions in the use of toxic chemicals and to prepare pollution prevention plans. New Jersey enacted the Worker and Community Right to Know Act in 1983. The act required companies to report routine releases of toxic chemicals and information on facility-wide toxic use and toxic materials throughput. The federal right-to-know legislation of 1986 was based on this law. New Jersey supplemented the law in 1991 by enacting the Pollution Prevention Act, which requires companies to report information on reductions in the use of toxic chemicals on a production unit basis and to prepare pollution prevention plans. New Jersey has a separate law dealing with emergency planning and accident prevention. 3. The Community Right to Know More Act was introduced into the U.S. Congress in 1992. There were more than 160 cosponsors in the House of Representatives; making passage of some form of the bill likely in 1993. The bill proposed significant expansion of existing right-to-know and pollution prevention reporting requirements and would require companies to report production unit and facility-wide toxics use information. 4. The Canadian Chemical Producer's Association has established a reporting programme for its member organizations called the National Emissions Reduction Masterplan. Programme information was obtained from a draft November 28, 1991, association document whose contents were verified with the association by phone in January 1993. The association plans revisions to the programme for the 1992 reporting year. 5. Information on the National Pollutant Release Inventory was drawn from the Multi-Stakeholder Advisory Committee Report. A question mark indicates that the committee did not reach consensus on the issue. 6. In Massachusetts companies are required to report the amounts used by "use" category on a facility-wide basis. The use categories include "manufactured," "processed," "produced as byproduct," "shipped in product," or "otherwise used." In addition, companies report the use of toxic chemicals on a production unit basis (in ranges for each use category) and on byproduct reductions and increases. In New Jersey actual quantities of substances used per production unit are not reported. Companies are required to report percentage reductions and increases in usage from one year to the next and to indicate the amount of material used in ranges so that the state environmental protection agency will be able to tell whether or not a reduction or increase is significant.					

(Differences in Programmes, cont'd)

	U.S. Pollution Prevention Act/EPCRA/ Toxic Release Inventory	Massachusetts/ New Jersey Laws	U.S. Community Right to Know More Act (proposed 1992)	Canadian Chemical Producers Association	Canadian National Pollutant Release Inventory (proposed 1993)
Facilities Covered					
Ten or more employees	✓	✓	✓	N. A.	✓
Extends beyond the manufacturing sector	no	✓	✓	N. A.	✓
Manufacturing or processing threshold (in kilograms)	~11,400	~11,400 (7)	~11,400	10,000	10,000
"Otherwise used" threshold (in kilograms) <i>"Otherwise used" chemicals are substances ancillary to a company's central economic activity. Usually these are lubricants, solvents, and refrigerants.</i>	~4,500	~4,500	~4,500	10,000	10,000
Substances covered					
Number of chemicals and chemical compounds listed	~340	~800/~340	~830	~340	178
Determined on the basis of toxicity and environmental threat	✓	✓	✓	N. A.	✓
Tracking substances of special interest (e.g., PCBs)	no	no	no	no	?
Legal Authority					
A legislative framework to independently protect the public's right to know	✓	✓	✓	N. A.	no
Confidentiality					
Protection of confidential business information	✓	✓	✓	N. A.	✓
Industry responsible for demonstrating the need for confidentiality	✓	✓	✓	N. A.	no
Legend This table covers only the primary issues (particularly unresolved issues) addressed by the Multi-Stakeholder Advisory Committee. ✓ indicates that the specific component is part of the programme or legislation. For the National Pollutant Release Inventory, a check indicates consensus on the Multi-Stakeholder Advisory Committee about a specific approach. no indicates that a specific component is not part of the legislation or programme. ? is used only with respect to the National Pollutant Release Inventory. It identifies those issues that the Multi-Stakeholder Advisory Committee did not reach consensus on and therefore remain unresolved. N. A. indicates not applicable to the programme or legislation.					
Note 7. Companies in Massachusetts that meet this threshold for one chemical must report on all other chemicals whose manufacture, processing, or use exceeds ~4,500 kilograms.					
Acknowledgments Written by Karen Murphy. Edited, designed and produced by Reg Gilbert.					

Detroit Sewage: Good News & Bad

by Mary Ginnebaugh,
GLU Windsor Office Director

First, the good news: The combined sewer overflow problems in the metropolitan Detroit area moved toward resolution in August when the Michigan Water Resources Commission unanimously voted to accept the modified National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. Affecting some two dozen southeast Michigan communities, the new permit reflects a compromise in a three-year dispute over CSO problems in the Detroit area.

And now, the bad news. The modifications to the highly contested NPDES permit for the Detroit Wastewater Treatment Plant do little to eliminate toxic substances, such as PCBs, mercury, and heavy metals from being discharged into the Detroit River. The permit modifications lower the daily maximum effluent limitations for cadmium, copper and lead to be 63, 129, and 732 times higher, respectively, than the Michigan Rule 57 (2) allowable levels. The permit also lowers the amount of wet weather flow for which the permittee is required to provide secondary treatment.

