

GREAT LAKES UNITED

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

IJC will end biennial meetings

by John Jackson

The International Joint Commission is planning to replace its Basinwide biennial meetings with numerous smaller "consultations" to be held around the Basin.

The implications for citizens groups fighting for a healthy Great Lakes are significant. The biennial meetings have been powerful forums for delivering our message not only to the commissioners but also to the public and the governments. The media

have given the biennials extensive coverage, and just before the meetings the governments have felt compelled to officially respond to the major points of the previous IJC biennial report.

If the commission abandons its biennial meetings, a major opportunity for citizens to voice their concerns will disappear and the governments will be let off the hook from this biennial accounting for their inactivity.

continued next page

IJC's Hurley resigns over suppression of air quality report

International Joint Commission co-chair Adèle Hurley resigned from the commission in early September over the watchdog group's continued suppression of a report on the air quality consequences of increased power production in the U.S. Midwest.

continued next page

Citizens derail sulfuric acid shipments to White Pine mine

by Reg Gilbert

Plans by the Inmet company to begin controversial "acid mining" at the infamous White Pine copper mine and smelter in Michigan's upper peninsula met a significant setback this summer, when the group Anishinabe Ogitchida ("Protectors of the People") successfully blockaded the mine's acid supply trains and forced a temporary end to the acid shipments.

The protest also prompted the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to promise an "environmental analysis" of the full-scale project. The current pilot phase of the project, which was granted a state permit in May and a federal permit in July, will be allowed to continue without further federal investigation.

Acid mining involves collapsing an old

continued on page 4



2,500 citizens oppose Michigan landfill's PCB plan

by Scott Sederstrom

A proposal to dump high-level PCB waste in a Michigan hazardous waste landfill has generated a storm of community opposition, ranging from residents to local governments and U.S. congressional representatives.

Over 2,500 opponents of the proposed permits attended April and July public hearings on them held by Michigan's Department of Environmental Quality and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. They cited issues ranging from threats to the Great Lakes to an abysmal company accident and compliance history. Despite this, regulatory officials have indicated their intention to grant the permits.

The facility is located between Detroit and Ann Arbor, a few hundred yards from

continued on page 11

... IJC to end biennials

continued from the cover page

The IJC was created in 1909 as a forum for discussion of disputes between the United States and Canada over border waters. For decades the commission concerned itself with water levels and other arcana.

But in the 1970s the IJC was given the task of monitoring the recently concluded Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement between Canada and the United States. That agreement and its later revisions provided a framework for thinking about Basinwide pollution problems and steps that could be taken to remedy them.

In 1986, the citizens of the Great Lakes Basin called upon the IJC to become an advocate for the lakes. A Great Lakes United document from that time, *Unfulfilled Promises*, summarized the voice of citizens articulated at nineteen hearings held throughout the Great Lakes by GLU that year. It said, "The public expects the IJC to be more aggressive and militant in carrying out the Agreement."

The IJC heard the message from the public and the message that the scientists brought to them from the birds, fish, and wildlife.

The commission effectively began using two tools to strengthen the voice of human and nonhuman inhabitants of the Great Lakes.

One of the tools, the IJC's biennial reports, became passionate documents that clearly pointed out the urgency of the crisis in the Great Lakes and drew up road maps to lead us in new directions aimed at long-term

solutions.

The IJC's other tool was its biennial meetings, powerful gatherings of Basin citizens in which the commission, the governments, the polluters, and the wider public through media coverage heard the concerns of the basin's residents, activists, and scientists—and their proposals for solutions.

But now the IJC appears to be weakening its use of these two tools that have proven to be so effective.

The IJC's *Eighth Biennial Report* quite rightly criticizes government proposals in all jurisdictions to "weaken regulatory frameworks" and "erode funding." But its recommendations call on the governments only to "identify and review" proposed reductions in regulations and funding. The report adds little that is new, repeating its past recommendations. This repetition is an unfortunate necessity that reflects government inaction on previous IJC recommendations, but the report fails to provide any leadership in moving us forward to new solutions.

Citizen activists from around the Great Lakes Basin put considerable effort into preparing their presentation to the commissioners at the IJC's biennial meeting in Duluth last year. This presentation included 125 recommendations for moving forward to protect and restore the Great Lakes Basin. The IJC's report contained only ten general recommendations that fail to move us forward. Of major concern is that the IJC failed to move along any further in the past two years in helping us to understand how to develop and implement transition plans to move us away from a society based on persistent toxic substances.

cury, which would be a violation of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement signed by the United States and Canada.

Official submission of the report would likely lead to official action under the U.S. Clean Air Act. During the runup to the U.S. presidential election, that in turn might have political consequences in Pennsylvania and other coal-producing states.

Hurley, a founder of the Canadian Coalition on Acid Rain, leads the Canadian half of the six-seat commission. According to the *Toronto Globe and Mail*, Canadian commissioner Frank Murphy sided with the U.S. members of the commission in voting to suppress the report. Murphy is a

Doug Draper, an environmental reporter at the St. Catharines *Standard* who has been covering Great Lakes issues for the past sixteen years, concluded that the "IJC report on Great Lakes is gutless stuff" and that the "watchdog wimps out."

Now the IJC has decided to toss out the other tool that has proven so powerful over the past decade—its biennial meetings. While the proposed roving consultation forums are potentially valuable additional opportunities for public input, a series of smaller meetings cannot replace the unique gathering that the biennial meetings have become. These meetings provided the opportunity for thousands of citizens from all parts of the Basin to gather, to develop a broad, Basinwide understanding of our shared problems, and to search together for solutions to the problems. They have become a unique opportunity for the commission, all governments in the Basin, and the polluters to hear the passion and the reason of the concerned residents of the Great Lakes. The replacement of the biennial meetings eliminates this important opportunity.

A speaker from Save the River at our hearing in Kingston ten years ago articulated the challenge to the IJC stated by so many others at the hearings we held around the lakes that year:

The choice is to accept the responsibility that is squarely on them to take concrete measures to deal with this problem, or to go down in history as a small group of indifferent bureaucrats who, through their lack of leadership and commitment, stood idly by and witnessed the death of a magnificent ecosystem, and failed to protect the lives and health of millions of innocent people.

We repeat our call of a decade ago for the International Joint Commission to be a leader and an advocate for the Great Lakes. Ten years ago, the commissioners successfully rose to the challenge. For the sake of the Great Lakes Basin and all its inhabitants we urge the current commissioners to do the same.

Vancouver lawyer with no previous environmental but substantial Liberal political experience.

According to the *Globe*, Hurley attempted to have the government remove Murphy from the commission, but it refused to act.

... Hurley resigns

continued from the cover page

The report, written by the commission's International Air Quality Advisory Board and signed by its lead Canadian and U.S. scientists, predicts that the air quality in southern Ontario, New Hampshire, and Vermont will suffer from the increased quantities of coal likely to be burned in the Midwest plants. Coming deregulation will give them a price advantage over cleaner-burning gas- and oil-fired plants elsewhere in the United States.

The report also suggests that changes would lead to increased emissions of mer-

Plunder in Michigan gas development

by Hans Voss

Michigan Land Use Institute

Profitable natural gas extraction can be sensitive to surrounding communities and the environment. Unfortunately, plunder rather than sensitivity is the better description of natural gas development in Michigan.

Northern Michigan hosts the most intensive natural gas extraction in the United States. Since 1989 more than 5,500 wells have been drilled into the Antrim Shale geological formation, a fifty-mile-wide arc of gas-rich rock that stretches across northern Michigan's lower peninsula from Lake Huron to Lake Michigan.

The drilling has centered on the watersheds of the area's cleanest and wildest rivers. Antrim wells are tied together by an elaborate infrastructure of pipelines, compression stations, and access roads that now sprawl over 500,000 acres. These installations penetrate vast stretches of public forest once reachable only by foot. This massive industrial development in the heart of Michigan's North Woods is threatening waterways with sedimentation, fragmenting the surrounding forest, harming the tourism economy, and lowering property values.

Lack of enforcement

The unfettered development, a result of antiquated rules, exemptions from local ordinances, and generous state and federal subsidies, has reaped immense profits for the oil and gas industry at the expense of public lands.

Recent budget cutbacks have crippled the state agency charged with overseeing oil and gas development. In the past decade, the state's Geological Survey Division has lost sixty-five employees, more than half the staff. The cutbacks have seriously undermined the state's ability to enforce the law. In 1994, for example, field staff were able to meet only 18 percent of their goal for well inspections.

Citizen action

The inability or unwillingness of conservation officials to act means that citizens must lead. In the early 1970s, courageous public

advocates fought a successful battle over oil development in the Pigeon River State Forest because they could not bear to watch the state shirk its responsibility. Together with former state Department of Natural Resources employees, the citizens filed suit against the oil industry to protect one of the few remaining wilderness areas in the state.

In a sweeping decision, the Michigan Supreme Court prevented exploratory wells from being drilled in parts of the Pigeon

miles without coming into contact with industrial development.

A more recent case study begins in 1992. At the height of the Antrim gas drilling frenzy, three citizens' groups sued to protect forests and trout streams in the development zones. After a long legal battle that cost the conservation groups over \$100,000, the court ruled that oil and gas developers must bore underneath streams when laying pipelines. The court also required that there be eighty rather than forty acres between wells.

These lawsuits achieved needed policy changes that have resulted in a lasting benefit for state resources, and they were pursued by ordinary people who simply cared about land.

Glaringly missing from both cases was support from the very agency, Michigan's Department of Natural Resources, charged by law to "protect and conserve" the state's natural resources.

Michigan Energy Reform Coalition

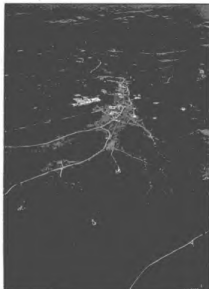
With citizens groups facing limited resources and the enfeebled state regulatory agencies continuing to shirk their responsibility, by the mid-1990 it was necessary to come up with a more effective response to the problems posed by Michigan's massive gas-development activity.

The Michigan Energy Reform Coalition was the answer. Established in the spring of 1995, MERC is a state-wide alliance of fourteen citizens' groups and five townships seeking to strengthen oversight of the oil and gas industry and reduce the environmental damage caused by drilling.

MERC conducts research, sponsors public meetings, publishes vital information, assists local governments and property owners, and advocates more careful practices in the production of the state's oil and gas resources. These efforts are building a record of valuable achievements:

- After MERC disclosed a state subsidy costing taxpayers \$12 million in lost royalties, the Department of Natural Resources cancelled two auctions of leasing rights on hundreds of thousands of acres

continued next page



Michigan's Ontonagon County, 1995. Extensive oil and gas exploration roadbuilding severely damages forest ecosystems.

River area because they would cause "unquantifiable damage." The Pigeon River ruling led to a special hydrocarbon development plan that allowed drilling in less than a third of the 98,000-acre wilderness area. The plan restricted the number of drilling pads by requiring directional drilling (drilling at a slant to reach sites not directly under the drilling machinery), and minimized the number of roads and pipelines cut into the forest.

As a result of this careful planning, the Pigeon River State Forest is still a place where elk, bobcat, and bear can roam in abundance, and where hikers can trek for

... White Pine

continued from the cover page

mine, pumping millions of gallons of sulfuric acid into it, waiting for the acid to leach the desired mineral from the interior mine debris, suctioning out and processing the mineral-rich slush, then reinjecting the acid for permanent storage in the mine.

White Pine catastrophe

Located five miles from Lake Superior, adjacent to the Mineral River near Ontonagon, Michigan, the White Pine mine smelter was shut down in 1994 by environmental lawsuits for gross violations of the Clean Air Act. The owners left an eleven-square-mile metallic sulfide waste dump on the shores of the Mineral River, which flows into Lake Superior.

Toronto-based Inmet has stockpiled an unknown quantity of sulfuric acid at the site, and is already pumping it into the mine. The company's full-scale mining plan involves injecting an astonishing 11 billion gallons of sulfuric acid solution into the eleven-square-mile underground caverns of the mine. The long-term environmental effects would be catastrophic.

Lake Superior citizen activist Walter Bresette, former chair of the Indigenous Subcommittee of EPA's National Environmental Justice Advisory Council, declared in a July call-to-action letter, "Fifty years



from now, if nothing is done now, acid and chloride-laced brine will begin flowing into the Mineral River. One hundred years from now the Mineral River and many acres of Lake Superior will not support life. One hundred and fifty years from now—seven generations—our great, great, great, great, great grandchildren will wonder what we were thinking when the acid spigot was turned on in the summer of 1996."

Citizen campaign

Bresette resigned in protest from the advisory council in early July and initiated a citizen campaign against the White Pine mining operation.

Anishinabe Ogitchida began holding spiritual ceremonies on Wisconsin Central Railroad tracks in the Bad River reservation near Ashland, Wisconsin, in late July to prevent transport of sulfuric acid to the mine. The tracks are the only railroad link to the White Pine mine.

The action resulted in a month of negotiations between the activists, the Bad River tribal government, and railroad officials, ending in an agreement to temporarily end shipments of sulfuric acid through the reservation until safety issues are resolved.

Activists are also seeking federal and state investigations of the proposal and fuller environmental assessment of the long-term consequences of permitting the acid-mining operation. Meanwhile Inmet is free to continue operating the mine. If discussions drag on too long, mine officials are likely to plan alternative methods of getting acid.

Further information is available on the Internet's Worldwide Web at <http://www.menominee.com/a-one/mccombs/>, or by contacting Walter Bresette at the Lake Superior Alliance, (715) 779-5071; fax: -3465, bresette@win.bright.net.

... gas development

continued from the previous page

rights on hundreds of thousands of acres of public land and rescinded the policy.

- MERC was instrumental in convincing Terra Energy, the state's largest natural gas producer, to withdraw its applications to drill what would have been the first wells in the Jordan River Valley. This valley, with its thickly forested hills surrounding the picturesque Jordan River, is seen by thousands as one of the crown jewels of the Midwest. Protected since the mid-1970s under a special state management plan, the valley plays a critical role in the region's tourist economy. MERC now is working to permanently protect the 22,000-acre wilderness area from oil and gas development.
- MERC's organizing has brought oil and

gas issues to a high level of visibility among policymakers. Four bills are pending in the state legislature to give local governments authority to oversee energy exploration and production. Two more bills would give landowners who do not own their mineral rights more control over the use of their property.

Hydrocarbon development plans

MERC's long-term goal is to protect Michigan's rivers, lakes, and streams by requiring the writing of plans based on the Pigeon River model *before* new wells are drilled in sensitive watersheds. Such "hydrocarbon development plans" would be reviewed and approved by a balanced committee of citizens, industry representatives, local governments, and state agency staff responsible for safeguarding forests, land, wildlife, fisheries, and water.

The idea of hydrocarbon development plans is based on the premise that oil and gas production can exist in sensitive watersheds without harming the resource or the character of the area—if it is carried out carefully. The state has allowed Michigan's North Woods to be riddled with wells and fragmented by roads and pipelines, without proper planning or public participation. This was a tragedy that could have been prevented without significantly reducing production or profitability. Requiring hydrocarbon development plans will simply bring a badly needed balance to oil and gas development.

For more information, contact the Michigan Energy Reform Coalition, P.O. Box 228, Benzonia, Michigan, 49616, (616) 882-0063, mlui@traverse.com.

Hans Voss is associate director of the Michigan Land Use Institute.

“Lost in an aspen monoculture”

by K. Cash Luck

One of the methods that I use to find my way through the woods without getting lost is to carefully note various tree species and relate them to their diverse place in the development of a young or older forest. In other words, I relate them to the point they are in the succession from a young to a climax or old forest. This perception makes each area recognizably different from another. To relate this concept to city people who may only see green when they enter a forest, I might explain it simply as “a diverse forest posts its own street signs.”

Last August, on a heavily clouded day, I decided to explore a ten- to fifteen year-old aspen monoculture to see if the forester's claims of diversity were valid.

The millions of 1.5-inch aspen were fifteen feet tall and six inches apart. I noted the sun was over my right shoulder. I managed to enter by following the openings made by fallen “seed trees.” I proceeded to search for tree species other than aspen. I observed only three or four sticks of oak and maple per acre. No other tree species had survived the clearcut. These oak and maple were only two feet high, while the towering aspen were fifteen feet high. Knowing oak and maple are shade tolerant, I initially had hope they would grow over a period of fifty to sixty years, begin to reseed themselves and in a hundred and fifty years or so regenerate the biodiversity that once existed before the clearcut.

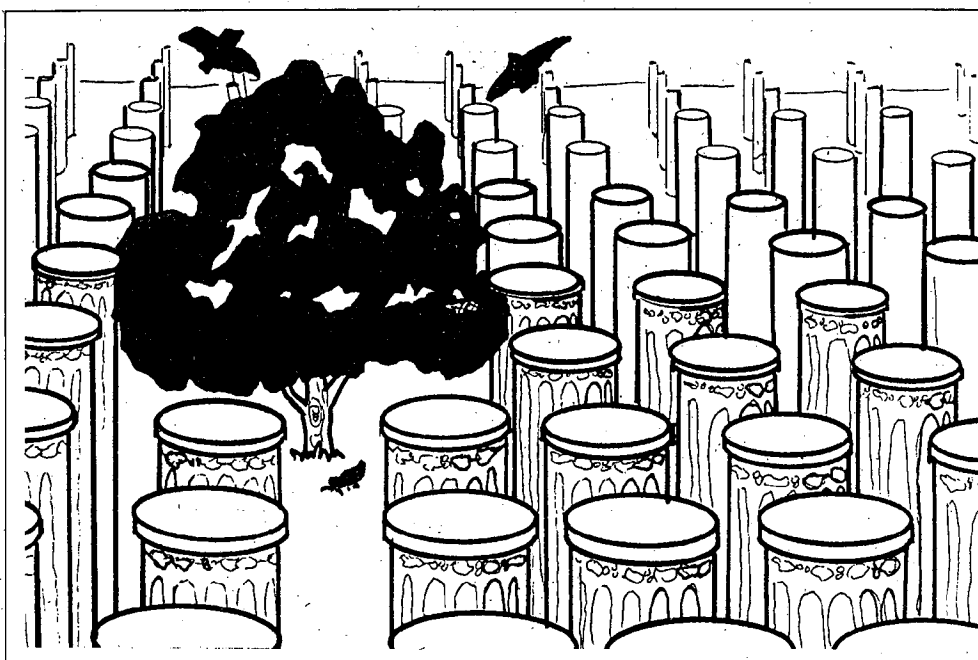
Then my hopes dimmed as I recalled the plan to come back and recut the aspen in forty years. Clearly on the next cut these few shade-tolerant species would not have had enough time to produce an acorn or a seed to regenerate itself or provide food for wildlife. The diversity of the forest would not recover even in fifteen years, perhaps never, not in cons. There is not enough time planned between logging cycles for oaks, maples, or other tree species to catch up.

I searched onward on my broken path of

seed trees, and noted the understory. It seemed broken, not the “right” species and not at all what I'm used to. Will this change in understory negatively affect soil nutrients and also change the food source of the herbivorous species?

As I proceeded to search for more tree species, I realized there were no guides. The cold feeling of panic hit me. It was all aspen. It did not have the diversity, the guideposts

ture is the “mining” of calcium, potassium, and magnesium from the soil of 71 percent of the acres cited for cutting. It was entirely possible that when this monoculture was cut it would not regrow, and would leave a permanently ravaged clear landscape—a ruined forest with precious little regrowth, a travesty from our wanton misuse of the land for financial gain. This could become the landscape, statewide.



Paula Borkowski

I normally use to find my way. It was a monoforest. I tried to find the sun, but the sky was a solid canopy of aspen leaves. I sat down and told myself, “I'm not lost, the cabin is lost” and I tried again to find the sun without success.

As I wandered around (lost) I became concerned not only for my own safety but I thought about the regrowth after the next cutting. I became more concerned. Perhaps when this monoculture is grown and cut there will not be a regrowth or perhaps only a stunted re-growth. This concern arose from the fact that aspen uses five times the calcium of a red pine, and here were millions of aspen. The soil would be depleted.

One of the outstanding impacts of clearcuts and the resulting aspen monocul-

Fortunately, in what seemed hours, I found a large enough opening in the canopy (caused by other fallen “seed trees”) to see the sun. I sighted the sun over my left shoulder. I headed out of the monoculture, squeezing between the aspen prison bars and was relieved when I found the logging trail I had left a few hours before. I told myself that I'd never do this again. I do not recommend being lost in an aspen monoculture as a life experience.

I did make six solid observations:

- The aspen monoculture is truly a monoculture and is not biodiverse.
- The understory is being adversely affected by clearcutting.
- The other species (often shade tolerant)

continued next page

Lake trout self-sustaining in parts of Superior

by David Mahony

Lake trout has apparently become self-sustaining in the Lake Superior, a major victory in the struggle to repopulate the Great Lakes with indigenous species threatened by overfishing and exotic species such as the sea lamprey.

As a result, state, federal, provincial, and tribal management authorities have decided to eliminate stocking of federally reared lake trout in the area of the lake extending from Wisconsin's Apostle Islands eastward to Grand Marais, Michigan.

A number of areas in Ontario waters have also shown improvements in lake trout populations such that stocking has been reduced to about a third of what it was in the 1980s.

Currently, Lake Superior is the only lake to host self-sustaining lake trout populations. According to a recent report by Michael Hansen of the National Biological Service, in some areas of Lake Superior populations are up to 80 percent of the levels existing before the sea lamprey invaded and lake trout populations crashed.

The ultimate goal of the Lake Superior Committee, as reported in the 1990 Lake Superior fish community objectives, is to "restore self-sustaining stocks that can pro-

vide an average yield equal to that attained during 1929-1943."

Lake trout restoration efforts began in Lake Superior in the 1950s—coincident with the beginning of sea lamprey control—and managers spread their efforts to the other Great Lakes during the ensuing decades. Since the 1950s, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, the states of Wisconsin, Michigan and Minnesota, and more recently the Keweenaw Bay Tribe, have been trying to increase lake trout populations through

trout, and commercial fishermen sent millions of them to restaurants and packing houses annually, supplying the region and the world with some of its best fish.

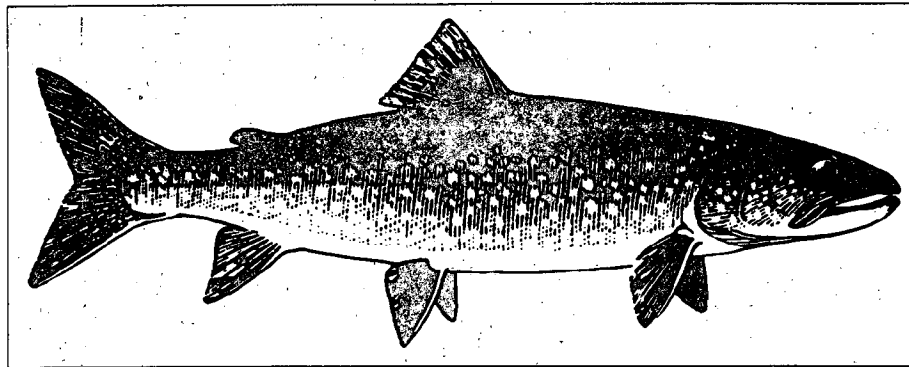
In the middle part of this century, however, the species experienced the unthinkable: near extirpation in the Great Lakes. Overfishing and sea lamprey predation caused such devastation to lake trout stocks that harvesting in the Great Lakes fell from about 17 million pounds annually to almost nothing. The lake trout, once the king of the Great Lakes fishery, fell so quickly in num-

bers that many questioned whether the species, let alone the fishery, could survive.

"The recovery of lake trout in Lake Superior is indicative of what is possible in other lakes," said Lake Superior Committee Chairman

Bill Horns of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. "This achievement gives us renewed hope for ongoing lake trout restoration efforts in the lower lakes."

In other areas of Lake Superior, such as the waters off Minnesota, western Wisconsin, and lower Keweenaw Bay, stocking will continue because natural reproduction has not yet taken hold at a level that would likely allow self-sustainability.



stocking. The Great Lakes Fishery Commission, created by Canada and the United States, has complimented these efforts by controlling sea lampreys and coordinating fishery research and management on the binational level.

Naturally existing lake trout once supported a major commercial and small sport fishery in the Great Lakes. Anglers came from far and wide to catch Great Lakes lake

... "lost in an aspen monoculture"

continued from the previous page

found inside the monoculture will not have time to mature before they are again recut.

- ✧ The basis of our ecosystem is found in the soil. Our forests are being mined by this "natural" tree farm plan for cut and recut of the fast-growing aspen. Due to soil loss, I foresee a state of ecological ruin.
- ✧ The "seed tree" method of clearcut is valuable not for regrowth of its species,

but it is helpful in allowing a person lost in a monoculture to see the sun through the canopy and find a way out!