The Detroit Waste Water Treatment Plant has been identified as the largest point source of pollutants in the entire Great Lakes Basin. The need to control and eliminate the toxic substances that are being discharged by the plant is obvious. Any progress that can be made toward remediating the Detroit River as an Area of Concern and the western Lake Erie Basin hinges directly on what is allowed to be discharged through the NPDES process.

The permitting battle began in October 1989, when the Michigan Water Resources Commission issued a new permit to Detroit and several other communities requiring 1) specific actions to

correct CSO discharges, 2) limitations on the discharge of persistent toxic substances, and 3) increases in secondary treatment capacity. Detroit as well as several other communities contested this permit, claiming that the requirements were too stringent.

Several environmental organizations, including Great Lakes United, National Wildlife Federation and the Michigan United Conservation Clubs, contested the permit, claiming that its requirements did not aggressively pursue a resolution of the CSO issue or adequately address toxic substances discharged from the treatment plant.

Further complicating the situation, Detroit and the counties of Oakland and Wayne filed federal court petitions asking for district court oversight of the dispute based on its involvement in the Detroit permit dating back to the 1970s. In order to sort out the various claims made by all the parties involved, U.S. District Judge Fikens appointed Dr. Jonathon Bulkley of the University of Michigan as court monitor and instructed him to negotiate a settlement.

After many months of negotiations conducted concurrent with state administrative proceedings, a settlement was reached. The settlement specifies that CSO correction projects must be immediately undertaken by the permittees, and demonstration projects carried out to test alternative technologies. Affected communities must also begin to address the issue of financing the CSO remediation projects. The year for final control of CSOs is set for the 2005.

The Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement calls for virtual elimination of persistent toxic substances. This goal can only be reached when tools, such as the NPDES are applied properly.

Wanted: Keepers of the Shore

by Margaret A. Rader
Lake Michigan Federation

Earlier this year, the Lake Michigan Federation (LMF) launched a new volunteer program called "Shorekeepers" to monitor the shores of the lake. Shorekeepers adopt a stretch of shoreline to observe on a regular basis for problems including pollution discharges and beach litter, as well as natural aspects of the shore.

LMF Executive Director Glenda Daniel explained: "The idea for Shorekeepers grew out of a program called Lakewatch that some of our Board members organized several years ago in Chicago. Similar programs exist along some rivers and sections of the marine coastline but not around an entire Great Lake. We hope the program can serve as a model for others in the region."

Last year's Great Lakes Beach Sweep pointed out the need for shoreline monitoring. Cleanup workers along Lake Michigan found medical wastes, wildlife strangled by beach litter, and extensive evidence of combined sewer overflows. Many Shorekeepers became interested in protecting the shore after participating in the Beach Sweep and witnessing the threats to the lake firsthand.

The first group of Shorekeepers began monitoring the shoreline this spring in Illinois and immediately became busy documenting this year's unusually large dieoffs of alewives and salmon. Recently a group of volunteers started working along the shores of the Fox River, Green

Bay and Lake Michigan in northeast Wisconsin. Over 100 organizations and individuals have signed up for the program this far. Volunteers include schools and church groups, youth organizations and private citizens.

So far, volunteers have reported possible illegal filling in wetlands and emptying of bilge into the lake, as well as dune erosion and damage to revetments.

Besides pointing out problems along the shore, the program has proven a valuable tool for environmental education. Kohl Children's Museum in Wilmette, Illinois has adopted a beach along with a Wilmette Girl Scout troop. Shari Leyshon, chair of the museum's environmental Focus Team, accompanies the girls on their monitoring trips.

"The girls have been really excited about shorekeeping," she said. "They're developing a personal connection to their beach that we hope will turn into a lifelong concern for natural places."

Eventually the Lake Michigan Federation will extend the Shorekeepers Program to cover all public shoreline in the four states surrounding the lake. Workshops will be scheduled around the lake to train volunteers. If you or your organization is interested in shorekeeping in your community, contact Margaret Rader at 312-939-0838, or send a postcard with your name, organization (if applicable), address and phone number to: Lake Michigan Federation, Shorekeepers, 59 East Van Buren, Suite 2215, Chicago, IL 60605.

Groups Demand Freeze on Kodak's Toxic Discharges

by Ed Cooper, Atlantic States Legal Foundation and Diane Heminway,
Citizens Environmental Coalition

A freeze on all toxic discharges by Kodak is what Atlantic States Legal Foundation, Citizens' Environmental Coalition and Great Lakes United have asked for from the NY Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). We also want DEC to mandate reductions in toxic discharges from Kodak's Rochester, New York, facility, and to require that Kodak eliminate its discharge and use of persistent toxic substances within five years.

"The draft permit is in direct contradiction to the goals of the Clean Water Act and the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement," said Ed Cooper, legal counsel for Atlantic States Legal Foundation. "We should be moving towards reductions in discharges; this permit would authorize the discharge of more chemicals to the Genesee River."