- ✧ When exploring monocultures, either only study the perimeter, or take a compass along, because there is no biodiversity to guide your way.

Please work to stop the massive clearcutting of Minnesota forests. The aspen monoculture will not provide the

biodiversity necessary for wildlife. Soil will be mined, and plans for diverse regrowth are naive without massive and expensive inputs.

Cash Luck, a teacher, advocate, and writer for sustainable forests, lives in St. Louis Park, Minnesota, and near Remer, Minnesota, on Thunder Lake. This article was reprinted from the summer 1995 issue of Community Connections, a newsletter of the Minnesota Project. The group can be reached at (612) 645-1262.

Canada restores funds to control sea lamprey

by David Mahony

Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Fred Mifflin announced in August that Canada will contribute an annual \$C5.1 million this year and next to the sea lamprey control efforts of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission. The announcement reversed last year's decision to reduce funding to \$C3.8 million.

The cut galvanized the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters, the Ontario Fish Producers Association, Great Lakes United and other groups and citizens into a months-long effort to restore the money.

Treaty

In a 1956 treaty Canada and the United States established the Great Lakes Fishery Commission to coordinate fishery research between the two nations and to develop and implement a joint sea lamprey control program in the Great Lakes.

The treaty funding mechanism provides for the United States to pay 69 percent of the lamprey control program, Canada 31 percent. This ratio roughly coincides with the area of the Great Lakes within each country's boundaries and the value of the respective historical fish harvests before the sea lamprey invasion.

The sea lamprey is a parasitic exotic species that preys mostly on lake trout (see accompanying article). Current efforts have reduced the lamprey population in the Great Lakes to less than 15 percent of its historic highs, except in northern Lake Huron.

The animal has its major breeding ground in the St. Mary's River, around Sault Ste. Marie. The area produces more sea lamprey than all of the rest of Great Lakes combined. Fifty percent of Great Lakes trout are showing lamprey wounds; the lamprey have now begun to go after smaller fish, threatening the entire fish resource. Stocking has been scaled back until the problem is under control. Lake trout restoration in Lakes Huron is nearly impossible and the lake's fish community is very unstable.

Success so far

The good news is that the commission is close to bringing the lamprey under control in the St. Marys River. The organization has established state-of-the-art tracking of lamprey populations, has implemented effective treatment of spawning areas, and is developing new trapping techniques in partnership

with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. However, continued funding of existing lamprey programs and continued research into alternative control techniques is necessary for the job to be completed.

At this summer's Great Lakes United annual meeting, the GLU Habitat and Biodiversity Task Force offered a membership resolution calling on the Canadian gov-

ernment to restore its funding of sea lamprey control efforts. After discussion led by Dwight Ullman of Michigan United Conservation Clubs and Ed Michael of Trout Unlimited, the membership passed the resolution with an amendment calling on the governments to increase efforts to reduce reliance on the use of pesticides for controlling the sea lamprey.



Michigan Sea Grant

A sea lamprey primer

Sea lamprey are aquatic vertebrates resembling eels, but unlike eels, they feed on large fish. They can live in both salt and freshwater. Now found in all the Great Lakes, sea lampreys attach to fish with a sucking disk and sharp teeth. They feed on body fluids, often scarring and killing host fish.

Sea lampreys were a major cause of the collapse of lake trout, whitefish, and chub populations in the Great Lakes during the 1940s and 1950s. These fish were the mainstay of an important commercial fishery.

Sea lampreys are native to the Atlantic Ocean but migrated into Lake Ontario. Niagara Falls was a natural barrier to their spread into the upper Great Lakes, but when the Welland Canal was constructed in 1829 and then deepened in the early 1900s, a new route for sea lampreys was opened. By the late 1930s, they were in all five Great Lakes.

Adult sea lampreys move into gravel areas of tributary streams during spring and early summer to build nests and lay eggs before dying. The sea lamprey larvae are swept downstream and burrow into sand and silt, feeding on bottom debris and algae carried to them by stream currents. This stage can range from three to as many as seventeen years, during which the larvae grow to about 15 cm (6 inches) long.

After the larval life stage, sea lampreys transform into their parasitic stage and migrate into the Great Lakes. They spend the next twelve to twenty months feeding on fish. Each sea lamprey can kill more than 18 kg (40 pounds) of fish during its lifetime. Adult sea lampreys grow to an average length of 18 inches. The total life cycle, from egg to adult averages approximately seven years, and may take as long as twenty years.

The mayfly, an ecosystem canary, recovers

by David Mahony

The burrowing mayfly is returning to the Great Lakes Basin, providing proof of improved Great Lakes water quality. Large numbers of mayflies have been sighted in the Bay of Quinte on Lake Ontario and in Toledo, Ohio, on Lake Erie.

The mayfly disappeared from Lake Erie, Green Bay, the Bay of Quinte, and other areas because it could not tolerate the low-oxygen conditions caused by the release of untreated human waste. One of the chief indicators of Lake Erie's declared "death" in the 1960s was the mayfly's disappearance.

The mayfly belongs to the order Ephemeroptera, so named after its short adult life. The insect spends two years as a wingless juvenile, called a "nymph," in the sediment of the Great Lakes. The creature then enters an ugly aquatic crawling phase before attaining its graceful adult winged form, about two inches in length with long tails. At normal densities, the mayfly is an important element in the aquatic food chain,

including the food chain for game fish.

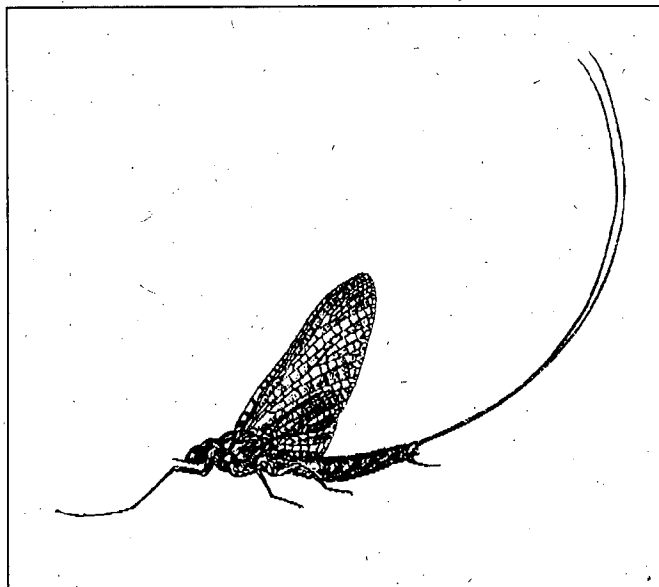
Jack Christie, retired director of Ontario's Glenora Fisheries Research Station, recalls newspaper reports of mayfly abundance so great that piles of dead mayflies under street

In mid-June, Christie found some sixty adult mayflies resting on his house. He later learned that provincial biologist Al Mathers found "windrows" of cast-off juvenile skins (left emerged adults) on the surface of the bay near Indian Point.

Mid-June also saw the surprising report that clouds of mayflies had swarmed a Toledo Edison electric substation so enthusiastically that they short-circuited equipment, briefly browning out ten Ohio counties.

Heidelberg College's water quality laboratory in Tiffin, Ohio, and the National Biological Service of Ann Arbor, Michigan, have been taking a census of mayfly nymphs in samples of Lake Erie bottom sediment. According to Heidelberg College's Kenneth Krieger, "The consensus is that throughout much of the western basin of Lake Erie, there's a very dramatic

increase in the abundance of mayflies, and that's generally a very positive sign that cleanup efforts are working."



lights in Belleville caused a nuisance. And many shoreline property owners recall mayfly mating spells involving swarms gathering on their homes and cottages.

Marshes have numerous social benefits

by Amy Chabot

Long Point Bird Observatory

Wetlands are important ecologically, economically, and socially to the health of the Great Lakes ecosystem and to all those who live in the Great Lakes Basin. In spite of their value, wetlands across North America and the plants and animals inhabiting them continue to face threats from development and pollution.

From colonial times until recently, wetlands have been regarded largely as nuisances. They have been exploited for the resources that could be extracted from them and drained for agricultural and residential development. Less than 47 percent of the original 221 million acres of wetland remain

in the contiguous United States and similar losses have occurred in Canada. In developed areas of the Great Lakes Basin, two-thirds of the wetlands have been destroyed and few wetlands have escaped the impact of pollution.

We have only recently begun to realize that in their natural state, wetlands produce numerous benefits for society. Wetlands provide habitat for many species of fish and wildlife, including migratory birds and amphibians. As natural regulators of water flow, wetlands provide a cost-effective means of flood control by slowing and retaining water during periods of high runoff. They also help buffer the impact of storms, reducing shoreline erosion. By holding water and

releasing it slowly, wetlands help to replenish groundwater supplies and offset the effects of drought. Wetlands also filter out pollutants and trap sediments in the water, thus helping to maintain water quality.

One of the goals of the Marsh Monitoring Program is to educate people around the Basin about the value of marshes. In working to meet this goal, MMP staff recently participated in the annual meeting of the Federation of Ontario Naturalists, held in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, in the middle of the St. Marys River AOC.

The St. Marys River, one of 42 Areas of Concern in the Great Lakes, is a 112-kilometre connecting channel between Lakes Superior and Huron that divides Sault Ste.

BIODIVERSITY & HABITAT PROTECTION TASK FORCE

"Takings" battles dominate task force efforts

A serious fight is shaping up over a proposed Pennsylvania "takings" law, an "attorney general review" bill introduced into the Pennsylvania Senate as SB 1587. The bill would prohibit the state from creating, implementing, or enforcing any regulation until the attorney general assesses it for potential "takings" of private property. If the assessment shows that a "taking" is likely, the state must identify and pay affected property owners.

Unlike other state and federal "takings" bills, SB 1587 does not define a minimum threshold of lost value that would constitute a "taking," making even the most benign government regulation and standards subject to payments or legal challenges.

The bill also prevents the state from denying or placing conditions on permits until it performs a "takings" assessment. If the assessment shows that a "taking" is likely, the permit can be denied or granted with conditions only if the state pays the applicant.

The bill would greatly inhibit state programs protecting wetlands and high-quality streams, implementing sewage permitting and planning, overseeing mine safety, restricting mining in areas unsuitable for it, and preserving historic sites.

The Senate's Environmental Resources

and Energy Committee voted SB 1587 out of committee by a disappointingly strong 9-1 vote. However, because the bill was not voted on before the legislature went into summer recess, it must go back to committee before the full legislature can consider it. Committee hearings on the bill before it is voted on again will be held September 19.

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation is the main organizing group in Pennsylvania on the "takings" bill. The Habitat and Biodiversity Protection Task Force, which is working against the bill with the foundation and GLU board member Marty

Visnosky, held a conference call in August with fifteen citizen groups to help them organize for the upcoming hearing. The call gave the groups an opportunity to plan strategy as a coalition and brainstorm on who else to involve in the campaign.

For more information contact Jan Jarrett of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation at (717) 234-5550.

Ohio "takings" bill

The task force will also be continuing its work with the Ohio Community Protection Alliance to assist its campaign to defeat a bad Ohio "takings" bill. The Ohio Senate State and Local Government Committee met in May to hear opponent testimony on HB

533, the "Takings Assessment" bill. The hearing started four hours late, so many that wanted to testify were unable to do so. Groups testifying against the bill included Rivers Unlimited, Sierra Club, National Audubon Society, Ohio Environmental Council, Ohio Planning Conference, and the Ohio Preservation Alliance.

The committee will probably take the bill up again sometime this fall. Those unable to testify at the May hearing should get an opportunity then. For more information contact the National Audubon Society at (614) 224-3303.

Upcoming events

The task force will be hosting two forums in the next few months. One is a forum tentatively planned for the weekend of November 30 on the deregulation of Ontario's forestry regime and related issues. The forum will include panel presentations, workshops on skills needed for public oversight, and a strategy session. The meeting place will likely be Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario.

The task force is also planning a post-U.S. election information sharing and strategy meeting for the weekend of November 23 in Buffalo. We want to gather environmentalists, hunters and anglers, and others to assess election results and the state of the anticonservation "wise use" movement, and to identify areas likely to need the attention of conservationists in the medium term.

Marie, Michigan, from Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. Remedial Action Plans focusing on an ecosystem approach (that is, considering air, land, water, wildlife, and humans as equally crucial parts of an area's ecology), have been developed for each of the AOCs. The St. Marys River RAP is being developed under the joint leadership of Michigan and Ontario. The problems faced by this binational AOC include restrictions on fish and wildlife consumption, degradation of fish and wildlife populations, fish tumors and other deformities, beach closures, degradation of aesthetics and loss of fish and wildlife habitat. Of particular concern is the loss of wetlands and rapids habitat due to

urban and industrial development.

As part of the agenda of the federation's annual meeting, interested naturalists had the opportunity to participate in a MMP demonstration and marsh hike at Echo Bay, one of the area's most spectacular, but now threatened, marshes. A four-lane highway was recently planned that would run through the middle of the marsh. The efforts of Ed Czerwinski, a member of the Sault Naturalists Club and Marsh Monitoring Program volunteer, and other concerned citizens resulted in a diversion of the highway around the edge of the marsh.

Marshes are an important part of Sault Ste. Marie's community's heritage and the

Marsh Monitoring Program provides a good opportunity to foster citizen commitment and responsibility for cleaning up this and other AOCs.

More than 850 Marsh Monitoring Program volunteers are now signed up to monitor marshes in Areas of Concern and elsewhere around the Great Lakes. The volunteers are helping to protect and restore the marshes by taking an active role in monitoring the biological diversity of marsh birds and amphibians and in assessing the success of specific marsh rehabilitation efforts.

For more information on the program, contact Amy Chabot at (519) 586-3531, fax: -3532, mmp@nornet.on.ca.

Wetland losses continue, despite the law

Despite state and federal safeguards designed to ensure no net loss of wetlands, the agencies charged with administering these safeguards in Ohio are still allowing losses to take place.

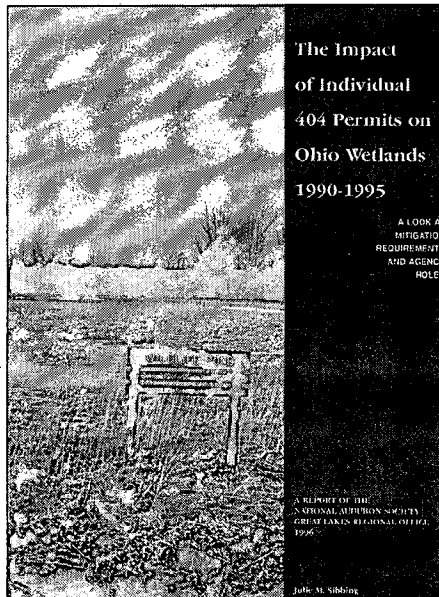
A study released by the National Audubon Society's Great Lakes Regional Office shows that standards for wetland permitting have not been uniformly applied and are resulting in a net loss of state wetlands.

Anyone planning an activity that will result in a discharge into Ohio wetlands must apply for a permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency. To receive a permit, an applicant must demonstrate that all unavoidable impacts to wetlands will be mitigated by the creation, restoration, or enhancement of wetlands elsewhere. This requirement is designed to ensure that no loss of wetland functions or acreage occurs in the state.

Audubon examined thirty-two individual permits issued from 1990 to 1995 to see how this mitigation requirement was being implemented in Ohio. Some of the findings include:

- ✦ One quarter of the permits required no wetland creation or restoration as mitigation.
- ✦ More than one-third of the permits allow for a net loss of wetlands acreage. This is despite the fact that the Ohio EPA and several Corps districts say they require 1.5 acres of mitigation for every acre of impacted wetlands.
- ✦ More than 18 percent of the wetland

acreage impacted will not be replaced through mitigation. This does not include the probable loss of wetlands that will occur when some of the required mitigation projects fail. Studies from other states have shown that many miti-



gation projects fail to become fully functioning wetland systems.

- ✦ Over 60 percent of the wetlands impacted will be replaced with deeper water wetlands, or with ponds. This is despite the many unique functions performed by smaller, shallower wetlands in flood control, amphibian habitat, and water quality improvements.

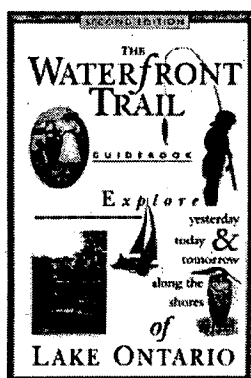
"These findings should be of concern to

all Ohioans," said Audubon's Steve Sedam. "Ohio has already lost about 90 percent of its wetlands. What will we be leaving behind for future generations?" Of the fifty states, only California has lost a greater percentage of its original wetlands.

Wetlands perform some very valuable functions in Ohio. They store excess rainfall, reducing downstream flooding; they filter pollutants out of surface water; they provide recreational opportunities; and they serve as critical habitat to many species of wildlife and plants, including over two dozen of Ohio's threatened and endangered species.

Audubon's recommendations to improve protection for the state's wetlands, include:

- ✦ The establishment of a consensus on goals for the future of Ohio's wetlands, including uniform mitigation criteria, among the state and federal agencies involved with wetland permitting
- ✦ The adoption of wetland water quality standards for the state
- ✦ A strict requirement that wetlands be mitigated only by other wetlands, not ponds
- ✦ Uniform enforcement of mitigation standards for all projects to ensure the replacement of both wetland acreage and functions;
- ✦ Better record-keeping by agencies and a tracking system for wetland impacts
- ✦ A statewide public information campaign to reduce the amount of unauthorized activities affecting wetlands.



Now available is the second edition of *The Waterfront Trail*, a guidebook to a walk and bikeway that runs nearly the length of the Canadian side of Lake Ontario.

The Waterfront Trail was born from recommendations in the 1992 final report of the Royal Commission on the Future of the Toronto Waterfront.

The guidebook has something for everyone. It is organized by

area on the trail, going west to east, each with maps and directions for hikers, bikers and just plain tourists, notes of interest for local history buffs, and nature lore for all of us. Local attractions and amenities are listed for each municipality along the trail.

An overall map is placed up front showing the entire region with major cities and connecting trails marked. However, all of the

cities described in subsequent chapters are not shown, a major omission. A series of vignettes are scattered judiciously throughout, making for interesting and informative reading. The book is 300 pages long with 47 full-color photographs of trail attractions printed in a beautiful center section on coated stock.

For more information call the Waterfront Regeneration Trust at (416) 314-8572.

... Ann Arbor-area EQ landfill wants PCBs

continued from the cover page

Belleville Lake, which is part of the Huron River system, whose waters eventually flow into Lake Erie. Operated by parent EQ Co. and its subsidiaries Wayne Disposal and Michigan Disposal, the landfill is already permitted to receive hazardous wastes generated by facilities covered under the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act.

Opponents of the PCB proposal cite concern over the inevitable and eventual migration of PCB and other pollutants into Lake Erie as one reason to deny both a renewal of the dump's current RCRA permit and the Toxic Substance control Act permit that is required for the PCB dumping.

If the government grants the permit, the EQ landfill will be the only one in the Midwest allowed to accept PCBs, and one of only seven in the United States. The owners will legally be able to import PCBs from Canada and Mexico.

"It's plain to see that this isn't a good idea," says Andy Winnie, president of the local community group that has organized to stop the proposal. The group, We're Everyday Citizens Against Ruining the Environment (WECARE), has documented a number of problems at the facility:

- ❖ The landfill is already leaking
- ❖ The landfill is hydraulically linked to regional waterways and is considerably lower than the seasonal water table; federal regulations require that the landfill be fifty feet above it
- ❖ The monitoring system is inadequate and there has been lax enforcement of the monitoring effort by regulatory agencies
- ❖ EQ has a history of accidents and non-compliance with existing permits

Since 1993, the company has been forced to pump several million gallons of liquid per year from between the two liners that separate the waste cells from the aquifer below, an indication that the landfill is badly leaking. WECARE also has found that concentrations of two chemicals, toluene and methylene chloride, have been increasing in both the leachate collected and in monitoring wells, another sign of leakage.



An aerial view of the EQ landfill, which includes most of the six squares at upper center. Baseball diamonds and residences are visible at upper right, I-94 is at lower center, and a residential area and Belleville Lake is at bottom. Underground leaks from the landfill will flow south and southeast, into Belleville Lake and thence into Lake Huron.

An explosion and fire at the landfill in May 1994 caused authorities to close nearby Interstate 94 for two hours; community residents were evacuated. Residents note that ongoing operations have resulted in numerous odor complaints against the facility; several have filed suit in state court claiming that the foul odors have caused health problems, have diminished property values, and impinge on the enjoyment of their homes.

After the accident, the then-head of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources wrote that the companies managing the landfill repeatedly failed to "properly test, treat,

dispose, or otherwise manage wastes. . . .

Even before the May 18, 1994, fire, these violations represented a pattern of non-compliance which raised serious questions regarding [the companies'] ability to operate their facilities in an environmentally sound manner." The state attorney general entered into a consent judgment with the company that required operational changes and levied a \$500,000 fine, the largest ever paid by a Michigan waste management company.

Incompetence okay

Despite these strong words from a former head of the state's environmental agency, regulators repeatedly said that EQ will be granted the necessary permits. All that is in question are the conditions that will be attached to the permits based on public comment.

Already upset with what appears to be state bias in favor of the dump operators, landfill opponents were shocked to see a copy of a letter from current Department of Environmental Quality Director Russell Harding to the EPA urging the federal agency to decide on the permit by June 21, concurrent with the state's decision. Harding cited a

desire by Ford Motor Co. to save money by using the landfill to get rid of PCB waste from one of its own contaminated sites, thereby avoiding construction of an onsite disposal facility.

Despite Harding's desire to expedite the permitting, EPA was forced to schedule a second public hearing and comment period this summer when it came to light that the agencies had provided inadequate public notice of the spring comment period.

Great Lakes United attended the summer hearing and submitted comments to the DEQ and EPA opposing the proposal.

Medical incinerators let off the dioxin hook

by Scott Sederstrom

Belying campaign efforts to distinguish itself from anti-environmental forces in Congress, the Clinton administration's Environmental Protection Agency has caved in to industry pressure and proposed weak new standards for medical waste incinerators, one of the largest sources of dioxin in the Great Lakes Basin.

The new standards replace stronger proposed emission standards established in February 1995. One of EPA's justifications for the change is that it has significantly lowered its estimate of dioxin and mercury releases from the incinerators.

Under the Clean Air Act, EPA is required to issue standards for new and existing medical waste incinerators. Referred to as Maximum Available Control Technology (MACT) standards, the new emissions limits cover dioxin, particulate matter, carbon monoxide, hydrochloric acid, sulphur dioxide, nitrous oxides, lead, cadmium, and mercury. EPA is under a court-ordered deadline to promulgate a final rule for medical waste incinerators by July 1997. EPA's proposal would allow medical waste incinerators to release ten times more dioxin than

allowed under proposed rules for hazardous waste incinerators.

"It's Christmas in July for the hospital industry, and EPA is playing Santa Claus," says Jackie Hunt Christensen of the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy.

In its original dioxin reassessment, EPA's Office of Research and Development estimated that medical waste incinerators release more dioxin than any other source, a total of between 1,600 and 16,000 grams from an estimated 6,700 incinerators. This estimate was based on limited data and was determined using hospital-to-population ratios.

The American Hospital Association, a hospital industry lobby, responded to the dioxin reassessment and the February 1995 proposed rule by stating that the highest-polluting medical waste incinerators, usually small machines operating without pollution control equipment, had been mostly closed down in favor of larger, newer facilities with advanced pollution control equipment.

The association submitted data based on test burns at approximately 24 medical waste incinerators, and then extrapolated from these limited tests to cover the estimated

universe of 2,400 incinerators. AHA also argued that a distinction needed to be made between medical waste, consisting of the entire hospital waste stream, infectious waste, such as used syringes, bedpans, and blood bags, and pathological waste, predominantly human tissue.

EPA is apparently conflicted over its estimates of dioxin releases from medical waste incinerators. On the one hand, the agency's Clean Air Office incorporated virtually all of AHA's recommendations into the just-released MACT proposal. The *Federal Register* notice of the new rule lowers its February estimate of dioxin emissions from 5,100 grams per year to 150 grams per year—a staggering and unjustifiable reduction of 97 percent.

On the other hand, EPA's Office of Research and Development—responsible for the dioxin reassessment—is said to be revising its estimate of dioxin emissions from medical waste incinerators down to only 1,000 grams per year for the final version of the reassessment.

The upshot is that when EPA's overall dioxin reassessment is finalized next year it

continued on page 18

Task force update

by Scott Sederstrom

Canada pesticide network

A Canada-wide effort to link pesticide activists has been initiated by Sierra Club of Canada, Toronto Environmental Alliance, Canadian Labour Congress, World Wildlife Fund, and Citizens for Alternatives to Pesticides.