Kodak's Rochester facility is one of the largest polluters in the Great Lakes Basin. The Citizen's Fund and the Industrial States Policy Center, in a report entitled "Poisoning the Great Lakes: Manufacturers Toxic Chemical Releases" (1992), identified the facility as the second largest source of toxic chemical discharges (17 million pounds) into the Great Lakes Basin in 1989. A very significant quantity of toxic chemicals, more than 415,000 pounds, were released to water (the Genesee River). Kodak Park was ranked fourth as an industrial discharger of toxics to water in the Great Lakes states (and by far the largest in New York). It was also identified as discharging more known or suspected carcinogens than any other industrial facility in the Great Lakes states, and far more known or suspected carcinogens directly to water than any other facility.

Things have gotten worse since 1989. Kodak's Rochester facility currently discharges as much as 640,000 pounds of toxic pollutants into the Genesee River each year. The Citizen's Fund and the Industrial States Policy Center estimate that the total quantity of known, suspected or experimental carcinogens currently discharged by the facility may amount to as much as 189,000 pounds per year. They also estimate that the facility presently releases as much as 219,000 pounds of known or suspected reproductive toxins and 248,000 pounds of known or suspected teratogens. The draft permit would allow these amounts to increase dramatically.

"The impacts of persistent toxic substances on the Great

Lakes-St. Lawrence River ecosystem have been virtually ignored by DEC in the development of this draft permit," said Karen Murphy, a GLU field coordinator. "DEC should require Kodak to eliminate the use and discharge of persistent toxic substances altogether."

The groups recommended that the DEC amend the permit as follows:

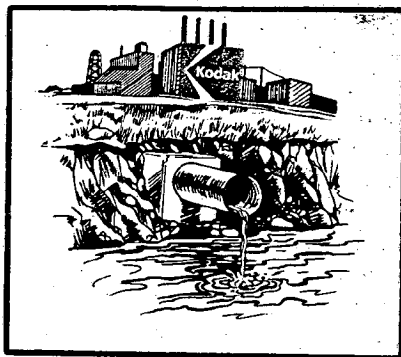
- Set limits for all pollutants authorized to be discharged.
- Impose an initial freeze on current discharges. The limits should then be made more stringent in

each successive year to ensure that Kodak's toxic discharges are reduced significantly over a five-year period.

- Require Kodak to make a serious advance towards achieving the goal of zero discharge of persistent toxic pollutants. By the final year of the permit, the discharge of these pollutants should no longer be authorized.
- Develop timetables and programs for sunsetting the use of chlorine and chlorine-containing compounds.
- Require regular and frequent monitoring for all pollutants authorized to be discharged, as well as, for a number of highly toxic substances that are manufactured and used in large quantities at Kodak's facility.

The current permit, issued in 1984, was supposed to be in effect for five years. It has taken DEC and Kodak three years to negotiate the new permit, while Kodak continues to operate under the 1984 permit, thus making it, in essence, an eight-year permit.

It is unacceptable that in 1992 companies are still allowed to discharge hundreds of pounds of chemicals each day that are known or suspected of causing cancer and birth defects. The DEC should be banning poisons in the public's drinking water rather than issuing permits for their discharge.



Lessons of the UN Conference . . .

by Jack Manno,
Great Lakes Research Consortium and
Tom Prinsen, University of Michigan

This summer we attended the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro, as well as the Global Forum, the parallel events attended by thousands of environmental activists from around the world. We went to Rio as researchers, developing our ideas about world environmental politics and also as representatives of Great Lakes United's International Committee. Along with GREEN, the Global Rivers Environmental Education Network, we held a workshop on "Lessons Learned from the Great Lakes." Our intention for that workshop was to draw upon GREEN's experience with hands-on river-basin education and GLU's experience as a binational coalition devoted to protecting the Great Lakes.

You've probably already read about Rio: the hope and the disappointment, the anticipation and exhilaration, the poverty and the wealth, the military security and the festive atmosphere, Bush and Mulroney, the posing, and especially the excitement of witnessing the coming together of over 100 heads of state, thousands of diplomats, and tens of thousands of concerned world citizens in a stunningly beautiful tropical city. We all hoped that, finally, they were getting serious about the most important issues facing the people of the Earth.

Our research suggests, and GLU has demonstrated that, citizens' coalitions and other non-governmental organizations (NGOs) can significantly affect the outcome of international politics.

Great Lakes United was one of the first environmental NGOs in the world to build and maintain a broad transnational coalition focused on an international resource—the Great Lakes. The logic behind this binationalism is straightforward. The environmental problems of the Great Lakes know no borders and understand no jurisdictions. As citizens of the Great Lakes region, we have a right and a responsibility to organize, speak and be heard on both sides of the border, regardless of traditional notions of the sovereignty of national political authority. GLU asserts that the plight of the ecosystem takes precedent over the prerogatives of national rulers. When transnational NGOs join governments at the table to resolve environmental problems, their presence helps to shift negotiations away from traditional national-interest bargaining to discussions of cooperative action on behalf of the shared environment.

In Rio the lesson was clear: environmental problems are global in character. Furthermore, industrial and business interests have long ago shifted from economic nationalism to internationalism. Governments in Rio were struggling with the building blocks of a global political system. As the necessity and inevitability of institutions of global authority emerge, it is the transnational NGOs who must make certain that such institutions are environmentally responsible and democratic.