Called the Campaign for Pesticide Reduction, the group aims to develop an effective network on pesticide issues. The organization's founders want CPR to:

- Build a cross-Canada network of activists, including groups of all sizes, individuals, farmworkers, other pest management professionals, unions, and whoever is dedicated to reducing urban,

agricultural, forestry, aquatic, and other pesticide uses

- Support activists by facilitating access to the latest news on health and environmental science and on government initiatives; by offering campaign and public awareness expertise; and by story-telling
- Act as government and industry watchdog, monitoring the activities of federal and provincial regulators, pesticide industry lobbyists, and others involved in pesticide registration, reevaluation, food residue monitoring, environmental contamination, and the development of alternatives to pesticides
- Coordinate advocacy and awareness campaigns by helping develop shared campaign goals and public awareness strategies.

Thus far thirty-five environmental and labour groups have joined CPR in its first two

months of activity. Membership is C\$25. For more information or to join CPR, contact Angela Rickman c/o Sierra Club, (613) 241-4611, fax: -2292, sierra@web.net.

Wet Cleaning Update

The Center for Neighborhood Technology's Wet Cleaning Project has released an informational videotape and a comprehensive report on the first year of wet cleaning at Chicago's The Greener Cleaner.

The video, available for US\$10 postpaid, introduces the process and The Greener Cleaner; the report, available free, includes data on the year-long project and the results of limited research at two other shops.

To order the video or the reports, contact the center at 2125 W. North Ave., Chicago, Illinois, 60647, or call Sylvia Ewing-Hoover at (312) 278-4800 x299. Credit cards are accepted.

More U.S. facilities may report toxic releases

by Scott Sederstrom

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has proposed expanding the number of industries required to report pollution-related information under the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act.

Under the proposed rule, several industries outside the manufacturing sector will be required to report on their toxic releases and other waste management activities. The reports are collected and made available to the public as part of the Toxic Release Inventory (TRI).

Great Lakes United submitted testimony to EPA at a public hearing on the reporting expansion held in Chicago in August.

Up for addition to the TRI program are metal mining (Standard Industry Classification 10), coal mining (SIC 12), electric utilities (SICs 4911, 4931, 4939), commercial hazardous waste treatment (SIC 4953), wholesale chemicals and allied products (SIC 5169), petroleum bulk stations (SIC 5171), and solvent recovery services (SIC 7389).

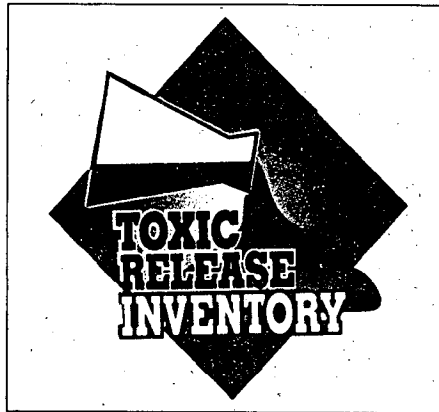
The proposal marks the first addition of new, nonmanufacturing industries to the TRI list since the 1994 addition of federal facilities. In 1995 EPA required companies to report on 286 additional chemicals beginning in the 1996 reporting period. That expansion nearly doubled the number of toxic chemicals that must be reported on.

While environmental groups who use TRI data are generally supportive of the EPA proposal, they also note that there are still some significant gaps in the TRI program. These include no reporting requirements for some very significant toxic releasers, including garbage and medical waste incinerators, public sewage treatment plants, natural gas processors, airports, marine loading terminals, large industrial dry cleaners, natural gas processors, and oil and gas exploration and production facilities. Also currently exempt are agricultural users of pesticides.

Also problematic is the number of significant chemicals that industry either does not have to report on at all—dioxin, for example—or must do so only at an unrealistically high thresholds of activity. Many persistent toxic chemicals are subject to the

same threshold reporting requirements, as chemicals of far less concern.

Currently, a facility must file TRI reports if it has ten or more full-time employees or equivalent and manufactures or processes at least 25,000 pounds of listed chemicals or otherwise uses at least 10,000 pounds of the chemicals. Under this regime,



releases exempt from reporting include mercury released from power plants, dioxin emissions from waste combustors, and heavy metal leachate from mine tailing dumps.

Also on the down side of the proposal, EPA has proposed reporting loopholes for hydroelectric, nuclear power, and natural gas facilities, power-generating facilities, and coal extraction activities (but not ore processing activities).

EPA requested public comments on whether the extraction exemption should apply to metal mining as well.

At the Chicago public hearing, representatives from the Grand Cal Task Force, Illinois Public Interest Research Group, the Chicago Chapter of the American Lung Association, and Great Lakes United all encouraged EPA to close the identified loopholes and expand the list of industries required to report.

Great Lakes United's testimony noted that requiring dioxin emissions reporting from all suspected sources—including iron sintering plants, incinerators, chemical plants, and fossil fuel burning power plants—would increase the amount of available data on dioxin emissions both locally and nation-

ally, while also providing community residents with more details on dioxin emissions in their communities. One of the biggest weaknesses of the recent EPA dioxin assessment was its lack of data on dioxin emissions from chemical plants and other manufacturing facilities that burn waste on-site.

Industries represented at the hearing included small chemical distributors who objected to being required to report. They said that reporting would impose a significant economic burden on them, and that they merely repackaged chemicals for redistribution, instead of either manufacturing, using, or processing toxic chemicals.

Also objecting to EPA's proposal was a representative of Safety-Kleen, a large solvent recycling and fuel blender that supplies cement plants with hazardous waste to burn. Safety-Kleen took the position that requiring it to report would potentially provide an inaccurate picture of releases in a community, since the manufacturer who sent its waste to Safety-Kleen would be required to report it, and then Safety-Kleen would have to report it again when it released a portion to the environment and shipped it off-site.

This argument neglects the fundamental premise underlying the right-to-know program, which is that community members should have accurate information about what harmful substances are being released in their communities as a first step towards being able to work to reduce or eliminate those releases.

For the future, EPA is considering establishing different thresholds for toxic substances that are persistent (long-lived) and bioaccumulative (that is, build up in the food chain). EPA might also require reporting on chemical use rather than simply chemical release. This would make it possible to target industries with citizen campaigns encouraging them to use nontoxic substitute chemicals or to move toward entirely nontoxic processes.

GLU will continue to encourage EPA to expand the TRI program to provide citizens with more meaningful tools to eliminate toxic releases and to increase clean production activities around the Great Lakes Basin.

Groundbreaking report by Commoner group Great Lakes dioxin sources, solutions

by Scott Sederstrom

A stronger economy, a healthier community, and a cleaner Great Lakes is entirely possible if major sources of dioxin are eliminated in favor of cleaner alternative technologies.

This is the major finding of three reports prepared by Dr. Barry Commoner and the Center for the Biology of Natural Systems at Queens College in New York City.

The reports are the culmination of a two-year research project conducted by CBNS with support from the Joyce Foundation. The first, released in May 1995, was "Quantitative Estimation of the Entry of Dioxins, Furans, and Hexachlorobenzene into the Great Lakes from Airborne and Waterborne Sources."

This June the organization followed up with "Zeroing Out Dioxin in the Great Lakes: Within Our Reach," an economic analysis of technologies that specific industries could use to produce their respective goods without creating long-lived toxic pollutants.

In June the center also released a summary of the two reports, "Dioxin Fallout in the Great Lakes: Where It Comes From, How to Prevent It, At What Cost."

Dioxin facts

Dioxin is the ultratoxic byproduct of industrial uses of chlorine. Omnipresent in air, water, soil, and food, particularly in beef and dairy products, our daily intake of dioxin and dioxinlike chemicals creates a lifetime cancer risk that is five hundred to a thousand times greater than the official, "acceptable" risk of one in a million. Exposures close to this level in pregnant women can lead to birth defects, disrupted sexual development, and damage to the nervous and immune systems of the children exposed in the womb.

Like other creatures at the top of the food chain—eagles and mink, for example—we humans gain large concentrations of dioxin in our bodies because the substance tends to be stored in the tissues of the animal products we eat—and then in our own fatty tissues. There exists no natural mechanism for eliminating dioxin from tissue, so it builds up over time. This process is called bioaccumulation.

It has long been known that widespread

reproductive and developmental disruption to wildlife in the Great Lakes is attributable to long-lived toxic chemicals such as dioxin. The substantial body of scientific evidence on this point provides the foundation for the recommendation by a U.S.-Canada treaty organization, the International Joint Commission, that the use and release of "persistent" toxic substances be phased out. In particular, the IJC recommended the phaseout, or "sunsetting," of industrial uses of chlorine in the Great Lakes.

The IJC recommendation embodies a preventive strategy for dealing with dioxin—eliminate it by making certain that it is not created. Current regulatory efforts by the U.S. and Canadian governments attempt to control pollution, allowing dioxin to be created and then attempting to control it with pollution control equipment.

Unfortunately, the IJC has not been heeded. Neither corporations nor the federal governments have taken any substantial steps to eliminate dioxin releases. The CBNS reports demonstrate that we can not only identify the major sources of dioxin in the Great Lakes, but that we can eliminate many of them with minimal economic disruption, sometimes even with job creation.

Air sources

The CBNS reports comprehensively highlight for the first time the dangers of dioxin and the alternative technologies that can avoid its creation. First CBNS examined the two most important routes for dioxin releases to the Great Lakes: indirect discharges from the air and direct discharges into water by industrial facilities and pulp and paper plants.

The center identified 1,329 possible air sources of dioxin to the Great Lakes, including incinerators of hazardous chemicals, sewage sludge, and municipal solid or medical waste; cement kilns that burn hazardous wastes; copper smelters; coal- or wood-burning furnaces; iron sintering plants; heavy-duty diesel vehicles; and gasoline-fueled cars and trucks. What these sources have in common is that they combust material and that there is chlorine in the fuel or material being burned.

Using computer air modeling and emissions information on the 1,329 possible dioxin sources, CBNS determined that:

- ✦ Incineration of medical and municipal waste is responsible for the largest amount of dioxin in the Great Lakes. Medical waste incinerators contribute 48 percent of the total dioxin, municipal waste incineration 22 percent.
- ✦ Hazardous-waste-burning cement kilns and iron ore sintering plants each contribute 8 percent of the total dioxin loading to the Great Lakes environment.
- ✦ Only 106 of the 1,329 possible sources are responsible for 85 percent of the dioxin deposition in the Great Lakes. These 106 sources include incinerators located in the Great Lakes region, but also municipal incinerators located as far away as Florida and Utah.

Medical waste incinerators

According to CBNS, as of 1995 there were 609 hospital and 14 commercial medical waste incinerators in operation in the Great Lakes region. These facilities emit large amounts of dioxin because their waste stream contains high amounts of chlorinated plastic, particularly polyvinyl chloride (for more detail on medical waste incinerators, see the article elsewhere in this issue).

About 85 percent of the total medical waste stream consists of the paper, food, and the like that comprises typical household waste. Just 15 percent of medical waste stream is the infectious waste that requires special handling. Under U.S. regulations, this material must be sterilized before disposal. Many hospitals commingle the two waste streams and burn them in the same incinerator.

Separating the two kinds of waste would allow hospitals to recycle or landfill regular waste and sterilize the "infectious" waste in autoclaves, machines that use high-temperature steam to destroy all living things. Pathological waste, which consists of surgically removed tissue, amounts to only 0.3 percent of the medical waste stream and would continue to be incinerated.

Shifting waste disposal from incinerators

CLEAN PRODUCTION TASK FORCE

to autoclaves would increase hospital costs by about sixty cents per patient per day. If required to move to use autoclaves, commercial medical waste handlers would see only a 12 percent increase in costs.

Municipal waste incinerators

Conducting "intensive" recycling could drastically reduce the need for the fifty municipal waste incinerators currently operating in the Great Lakes ecosystem and virtually end the dioxin emissions coming from this source.

Intensive recycling, which is designed to collect the maximum amount of recyclable material from waste, can convert almost 85 percent of the residential waste stream into marketable paper, metal, glass, and compost, according to pilot studies conducted by CBNS. Shifting from incineration to intensive recycling would generate a net revenue of \$536 million per year for Great Lakes communities, according to the center. The money would come from the combination of selling the recycled materials and avoiding incinerator tipping fees.

The move would also create jobs. Studies by CBNS and the Institute for Local Self-Reliance indicate that the Great Lakes region could expect to create an additional 6,100 collection and processing jobs. Use of recycled materials by regional manufacturing firms would sustain 21,000 more jobs. Closing the incinerators would cost 2,500 jobs.

Iron sintering plants

Iron sintering is one of the component processes in steel production by blast furnaces and a likely source of dioxin. Powdered iron ore is not usable in a blast furnace; it tends to compact and impede the gas flow necessary for steel production. Iron sintering combines powdered ore and powdered coal or coke in a furnace, turning the powdered iron into a lumpy agglomerate usable in blast furnaces. There has been no dioxin testing of North American sintering plants, but data from Germany indicates that all of the German sintering plants emit dioxin.

CBNS found that eliminating chlorinated solvents and chlorinated oils—with the exception of extreme-pressure lubricants—could to a large extent eliminate dioxin emissions without an undue increase in costs. However, the center notes that there is a need to comprehensively survey the impact of current sintering plant operating practices on dioxin emissions. This would be a first step towards

devising remedial measures for preventing dioxin emissions.

Cement kilns

Cement is manufactured by heating limestone and other raw materials to approximately 1,500 degrees Centigrade. As of 1993, nine facilities in the Great Lakes states and Ontario burned hazardous waste to heat the raw materials. Rather than pay for the fuel, the cement companies receive money for accepting the hazardous waste.

Eliminating dioxin releases from cement kilns that burn hazardous waste means eliminating the use of hazardous waste as fuel. CBNS estimates that eliminating hazardous waste burning by cement plants and substituting coal as the primary fuel would increase the price of cement by 4 percent.

Water sources

Water sources of dioxin in the Great Lakes environment include pulp and paper plants, sewage treatment facilities, and chemical manufacturing plants that discharge dioxin-contaminated wastewaters directly into the Great Lakes or into waterways that flow into the Great Lakes. Dioxin is also released into the lakes from leaky contaminated sites, and from contaminated sediments deposited into the lakes in years past. Lakes Ontario and Erie, in particular, receive an unestimated amount of dioxin from contaminated sites. In the other lakes, waterborne dioxin sources are estimated to be about four to seven times less than the amount that reaches the lakes from the air. Because of the difficulty estimating all waterborne sources of dioxin in the Great Lakes, the reports focus on the contribution of the pulp and paper industry.

The CBNS reports identify the use of chlorine as a bleaching agent in pulp and paper plants as a major source of dioxin. Historically the industry has used chlorine gas, commonly called elemental chlorine, to bleach pulp so that the resulting paper will have the level of whiteness desired by the paper industry without at the same time weakening it so that it cannot be run on certain demanding presses.

As a result of litigation and regulatory initiatives, in recent years the pulp and paper industry has begun replacing elemental chlorine bleaching with chlorine dioxide bleaching technologies, often referred to as elementally chlorine-free (ECF) bleaching. The change to ECF production reduces dioxin releases by 60 to 80 percent, according to the U.S. Envi-

ronmental Protection Agency. Other chlorinated compounds also continue to be released when pulp is bleached with chlorine dioxide.

Complete elimination of dioxin emissions from these plants can be achieved through the use of totally chlorine-free (TCF) bleaching technologies. Because TCF processes eliminate the use of all chlorinated compounds, pulp and paper dioxin releases can also be largely eliminated (some dioxin exists in recycled paper raw materials as well as in most mill water supplies).

The reports identify ten Great Lakes pulp and paper mills that produce pulp and paper from wood, and an additional ten that produce pulp from recycled paper. CBNS compared the costs associated with converting to TCF manufacturing with three different ECF (chlorine dioxide) processes. The center found that all of the ECF and TCF alternatives result in some increase in the cost of producing pulp, and that the technologies that are most effective in reducing dioxin and other chlorinated toxic chemicals require the largest increases in cost. However, CBNS found no significant cost difference between the cleanest ECF technology and TCF processes.

The center also found that recycling paper without using chlorinated bleaching agents is economically competitive.

Eliminating the sources of major dioxin emissions to the Great Lakes environment can be accomplished with economic benefits to the Great Lakes regional economy. Replacing incineration of municipal waste with intensive recycling and composting; autoclaving medical waste; using totally chlorine-free paper bleaching technology; eliminating chlorinated compounds in steel making; and eliminating the use of hazardous waste as fuel for cement manufacturing—these steps would eliminate much of the dioxin entering the Great Lakes environment while simultaneously adding jobs and revenue.

The CBNS reports demonstrate that the International Joint Commission's phaseout recommendations—particularly its recommendation to phase out chlorine—can be accomplished without major economic disruption.

Now we know what can be done; we must push our governments to do it.

For a copy of any of the reports, see CBNS's Worldwide Web site at www.qc.edu and click on "CBNS," or contact the organization at (718) 670-4180.

— METRO TORONTO AND REGION AOC —

by Y-Lang Nguyen

The International Joint Commission designated Toronto an Area of Concern because of pollution on the city's waterfront. Since then, the AOC boundary has expanded to account for upstream sources that contribute to the waterfront's contamination.

The Metropolitan Toronto and Region AOC boundary now encompasses six tributaries and their watersheds. These are, from west to east, Etobicoke and Mimico creeks, the Humber and Don rivers, Highland Creek, and Rouge River. Use impairments identified by the Metro Remedial Action Plan include degradation of fish and wildlife populations, beach closures, restrictions on fish and wildlife consumption, and dredging activities. The Stage II RAP was released in May 1994.

The goals of the RAP are being implemented with separate plans for the waterfront and for each tributary watershed. Three years ago, the regional conservation authority wrote "40 Steps to a New Don," a strategy to restore the Don River, the most degraded of the six tributaries emptying into the harbor. The strategy works towards implementing projects within and outside of the RAP. A similar plan is now being drafted



for the Humber River. A management plan is guiding Rouge River land use issues within Toronto boundaries. A plan addressing land use in the entire Rouge watershed, home to the largest urban park in Canada, is also in the works.

The Metro Toronto area suffers from the typical infrastructure problems associated with urbanization. An estimated 3.5 million people reside in the Greater Toronto Area, which accounts for much of the 2000-square-kilometre AOC. Combined sewer overflows, stormwater runoff, and sewage treatment are the area's greatest problems. A number of initiatives and demonstration projects are being conducted. Rain barrels

and downspout disconnections, which allow rainwater to flow right to the ground instead of a private drain, are encouraged.

In Etobicoke, perforated stormwater pipes are capturing water and exfiltrating it into the surrounding ground, recharging groundwater flows. In eastern Scarborough, a vortex separator is swirling combined sewage to

separate pollutants from the water.

Not only have the AOC's geographic boundaries changed, but the RAP structure is changing, too. Discussion is currently under way to enlist the Waterfront Regeneration Trust and the metropolitan conservation authority as partners in the RAP. This shift reflects the desire to drive the RAP process and cleanup locally. Municipalities are also being asked to become more involved in the RAP process by encouraging the development of citizen and government partnerships.

Last April, Toronto's City Council voted to restrict some uses of polyvinyl chloride pipe in the city's water and sewer sectors. As the largest single source of chlorine, PVC is the greatest source of dioxin and other toxic emissions known to threaten human health. The decision came after months of debate and an all-night joint City Services Committee and Board of Health meeting. Although the decision does not mark a full victory for PVC opponents, it is the first step towards attaining PVC's eventual phaseout.

The council directed the city to:

- Use only specialized iron pipe or concrete for water lines installed in soils that are contaminated with substances, such as gasoline, that can penetrate plastic or PVC pipe
- Ensure that waste material containing PVC is recycled or landfilled rather than incinerated
- Ask Environment Canada and Industry Canada to ensure that the agreement being negotiated by the federal government and the vinyl industry on its environmental practices includes provisions requiring the industry to fund an independent lifecycle analysis of the health and environmental impacts of PVC-containing products, to use technologies that do not produce emissions, and to use state-of-the-art abatement measures to prevent accidental spills and releases.

In May the council halted a plan for a
continued on page 18



HEALTHY COMMUNITIES TASK FORCE

— BUFFALO RIVERAOC —

by Y-Lang Nguyen

In 1989, a Stage I and II Remedial Action Plan was completed for the Buffalo River Area of Concern, which encompasses the river's last six-mile stretch before it empties into Lake Erie. Impaired uses documented in the RAP include degradation of benthos (bottom-dwelling organisms), habitat loss, and restrictions on fish and wildlife consumption.

In 1995, the Buffalo River was still included on New York State's "Priority Waterbody List" due to extensive toxic contamination of sediments, combined sewer overflows, and groundwater contamination from hazardous waste sites.

Remediation of the Buffalo River has been stalled in part by the complexity of cleanup and in part by lack of funding. Dredging technologies were demonstrated and discussed at a 1992 international symposium held in Buffalo, but no remedial dredging has been carried out due to cost and the pollution problems that come with disturbing contaminated sediments. Dredging resuspends contaminants, creates toxic spoils that need secure disposal, and disturbs bottom and edge habitats.

On land, the 38 identified hazardous waste sites along the Buffalo River pose similar questions about safe removal, disposal, and who will pay.

The Buffalo River RAP is moving forward on two fronts: pollution prevention and habitat restoration. Both initiatives involve working closely with city and county governments and offer Public Advisory Committees around the Basin models for action in AOCs not dependent primarily on top-down funding.

Land use planning

The Friends of the Buffalo River recently completed the "Buffalo River Greenway Plan and Design Guidelines" under contract with the Buffalo Urban Renewal Agency and in close collaboration with Buffalo's Division of Planning.

The greenway plan proposes a riverside trail that links city parks and neighborhoods



to the rest of Buffalo's waterfront. The guidelines propose limits for development on the Buffalo River waterfront that will both make public access possible and help protect water quality and habitat. The plan ties its pollution prevention and river restoration goals into specific land use policies and standards that will guide redevelopment of the Buffalo River waterfront away from the abuses of the past.

A major goal of the design guidelines is to establish an open space corridor along the Buffalo River. The guidelines call for a minimum one-hundred-foot setback from the water's edge for all new development that is not water-dependent, including a minimum fifty-foot vegetated river buffer area of native plants. The guidelines cite biological and engineering studies and recommendations that support these setbacks in terms of minimum efficiencies for stormwater runoff control, pollutant filtering, erosion and flood control, and habitat needs.

The guide-

lines also recommend phaseout or prohibition of certain uses within the Buffalo River waterfront district, including storage, use, or disposal of persistent toxic substances and the "bioaccumulative chemicals of concern" identified in the Great Lakes Initiative.

Buffalo's city government has endorsed the plan and will consider adopting it by fall. For more information contact Julie Rogers-Varland of Friends of the Buffalo River at (716) 882-8414. Habitat rehabilitation

In August 1993, Erie County received a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency grant to enhance fish and wildlife habitat at five urban sites along the Buffalo River. Although the goal is to restore fish and wildlife habitat, the project will also create limited public access to the river.

The project includes planting native species of trees and shrubs, adding overlook platforms, constructing a backwater wetland, and regrooming trails. The plan calls for over \$400,000 to restore habitat and improve shorelines. Negotiations concerning liability, safety, and maintenance issues are now taking place with the city, which owns most of the sites. If all the approvals

continued next page



Task force update: Detroit BPAC gone, factsheets finished

by Y-Lang Nguyen

The Detroit River Binational Public Advisory Committee is no more. In May the BPAC split into a Michigan PAC and an Ontario PAC. The new chair of the Michigan PAC cited as the reason for the split the difficulty in coordinating efforts among Michigan, Ontario, the United States, and Canada, the four jurisdictions overseeing the Detroit River RAP.

The St. Clair and St. Marys BPACs are the only remaining binational PACs.

In New York, the Remedial Action Plans

for the two connecting channels, the Niagara River and St. Lawrence River, have always been developed separately at the insistence of New York State. The number one recommendation of the Niagara River, Ontario, Stage II RAP is the creation of an international RAP.

The split of the Detroit River BPAC is unfortunate. Successful cleanup treats the entire ecosystem and not the bits and pieces determined by political boundaries. What happens on one side of the river will inevitably affect the other. At a time when devel-

oping partnerships is being emphasized, it seems ironic that such a fundamental one is breaking up.

Thirty-four AOC factsheets are now available from Great Lakes United. The factsheets, part of a project financed by the Great Lakes Protection Fund, highlight successful activities and provide updates on Area of Concern developments and other project and campaign activities in AOC communities throughout the Great Lakes Basin. Call the Buffalo office for your set.