This is no small task. It is, we believe, the most important political and social issue of the next century. It is exciting that GLU is among those leading the way. We have found that among the most important things international NGOs can do is to make the political

and conceptual linkages between, on the one hand, global and local issues and trends, and equally importantly on the other hand, between ecological understanding and wisdom, and political tactics and strategies. They must "think globally and act locally" and also think locally and act globally.

Likewise, what GLU does best is to demand that every local and regional decision in the basin take account of the basin-wide ecological and political context, and that basin-wide decisions take account of local needs and interests. Even more important than the scale of action, NGOs perform the essential task of translating and redefining ecological insights into political terms. The most important problems in the Great Lakes: toxic chemical pollution, ecological instability, proliferation of invading species, and loss of wetlands and other wildlife habitat all result from the aggregation of numerous individual actions that appear minor alone but combined seriously disrupt the environment.

To reverse negative trends in the Great Lakes, patterns of life and livelihood will be affected. This is also true of the set of global problems addressed at Rio: climate change, loss of biodiversity, ozone depletion, forest decline. In both the Great Lakes and globe, top-down strategies directed by government leaders will not work without widespread consistent efforts at the local and personal level. Local efforts will mean little without coordination on a larger scale. The connections between local and global must be made and sustained. National governments seem incapable of doing it because they are simultaneously too big and distant to think locally, and too small and self-interested to act globally. In addition, they are politically resistant to the fundamental changes implied by an ecological understanding of the crises. The international institutions they create, like the United Nations, or even the International Joint Commission, often recognize the problem but they are constrained by the nations that created them.

Thus international organizations look to NGOs to provide a political constituency to support the international organization's recommendations. Clearly the IJC has turned to GLU and others for support in recent years. The involvement of thousands of NGOs in Rio was largely the result of the UNCED secretariat's need for political support for what UNCED was asking governments to accomplish. From one perspective it looks like UNCED and the IJC are coopting citizens organizations for their own purposes, from another perspective it looks like they are cooperating for mutual benefit.

The leadership and members of GLU and the NGOs at UNCED should think carefully about their relationship to international organizations. In the Great Lakes, it's always been a perplexing political dilemma about how much time and effort to put into IJC activities. On the one hand, critics blame the IJC because it lacks the authority to enact its positions or implement its recommendations. On the other hand the IJC represents the place where the Canadian and U.S. governments act in mutual cooperation on behalf of the interests of the Great Lakes as a whole. GLU should, as it has in the past, support a

. . . and Closer to Home

by Sean Enright,
GLU Information Coordinator

Nearly 140 individuals from around the Great Lakes Basin attended the Sierra Club's Great Lakes Ecosystem Protection Conference July 17-19, and established action plans to protect and restore the Lakes.

"Unlike the Bush administration, these Great Lakes citizens did not just talk, they acted," said Brett Hulse, director, Sierra Club Great Lakes Program.

Hulse said participants established several binational, regional, and local plans to protect and restore wetlands, forests, lakeshores, and parks.

He also said the group established Great Lakes goals on land use issues, rights for people of color and Native Americans, biodiversity levels, human health problems and human population pressures.

These actions plans would require citizens, industry and government to:

- Develop a project to identify wet-

lands in local regions and conduct tours for media, neighborhood associations, school groups, environmental groups, city planners and PTAs;

- Expand outreach to inner city youth and to other cultural communities in the Indiana Dunes and other Great Lakes national parks and lakeshores;
- Provide support to indigenous peoples for land claims that will increase protection of natural resources.

Ohio Senator John Glenn keynoted the conference and attacked the then-Bush administration for its eleventh-hour mentality in cleaning up Great Lakes pollution.

Glenn also urged the President to implement the Great Lakes Water Quality Initiative, which would establish uniform water quality standards for all eight Great Lakes states.

Participants came from all areas of the Basin, including: Minneapolis, Toronto, Ontonagon, MI; Syracuse, NY; the Oneida Nation; Lansing, MI; The Assembly of First Nations; and Toledo..



Ohio Sen. John Glenn displays poster with Sierra Club's Brett Hulse at last July's Ecosystem Conference in Bowling Green, Ohio.

strong, active IJC, but it also must make national and local governments responsive to the mission and objectives of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, not only in water quality regulations but in land-use planning, economic development, energy policy, etc.

Likewise, the documents in Rio can play an important role in clearly identifying the commitments the governments have made. AGENDA 21, the broadest and perhaps most substantial of the Rio outcomes, provides a blueprint for government action on a wide range of topics. This document can be used to legitimize and strengthen the position of NGOs. U.S. and Canadian representatives adopted AGENDA 21. Along side the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, it can be used to reinforce GLU's positions, and perhaps help shape domestic legislation.

One of the most effective political moves NGOs can make is to use international agreements as the substance for legislation. When the U.S. Congress passed the Great Lakes Critical Programs Act, it committed to implementation of the terms of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. The Canada-Ontario Agreement, and subsequent provincial legislation can do the same thing. This is another example of Great Lakes activists showing the way for effective linkages.

In Rio, both then US EPA director William Reilly and Canada Environment

Minister Jean Charest cited the example of U.S. cooperation in the Great Lakes as a valuable model for Rio.

The IJC representative to Rio, Commissioner Gordon Durnil, pointed to the IJC as a model of international organizations. Many scientists have expressed the opinion that the Great Lakes have benefited from extensive long-term scientific investigations of ecological problems, their causes and solutions.

We believe that the experience of GLU and other citizens groups in the Great Lakes is also an invaluable model. We can show how others in shared ecosystems around the world, including the shared global commons, can organize across national boundaries and provide a voice for the natural world and those too often left out of diplomatic gatherings where the future of the earth is decided.

Coalitions in Canada and the United States are being formed to promote sustainable development and the specific outcomes of Rio. It would be valuable if Great Lakes United and other Great Lakes organizations participated. For more information contact: Jack Manno, Great Lakes Research Consortium, 214 Baker Lab, Syracuse, NY 13210.

Jack Manno is a GLU board member and chairs our International Committee, which Prinsen also sits on. They are collaborating on a book, NGOs and World Environmental Politics.



A Lake Erie Alliance Finally Forms

by Mary Ginnebaugh
GLU Windsor Office Director

Twenty years after conditions in Lake Erie led to predictions of "death," the lake finally has an advocate of its very own: the Lake Erie Alliance.

The condition of Lake Erie was an important impetus in the organization of the first Earth Day in 1970, and in focusing public attention on the environmental problems of the Great Lakes Basin as a whole. Basin eutrophication, bacterial contamination, and toxic substances threatening fish and wildlife all first gained wide public acknowledgment in the context of Lake Erie.

Yet despite the lake's role in focusing attention on the Great Lakes, it has remained in the shadow of its big sisters. The Lake Erie Alliance should change all that. A network of environmental, labor and local community groups from across the Lake Erie watershed, the group was formed to help organizations concerned with Lake Erie issues communi-

cate with one another and develop strategies for joint action.

Organizational meetings held in both Canada and the United States over a period of seven months, culminating in a meeting this January in Windsor, finally resulted in the formation of a mission statement and organizational goals: the Lake Erie Alliance will coordinate and facilitate a binational network for communication among the nongovernmental organizations within the Lake Erie Basin, and identify and address common issues that impact the environ-

mental integrity of the watershed. Some of the priority issues that were identified include industrial and agricultural contamination, Lakewide Management Plan, coastal erosion and sediment runoff, RA/Ps and natural area protection.

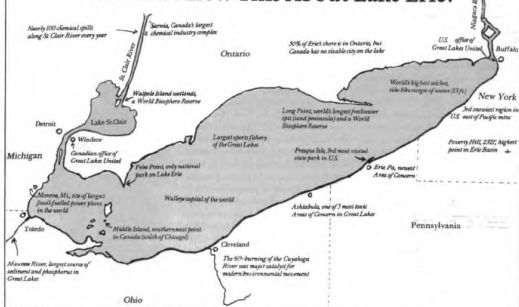
To ensure that the alliance has resources sufficient to fulfill its mission, GLU helped find available grant money, which was provided by the Gund Foundation, and has offered to act as the fiscal agent for the organization. The Gund grant provides the money needed to staff offices in Canada and the United States

and to publish the quarterly newsletter *The Erie Connection*.

The Alliance is now looking for a full-time coordinator (see adjoining ad). The Gund grant will also be used to mount a citizen's campaign in the Basin in order to develop a citizen's version of a Lake Erie Lakewide Management Plan.

If you want to become involved in the Alliance or learn more about it, contact Cheryl Wolfe, c/o Friends of the Black River, P.O. Box 838, Elyria, Ohio, 44035, 216-322-4187, or the GLU Windsor office at P.O. Box 548, Station A, Windsor, Ontario, N9A 6M6, 519-255-7141.

Did You Know This About Lake Erie?



Wanted

Environmental Coordinator Lake Erie Alliance

For more information, contact
Cheryl Wolfe
P.O. Box 838,
Elyria, Ohio 44035
by March 15, 1993

A Spill a Day Keeps the Clean Water Away

by Tim Bristol, GLU volunteer

The word "chemical spill" usually conjures up images of fouled beaches and dead wildlife in beautiful Prince William Sound, the Shetland Islands or hellfire visions from the Persian Gulf War. But there's no need to go trotting around the globe to find examples of these avoidable abuses of our precious water resources. Thousands of spills occur right here on the Great Lakes every year.

According to Spills Action Centre, run by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, there were 5,686 reported environmental spills and another 5,419 violations of discharge permit allowances in 1990 alone in Ontario. Over one-third of these spills occurred in water. There is no comprehensive information on spills on the U.S. side of the border. The Great Lakes-related water features hit hardest according to the report were Lake Ontario, with 111 reported spills, the St. Clair River, with 73 spills, the St. Lawrence River, 67 spills, and Lake Erie, 26 spills.