... Buffalo River AOC

continued from the previous page

are issued according to schedule, rehabilitation can begin on three of the sites in the fall of 1996. For more information contact Mary Sonntag of the Erie County Department of Environment and Planning at (716) 858-7762.

Other progress

Remediation recently began at the site of Buffalo Color Corp., a nineteen-acre hazardous waste site surrounded on three sides by the Buffalo River. Allied Signal, Inc., the user of the facility from 1905 to 1976, is responsible for the cleanup, which will be overseen by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. The site contains elevated levels of polyaromatic hydrocarbons, chlorinated benzenes, and metals in fill materials. Volatile organic

compounds, chlorinated benzenes, and certain metals are also found in the site's groundwater.

Remediation involves installation of a low-permeability cap over the site, excavation of river sediments adjacent to the site, and collection and treatment of groundwater. A groundwater treatment system has been designed.

The project also includes some habitat restoration components, for example, creation of a shoreline wetland and fish spawning shoals. Allied Signal has agreed to pay the estimated \$8 million cost of the remedy. For more information contact Regional Project Manager Gerald Pietraszek of the Department of Environmental Conservation at (716) 851-7010.

For general information on the Buffalo River Remedial Advisory Committee, contact Barry Boyer, co-chair of the committee, at (716) 645-2052.

... Metro Toronto AOC

continued from page 16

lakefront golf academy (see a brief on the subject elsewhere in this issue). The proposed golf facility would have destroyed habitat identified as an Environmentally Significant Area by the local conservation authority, and erected a seventy-foot-high golf ball net, which could injure or kill migrating birds. The facility might have violated the Migratory Birds Convention Act.

A number of local groups, including Citizens for a Lakeshore Greenway, the Federation of Ontario Naturalists, the Toronto Ornithological Club, the Wildlands League, and the Sierra Legal Defence Fund worked to defeat the proposal. For more information contact the Sierra Legal Defence Fund at (416) 368-7533.

... medical incinerators

continued from page 12

will contain an estimate for dioxin releases from medical waste incinerators almost ten times higher than the amount of releases EPA's pertinent regulations will be designed to control.

In its *Federal Register* notice the Clean Air Office also dramatically lowered its estimate of mercury emissions from medical waste incinerators from 65 tons per year to 16 tons per year.

Much as the AHA requested, EPA has also proposed regulating hospital waste in several separate categories: "hospital" waste (noninfectious materials), "medical" waste ("potentially infectious" waste), and pathological waste (body parts). Under the proposed rule, segregated hospital waste would be regulated under the more stringent municipal solid waste incinerator MACT proposal; medical waste would fall under the proposed medical waste incinerator MACT standards. Pathological waste would be covered by a future separate regulatory proposal.

Environmentalists fear that hospitals with onsite incinerators will be encouraged by the less-stringent (and therefore less expensive) medical waste standards to continue burning all their waste on site, rather than separating out the noninfectious waste, which makes up 85 percent of most hospital the waste streams and contains much of the material that releases long-lived toxic substances when burned.

Great Lakes United joined other environmental groups in issuing comments critical of the EPA proposal.

U.S. Congress passes Safe Drinking Water Act

by Joanne McMullan

On August 6, President Clinton signed into law the Safe Drinking Water Act amendments of 1996.

Only the second piece of environmental legislation passed by the 104th Congress (a pesticide bill completed this spring was the first), the drinking water bill was tied up in debate for almost two years. But with elections coming up, members of Congress were apparently worried about their voting record on clean water. Polls show that Americans care deeply about the issue.

The House of Representatives voted nine times to weaken clean water protections. Before the drinking water vote an appalling 148 members of the House had failed to vote for water protection even once.

The drinking water amendments passed by a unanimous vote in the Senate and by a 392-30 bipartisan majority in the House on

the last day of the legislative session before the summer recess. Environmentalists withdrew support for the bill after the congressional leadership allowed to expire a previously approved \$725 million in state revolving funds for drinking water system improvements. As of now, the money automatically reverts to a sewage treatment fund, which would go to a number of pork barrel projects benefiting selected districts at the expense of areas truly in need of the money.

In terms of environmental health, the bill moves forward in a number of respects. These important provisions include:

- Requiring the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to issue a radon standard for drinking water in three years. Radon is a cancer-causing contaminant
- Requiring annual reports to the public by large municipal water systems regarding

bacteria and pollutants found in tap water and their effect on consumers' health

- A small systems provision that allows flexibility for only those systems that may really need it—those serving fewer than 3,300 people. This provision would encourage and facilitate compliance rather than needlessly waiving public health protection standards.
- Mandating control by municipal water suppliers of some of the most harmful pollutants, such as the cryptosporidium bacterium, which has caused outbreaks of disease in some cities
- Creation of a \$9.6 billion fund for state-administered grants and loans to help localities upgrade their water systems.

Efforts are now being made to recapture the lost state drinking water funding in the EPA budget bill.

'96 annual meeting



Great Lakes United's annual meeting, held June 6-9 in Ann Arbor, Michigan's Concordia College, was as invigorating as usual.

After Thursday and Friday fundraising, Internet, and media training sessions, the meeting got down to business Friday evening with our now-traditional "Hot Spots and Bright Lights" get-together, in which attendees snack while trading stories of success and disappointment and marking their locations on a large map of the Basin.

Toxic chemicals activist Lou Gibbs, of the Virginia-based Citizens Clearinghouse for Hazardous Waste, delivered the keynote address on her vision for environmental activism in coming years. Gibbs, of course, is likely the most well-known Great Lakes environmental activist due to her 1970s efforts to bring the problems of the Niagara Falls, New York, Love Canal waste dump to national attention.

Saturday and Sunday sessions dealt with a discussion of our collective vision for achievement by the year 2020 and seven workshops ranging from sustainable food production to the state of efforts to take toxic chlorine out of pulp and paper production.

Far left, Gibbs leads a workshop on the human health threat from dioxin. Left, United Autoworkers activist and GLU board member Dan Emerson declaims at the "Hot Spots" gathering with board member Brenna Llyed looking on. Above right, Great Lakes United President John Jackson presents GLU cofounder and Great Lakes eminence gris Ler Bots with Great Lakes United's newly inaugurated John Manty Memorial Award, established in honor of the beloved late Lake Superior activist, who died early this year.



Photo: Bob Manning

Great Lakes U.S. House Environment Voting Records

Legislator	Clean water (HR 961)	EPA protections (Vote 1605)	Forest protection (Vote 2262)	Environment safeguards (HR 9)	Endangered species (Vote 2005)	Score (%)
Illinois						
Collins (D)	—	▲	▲	—	▲	60
Crane (R)	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗	0
Ewing (R)	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗	0
Fawell (R)	⊗	▲	▲	⊗	⊗	40
Flanagan (R)	⊗	⊗	▲	⊗	⊗	20
Gutierrez (D)	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	100
Hyde (R)	⊗	⊗	—	⊗	⊗	0
Jackson (D)	≈	≈	▲	≈	▲	100
Lipinski (D)	—	▲	⊗	▲	▲	60
Porter (R)	▲	▲	▲	▲	⊗	80
Reynolds (D)	▲	—	≈	▲	≈	66
Rush (D)	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	100
Weller (R)	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗	0
Yates (D)	▲	—	▲	▲	▲	80
Indiana						
Visclosky (D)	▲	▲	▲	▲	—	80
Michigan						
Barcla (D)	⊗	▲	⊗	⊗	▲	40
Bonior (D)	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	100
Camp (R)	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗	0
Chrysler (R)	⊗	⊗	▼	⊗	⊗	20
Collins (D)	▲	▲	▲	—	▲	80
Conyers (D)	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	100
Dingell (D)	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	100
Ehlers (R)	▲	▲	▲	⊗	⊗	60
Hoekstra (R)	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗	0
Kildee (D)	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	100
Knollenberg (R)	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗	0
Levin (D)	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	100
Rivers (D)	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	100
Smith (R)	⊗	⊗	▲	⊗	⊗	20
Stupak (D)	▲	▲	⊗	⊗	▲	40
Upton (R)	⊗	▲	▲	⊗	⊗	40

▲ = a vote favoring environmental protection. ⊗ = a vote against environmental protection. — = missed the vote. ≈ = not a member of Congress at the time.

Chart derived from the Sierra Club Web site at www.sierraclub.org/politics. HR 961 would have amended the Clean Water Act to ease pollution restrictions and remove protection from half the nation's wetlands. Vote 1605 would have restored U.S. Environmental Protection Agency powers removed in an EPA funding bill. Vote 2262 would have ended the "logging without laws" rider passed as part of the 1995 budget bill. HR 9 contained extensive new restrictions on environmental protection programs. Vote 2005 would have banned new endangered species listings and stripped away some existing protections.

Minnesota						
Gutknecht (R)	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗	0
Luther (D)	♣	♣	♣	♣	♣	100
Minge (D)	♣	⊗	♣	⊗	♣	60
Oberstar (D)	♣	♣	⊗	♣	♣	80
Peterson (D)	⊗	⊗	♣	⊗	♣	40
Ramstad (R)	♣	♣	—	⊗	⊗	40
Sabo (D)	♣	♣	♣	♣	♣	100
Vento (D)	♣	♣	♣	♣	♣	100
New York						
Boehlert (R)	♣	♣	♣	♣	⊗	80
Houghton (R)	⊗	♣	—	⊗	⊗	20
LaFalce (D)	♣	♣	♣	♣	♣	100
McHugh (R)	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗	0
Paxon (R)	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗	0
Quinn (R)	⊗	♣	♣	⊗	⊗	40
Slaughter (D)	♣	♣	♣	♣	♣	100
Solomon (R)	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗	0
Walsh (R)	⊗	⊗	♣	⊗	⊗	20
Ohio						
Brown (D)	♣	♣	♣	♣	♣	100
Gillmor (R)	⊗	♣	⊗	⊗	⊗	20
Hoke (R)	⊗	—	⊗	⊗	—	0
Kaptur (D)	♣	♣	♣	♣	♣	100
Latourrette (R)	⊗	♣	⊗	⊗	⊗	20
Sawyer (D)	♣	♣	♣	♣	♣	100
Stokes (D)	♣	♣	♣	♣	♣	100
Pennsylvania						
Clinger (R)	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗	0
Coyne (D)	♣	♣	♣	♣	♣	100
Doyle (D)	⊗	♣	⊗	⊗	⊗	20
English (R)	⊗	♣	⊗	⊗	⊗	20
Klink (D)	⊗	♣	⊗	♣	♣	60
Wisconsin						
Barret (D)	♣	♣	♣	♣	♣	100
Gunderson (R)	♣	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗	20
Klecza (D)	—	♣	♣	♣	♣	80
Klug (R)	♣	♣	♣	⊗	⊗	60
Neumann (R)	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗	0
Obey (D)	♣	♣	♣	♣	♣	100
Petri (R)	♣	⊗	♣	⊗	⊗	40
Roth (R)	⊗	⊗	—	⊗	⊗	0
Sensenbrenner (R)	♣	⊗	♣	⊗	⊗	40

GREAT LAKES BRIEFS

House and Senate hearings on Minnesota's **Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness** and **Voyageurs National Park** were held in mid-July. The hearings went well for pro-wilderness citizens opposing the proposed legislation of Rep. Jim Oberstar (D-Minnesota) and Sen. Rod Grams (R-Minnesota), which would open protected areas to motorized vehicles and turn over management of the land to a council controlled by "anti-conservation" forces.



Michael Furman

The Senate hearings went particularly well, partly due to Grams's baldly political attempt to use the issue to attack Sen. Paul Wellstone (D-Minnesota), who is up for reelection this year. Three days after Grams announced his legislation, the Republican Party began a \$1 million media campaign characterizing Wellstone as unresponsive to local concerns and a dupe of environmentalists and Washington for wanting to keep these public lands public.

With their colleagues unenthusiastic about changing the status of the areas, Grams and Oberstar are looking for other ways to have their bills considered. Grams says he'll attach his bill to "suitable" legislation in the fall. Oberstar redrafted his bill to give the appearance of compromise. For more information contact the Minnesota Parks and Wilderness Coalition at (612) 223-5969.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is establishing new **water quality standards** that will apply to all of the surface waters, including wetlands in the state of **Pennsylvania**.

The Raymond Profitt Foundation sued

the agency to force it to propose the rules because of the slow pace of Pennsylvania's water quality standard-setting.

EPA will hold a public hearing on the proposed standards on October 16, 1996, in Harrisburg, and will accept written comments until that time.