Sarnia Hot Spot

One of the agency's areas of high concern is Sarnia's "Chemical Valley" on the St. Clair River. It is the site of 550 spills in the last six years. With a long-term goal of no spills into the river, some area industries have already been slapped with governmental restrictions while other companies have implemented plans on a voluntary basis.

The new get-tough attitude was evident when an Ontario court recently ordered the Dow Chemical company to

benzene contamination.

Nemadji River Spill

In the United States, local and national environmental groups have called for a congressional probe of the state and federal government's spill preparedness after a rail car tipped over last June, spilling 20,000 gallons of benzene dicyclopentadiene into the Nemadji River, a Lake Superior tributary near

Superior, Wisconsin.

The slick of toxins flowed downriver and out into Lake Superior, leaving dead fish and birds in its wake and necessitating the evacuation of 50,000 area residents. The *Milwaukee Sentinel* reported that a lack of protective clothing kept crews from cleaning the spill.

When state assembly members met in August to discuss clean-up procedures, community members packed the

town hall. The Sierra Club and the Lake Superior Greens have called on Rep. David Obey and Sen. Herb Kohl to investigate the incident.

Brett Hulse, director of the Sierra Club Great Lakes Program, said the Environmental Protection Agency and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources are using the peopled-and-wildlife of the Lake Superior regions "guinea pigs" to determine long-term effects of dicyclopentadiene, a known carcinogen.

A new federal regulation calls for appropriation of Great Lakes funds for the purchase of suits and other clean-up equipment but the Bush administration stalled the law's implementation.

Jan Conley, co-chair of the Lake Superior Greens, said spills can only be eliminated by going to the source: banning all toxic use, production and transport throughout the Great Lakes region.

Other spill news includes two St. Lawrence River companies who were fined \$45,000 for a spill of 21,000 litres of nitric acid, and a \$38,000 fine for Weil Food Processing, who spilled ammonia and phosphorus into a tributary to the north shore of Lake Erie, killing 80,000 fish.

Workshop Reveals "Deep" Secrets

by Sean Enright, GLU

An anonymous source code-named "Deep Float" has leaked information to Great Lakes environmentalists that proves what we've known all along: there has been a massive, high-level government cover-up of Basin pollution problems.

Well, sort of. "Deep Float" revealed the "secret information" to participants of a weekend media training workshop sponsored by Great Lakes United and conducted by the Safe Energy Communication Council (SECC). In one of many intensive but fun-filled exercises held in the Center of Renewal at Stella Niagara, New York, participants developed strategies for handling important news sources and use important new environmental information; then participant subgroups presented mock on-camera press conferences to each other.

SECC's Chris Nichols and Scott Denman also explained how to write effective press releases and conduct good

interviews, discussed innovative ways to use the electronic media (including the basics of producing radio and television spots), and guided participants on developing effective overall press strategies.

"I think everyone came away better equipped to deal with the media, and better able to get positive media coverage," said Karen Murphy, a GLU field coordinator who helped organize the event. The workshop was funded by the Gund Foundation and Great Lakes Protection Fund. Scholarships for travel and accommodations were provided by the Environmental Support Center.

SECC is a nonprofit coalition of national environmental organizations founded to help environmentalists counter expensive media campaigns by the energy industry. SECC conducts workshops and promotes safe energy options around the country.

SECC can be reached at 1717 Massachusetts Ave. NW #L215, Washington, D.C. 20036, 202-483-8491.

Hold your next retreat at the

CENTER OF RENEWAL

located at Stella Niagara
along the banks of the Niagara River
near Niagara Falls

FOR INFORMATION, CALL 716-714-7396

Come to Beautiful Kingston for GLU Annual Meeting

On May 7, 8 and 9, 1993, Great Lakes United will hold its 11th Annual General Meeting on the grounds of Queen's University in the beautiful St. Lawrence River city of Kingston, Ontario. The theme of this year's meeting is "Acting for Healthy Communities."

Registration begins on Friday afternoon and participants will have the opportunity to get together and share ideas at the evening's reception.

Saturday's agenda includes panel discussions on the theme of this year's meeting. Speakers will talk on environmental stress in the inner cities, Native People in the inner city, grassroots stewardship and a variety of other topics.

Saturday will be topped off with a banquet at the General Wolfe Hotel on Wolfe Island, a short ferry ride from the University, where GLU will present its annual awards and speakers will talk on the Health of the Great Lake's cities and communities.

The list of speakers has not been finalized, but the preliminary list in-

cludes Kingston Mayor Helen Cooper, Glenda Daniel of the Lake Michigan Federation, Sally Lerner, Maxine Caldwell, Mark Richy, Michelle Sworchuk and other distinguished government, environmental and citizen leaders. Six GLU taskforces will focus on important policy resolutions for Sunday's general membership Meeting.

GLU will be reserving blocks of rooms at Queen's University as well as at local hotels. Information on hotel reservations can be obtained by calling or writing the GLU office.

Registration will cost \$40 and there will be a \$10 late fee for participants who do not meet the April 23rd registration deadline. Registration information will be mailed to GLU members and others, and should be arriving very soon. So mark down May 7, 8 and 9 on your calendar now. We look forward to seeing you and working with you at another productive and exciting Great Lakes United Annual Meeting along the shores of the beautiful St. Lawrence!

GLU Publishes Two New Books

Want to read about how a GLU board member caused an international incident when he carried GLU tee-shirts across the Canadian border? Or the "real" story about the role of the (in)famous '60s radical Abbie Hoffman played in the co-founding of GLU? Or why Lake Superior is *not* the biggest Great Lake? Or which lake means "Lake of the Shaggy-Haired Tribe"?

If these tidbits get your curiosity, you may want to read the rest of the fascinating story about the early years of GLU, our first victory, how our name was

chosen, and a blow by blow narrative on the first decade of the coalition that Great Lakes citizens created.

All this is celebrated in "Ten Years of Action... Ten Years of Achievement: A Celebration of Great Lakes United," a 40-page book packed with early photos, stories, facts, newspaper articles, songs and cartoons.

ONLY LIMITED COPIES ARE AVAILABLE. To order your copy, write to GLU, Cassety Hall, 1300 Elmwood Av., Buffalo, NY 14222. Suggested donation is \$8.00 plus \$2.00 postage.

Announcing the *Guide to Pollution Prevention in Your Community*, possibly the definitive reference for community members wishing to do something about local pollution problems in both Canada or the United States. Discussed at length in the 128-page 8"x11" book:

- Pollution prevention as a philosophy of environmental protection distinct from traditional pollution control.
- Getting all kinds of comprehensive information on local pollution problems and specific polluters.
- Organizing your community to pressure industry and government to take needed environmental protection measures; included are every-

thing from how to go doorknocking to how to conduct a professional press conference

- Pollution prevention success stories implemented by industry, local government, and sewage treatment plants
- Eighteen appendices, including lists of regulated chemicals, sample pollution reporting forms, methods of assessing the polluting and pollution prevention activities of industrial facilities, and requests for government information.

The guide was funded by the Great Lakes Protection Fund. For a copy send GLU \$2.00 for postage.

Guide to
Pollution Prevention in
Your Community



WANTED DEAD OR ALIVE GLU BOARD NOMINATIONS for Great Lakes United's 1993 Elections

President, Vice President, Secretary,
U.S. and Canadian Treasurers,
Regional Directors for Lake Huron,
Lake Superior and the St. Lawrence River, and
2 Canadian and 4 U.S. At-Large Directors

REWARD: SAY WHAT?

All nominees must be members of a member organization. Please send the names of suggested nominees, their addresses and their member groups by March 1, 1993, to Glenda Daniel, Lake Michigan Federation, 59 E. Van Buren #2215, Chicago, IL 60605, or fax nominations to 312-939-2708.

State Election Results Were Mixed

continued from page 1

Vanderjact lost in the primary, Minnesota's Vin Weber was beaten by David Minge, an environmental friend; Michigan's Bob Davis was defeated by moderate Bart Stupak, (who represents Michigan's upper peninsula, the only U.S. district that touches three Great Lakes); Michigan's dismal Don Ritter was replaced by Paul McHale, a Sierra Club endorsee. Several well-known Great Lakes friends were reelected: Ohio's Marcy Kaptur and Louis Stokes; Minnesota's Jim Oberstar.

On the downside, many good friends retired: Buffalo, NY's Henry Nowak (replaced by Jack Quinn, an unknown moderate Republican); Michigan's Dennis Hertel and Howard Wolpe; Ohio's Dennis Eckart. Major disappointments include the defeat of long-time friends: Pennsylvania's Peter Kostmayer (replaced by moderate Republican Jim Greenwood); Indiana's Jim Jontz (defeated by Steve Baier with strong support of anti-environment forces); and Minnesota's Jerry Sikorski (beaten by an unknown Rod Grams). In Ohio, Doug Applegate, who has a "lousy" record, got on the House Committee that deals with the Clean Water Act. The appointment of Wisconsin Congressman Les Aspin, who had a mediocre record, to Clinton's Secretary of Defense, left a vacancy to be filled by special election.

The story was very mixed in the state races. Moderate supporter Indiana Governor Evan Bayh was reelected. There were similar trends in the State Houses of Indiana and two other states, Michigan and Ohio: the loss of two major environmental supporters in each state. Two good Indiana Senate friends, one of them Betty Good of South Bend, lost to unfavourable candidates. Republicans expanded their majority in the Indiana Senate, while Democrats gained in the House. In Michigan, two environmen-

tal friends lost, but most candidates endorsed by the Sierra Club won. In Ohio, Senator Henry of Youngstown, the Republican with the best voting record, was defeated while another Great Lakes friend, Eric Fingerhut, retired from his seat (to run successfully for Congress) and was replaced by someone with an unclear environmental stance.

Other news in Ohio: with Fingerhut's move to Congress, there is no environmental champion in the State Senate any more. However, long-time powerful Speaker of the House, Vern Riffe, an environmental foe, was considerably weakened in strength.

Two state houses -- Michigan and Pennsylvania -- became tie with each party holding an equal proportion. Pennsylvania Senate's even split has an interesting story. A Pittsburgh Republican State Senator ran as a Democrat for Congress but lost. His fellow Republicans punished him by literally moving his district across the state and thus he no longer has his original voter base (and can't reside in his own district). He then got even by switching to the Democratic Party, ending the Republican's majority and creating a tie.

Little change occurred in Minnesota's Legislature, which the Sierra Club's Keith Bellairs says is very good since his state's voters continued the trend of electing solid environmentalists. In Illinois, the Senate became Republican-dominated for the first time. One disappointment was the defeat of a strong ally, John Matijevich, from Lake County. It is uncertain what his replacement is like. However, most Sierra Club-endorsed Illinois state legislators won. In New York, there were no surprises, since the return rate was 90 percent. One notable improvement was that one major environmental committee position was taken by an ally, Richard Brodsky.

Join Great Lakes United !

"Unless someone like you
Cares a whole awful lot,
Nothing is going to get better,
It's not."



The Lorax, by Dr. Seuss

Yes! I would like to join GLU as an ...

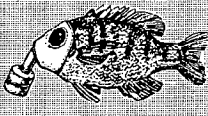
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- ☐ I would also like to volunteer my time for GLU
☐ I would like to know more about what GLU does



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THE GREAT LAKES UNITED

Vol. VII, Nos. 2 and 3

an international coalition to conserve and protect the Great Lakes/St. Lawrence River ecosystem

Fall 1992 and Winter 1993

Quebec's St. Lawrence Plans: A Continuing Challenge

Le Plan de St. Laurent du Québec: Un Défi sans Fin

The St. Lawrence River is the major maritime access to the heart of Canada, and hence a driving force behind Quebec's economy for the past three centuries. But it has suffered injuries which will affect its integrity, if not counteracted. Centuries of neglect and careless economic development has left the conventional pollutants and stripped off whole sections of its productive shoreline.

Today, five million Quebecers inhabit the St. Lawrence Lowlands. Some three million depend on its resources for their livelihood. The basin provides habitats for a multitude of plant and animal species.

This situation has been, over the past few decades, of increasing concern for scientists, environmental groups and governments alike. The St. Lawrence Action Plan, announced in 1988, is a governmental initiative to protect, conserve and restore the water quality, the biological diversity and the shoreline habitats of the river. The Plan results from a cooperative agreement that was signed between the governments of Quebec and Canada in order to coordinate efforts and harmonize intervention plans in a common approach. Altogether, two of Quebec's ministries (Environnement and Loisirs, Chasse et Pêche, [Recreation, Game & Fishery]) agreed to reallocate an equivalent \$65 million from their current programs, as Quebec's contribution to the federal \$110 million outlay over five years.

Five objectives were stated at the

outset. High on the priority list was the toxic loading: it was determined that much effort would be devoted to reducing by 90% the toxic effluents discharged by 50 significant industrial plants located along the St. Lawrence as well as on the Saguenay River. It is now being ascertained that this objective may be met by 1995, when new regulations on pulp and paper, both federal and provincial, become fully in force. Pollution abatement programs and enforcing regulation are also supported by the St. Lawrence Center Technology Development Branch. This unit works closely with industry to develop and demonstrate, when needed, new pollution abatement and control technologies.

A second important objective was to secure 5000 hectares of prime biological habitats for conservation. Today, 4000 hectares of highly productive and diversified habitats have been so protected. Moreover, the Saguenay Marine Park concept has become a reality. It is now being implemented jointly with the ministre des Loisirs, de la Chasse et de la Pêche du Québec.

A third objective -- the cleanup of contaminated federal sites and the restoration of wetlands -- has led to significant improvements in dredging methods and equipment, as well as in sediment treatment techniques.

After consultation of the federal and provincial teams of biologists, a priority list of threatened plants and animals was drafted. This formed the basis for the

development and implantation of survival plans -- the fourth objective -- for dozens of endangered species, including the beluga whale, the striped bass and the piping plover.

Finally, the fifth objective is the publication of the first "State of Environment" report for the St. Lawrence, a compendium of research data and information generated by hundreds of specialists who devoted in the past much efforts on learning about the St. Lawrence and also by those who participated to this more recent initiative.

Managing the St. Lawrence Action Plan is a challenge to be proud of. Although this program has been most gratifying for its results and scientific developments, it must be remembered that the St. Lawrence Action Plan is

being carried out for the benefit of all Canadians and all those who use the River. This is why, since the beginning of this program, the public and the media were kept informed by means of annual reports, newsletters, fact sheets, maps and other informational material. We look forward to increasing our focus on public participation for the success of environmental intervention depends not only on government programs but also on the population's concern and involvement.

Andre Marsan, Ministère de l'Environnement du Québec

Jean-Pierre Gauthier, Conservation et Protection Environnement Canada



This mosaic of Great Lakes mottos and emblems captures the essence of GLU's first decade, as described in our 10th anniversary commemorative book (see page 11)



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May 7 to 9, 1993

See article on page 11 for details