For more information on the hearing, call Evelyn MacKnight at (800) 438-2474 by October 11. For more information on the suit and the citizen perspective on the standards, contact John Wilmer at the Raymond Profitt Foundation, (610) 565-2736, rpf@prc.org.

Lots of action in **Ontario's forests**. The Ministry of Natural Resources has admitted that it will soon seek exemption from the requirements of the Class Environmental Assessment on Timber Management. The MNR is already out of compliance with this legally binding decision (they have not set up regional advisory committees, the provincial technical and policy committees are not meeting, no old-growth guidelines have been developed, and guidelines for preserving the pileated woodpecker and marten have not been released) and it looks like they will try to have part or most of its teeth removed before the job of looking after the forests is handed over to industry.

The Canadian Standards Association's sustainable **forests "certification"** scheme is moving toward finalization this fall. This industry-backed standard will be used to try and convince the public in North America and abroad that all companies carrying the CSA Sustainable Forest Management logo are managing their forests in a sustainable manner. Unfortunately the CSA system does not require the measurement of performance in the woods—bad companies will be approved along with the good.

The Ontario MNR says it will release its **protected areas action plan** in September. Finally the public will be able to see how the ministry plans to meet its commitments to protect wilderness under the Endangered Spaces Campaign.

The Ontario government has released its long-awaited **Temagami land-use**

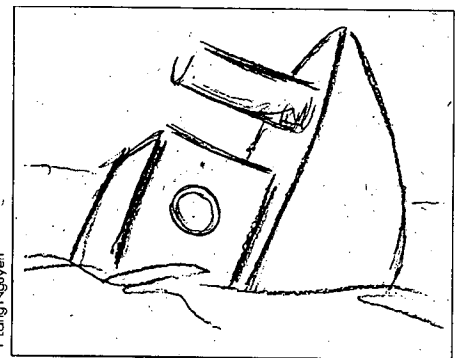
decision, and it is a nightmare. Minister of Natural Resources Chris Hodgson has given the go-ahead to mining, logging, and road building in sensitive areas. Mine staking will be permitted in these areas beginning in September.

The decision rejects the recommendations of a local advisory committee, the Comprehensive Planning Council, a body of teachers, local businesspeople, and residents that spent six years reaching the conclusion that sensitive wild lake and river areas to the north of Lady Evelyn Wilderness Park should be protected from the impacts of mining and logging.

A February poll by the Environics company found that 81 percent of Ontarians and 67 percent of northern Ontarians support protecting wild areas, even if it means less mining, logging, and urban expansion.

"This decision is short-sighted and will prove to be bad for business in Ontario," said Tim Gray, executive director of the Wildlands League.

For more information contact the league at (416) 971-9453.



Y. Long Nguyen

In late July a three-hundred-member team of international experts managed to safely lift the oil- and PCB-laden **Irving Whale** from its 220-foot-deep resting place in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. The ship sank in a storm twenty-six years ago.

Basin environmentalists had urged Canadian authorities to pump out the ship's toxic cargo before lifting it, because the ship might have broken apart during the salvage operation, severely polluting the area.

The ship contained 7.2 tons of heating fluid laced with PCBs and about 3,100 tons

GREAT LAKES BRIEFS

of oil, after leaking 1,000 tons over the last quarter century.

Release of the ship's cargo threatened the region's shellfish industry and the beaches of Prince Edward Island.

For the second time in a dozen years the Ontario government has imposed a **communal fishing license**—a limit on annual fish catch—on the **Chippewas of Nawash**, who live on the Bruce Peninsula of Lake Huron. In 1993 an Ontario court declared a 1984 provincial communal licence unconstitutional. The court said that it was an illegal restriction of the band's aboriginal and treaty rights to fish commercially in the waters up to seven miles off the shoreline of the Bruce Peninsula.

Coincidentally, in May the Chippewas of Nawash implemented bylaw 13-96, which has the effect of federal law and enables the Chippewas to regulate its fishermen in reserve waters. For more information contact the Chippewas of Nawash at (519) 534-5133.

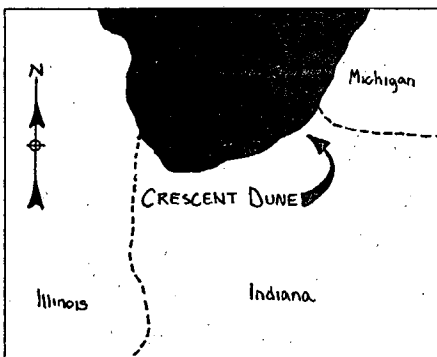
In early May, **New York Gov. George Pataki** announced that the state was purchasing **Woodlawn Beach**, a ninety-three-acre site on Lake Erie just three miles south of downtown Buffalo.

The 4,000-foot-long, naturally sloping, sandy stretch of shoreline was a popular swimming and boating area in the early 1900s, when it also had a penny arcade and a roller coaster. Despite twenty-eight miles of lake and river shore within the city limits, Buffalo does not have a single beach area.

The state will pay \$6.3 million for the property and spend \$5 million to develop it, including taking measures to thwart sewage pollution. The Trust for Public Land negotiated the purchase of the property from the Gateway Trade Center. For more information contact Assemblyman Francis Pordum (D-Hamburg) at (716) 826-1878.

Good news for the **Indian Dunes National Lakeshore**. Congress has approved \$3.7 million to purchase Crescent Dune, a thirty-three-acre dune habitat that

is the last privately owned, undeveloped Lake Michigan shoreline in Indiana. The half-mile-long shoreline on the eastern end of the park boundaries is adjacent to Mt. Baldy, which is already part of the park.



The Save the Dunes Council went to Washington, D.C., last month to lobby for the land acquisition money. They were told that while a number of legislators fully supported the Indiana Dunes park, Congress would never approve more than 10 percent of the National Park Service land acquisition budget (\$35 million) for one parcel of expensive land.

The council first proposed the addition of Crescent Dune to the national lakeshore in 1971. In past twenty-five years, the council has fought Interior Secretary James Watts, who dismissed a lawsuit to force acquisition of the land, sued the federal government to force acquisition (losing in the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals in 1989), fought the owner (a utility company) over plans to develop townhouses on the land, and convinced Congressman Peter Visclosky (D-Indiana) to reverse his support from the utility development plan in favor of protection. Beginning in 1992, the council tried to build support for funding acquisition of the parcel. Fantastic work.

For more information contact the Save the Dunes Council, at (219) 879-3937.

The **Wisconsin forest biodiversity bill** became law this month. The result of nearly two years of negotiation among environmental groups, industry, and

state agencies, the new law makes preserving "native biological diversity" one of the purposes of state forest management.

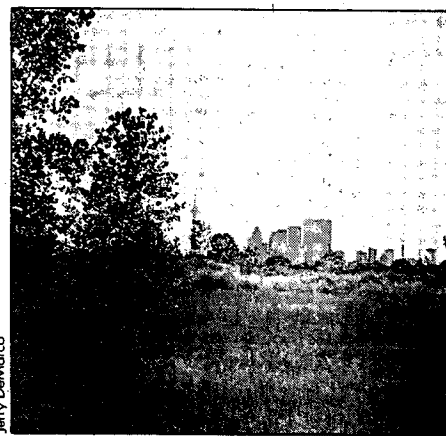
The law requires that actions taken by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources are consistent with the "long-term maintenance of sustainable forest communities and ecosystems."

However, it is unclear to what extent biodiversity will be protected by the bill; it will be up to the forest planning process to determine how much of the forests will be available for the various "uses" that conflict with maintaining diversity.

For a copy of the law, contact Walter Kuhlmann, a Madison attorney who worked on the law on behalf of environmental interests, at (608) 257-9521 or wkuhlma@bscf.com.

An internationally recognized **migratory bird** corridor was saved from powerful **Toronto** development pressures when the City Council halted a plan to build a golf academy on the site.

The proposed nineteen-acre driving range, putting area, clubhouse, and parking facility had been planned for the base of the five-kilometre-long Leslie Street Spit peninsula, host to more than 290 species of



birds, including such 1996 rarities as the American white pelican, the yellow-crowned night heron, and the great grey owl. The south end of the spit is home to large colonies of double-crested cormorants (936 nests counted this year) and black-crowned night

GREAT LAKES BRIEFS

herons (1,233 nests) as well as terns and gulls. The spit also hosts one of the only known coyote denning sites in the city.

Groups objecting to the siting included Citizens for a Lakeshore Greenway, the Federation of Ontario Naturalists, Friends of the Spit, Toronto Field Naturalists, the Toronto Ornithological Club, the Wildlands League, and Sierra Legal Defence Fund. For more information contact Sierra Legal Defence at (416) 368-7533.

How about this for a new line of work: **raising old-growth logs** from the bottom of Lake Superior.

People are doing it in Wisconsin, according to the Washington Post. A 1992 state law gives ownership of sunken logs to whoever can recover them. It seems tens of thousands of perfectly preserved logs lie in the lake bottom, and they are very valuable. The logs were lost during the first wave of logging in the region around a hundred years ago. At that time the cheapest way to move them was usually to put them in the water and float them downstream.

The high-quality timber has spawned several "value-added" woodworking and sawmill operations in Wisconsin. One entrepreneur, Scott Mitchen of Ashland, Wisconsin, plans to raise thirty thousand logs from the lake and mill them in his own sawmill.

According to a July article in Britain's Financial Times, officials at the **World Trade Organization** in Geneva are accusing the United States of "refusing to play a constructive role" in the WTO's trade and environment committee, possibly preventing any important recommendations in time for the WTO's first ministerial meeting in Singapore this December.

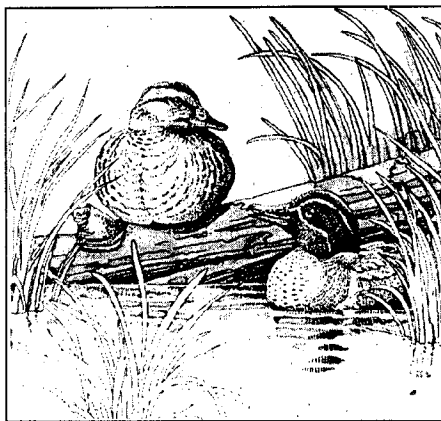
The committee is charged with "looking at the relationship between international trade rules and environmental measures" and to see if WTO rules need amending as a result. The committee's areas of investigation includes the handling of WTO disputes that arise from the trade provisions of multilateral environmental agreements such as NAFTA, and how to make sure that envi-

ronmental measures like packaging requirements and "ecolabelling"—for example, mandating notices of relative recyclability—are compatible with international trade rules.

After two years of discussions, according to trade officials, talks had gotten nowhere because "the U.S. is proposing nothing and systematically trashing everyone else's proposals," according to one official.

In 1994, the United States was one of the strongest advocates of establishing the committee, which must be reestablished by ministers in Singapore. So far, no one has said that the committee should be discontinued, but some developing countries are known to want to turn the committee toward investigation of sustainable development.

The Great Lakes **Aquatic Habitat Fund** wants to support grassroots initiatives by individuals or organizations working to protect U.S. or Canadian habitats in the Great Lakes Basin. Application forms are now available and must be postmarked by September 30, 1996. Grant awards, will



range between US\$500 and US\$3,500, will be decided by November 15, 1996. This year the fund will consider applications for:

- Protecting Great Lakes shorelines, inland lakes, rivers, streams, wetland, and other aquatic habitats that serve as important biological areas, or areas that are critical to the functioning of important aquatic habitats.
- Restoring aquatic habitats in ways that provide opportunities for hands-on citi-

zen involvement.

- Promoting land use decisions that protect aquatic habitats and biological diversity.
- Capacity-building of grassroots organizations that work to protect and restore aquatic habitats.
- Demonstrating or researching the economic and social advantages of preserving and restoring aquatic habitats.

For more information contact the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council at (616) 347-1181.

Ontario Prime Minister Mike Harris has appointed Norman Sterling (PC-Ottawa) to lead the **Ontario Ministry of Environment and Energy**. In the process Harris upgraded the position by granting Sterling a seat on the Policy and Priorities Board, the inner cabinet that sets the government's agenda.

The Toronto *Globe and Mail* quoted Harris as assuring Ontarians that "protecting the environment for future generations ranks equally with us as the fiscal situation for future generations," possibly signaling a lessening of the harsh budget cuts currently in progress at the ministry.

Sterling, who had been head of the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations, replaced Brenda Elliott, who was not given another portfolio.

At an August public hearing Great Lakes United urged the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to implement the most comprehensive of thirteen options to clean up **DuPont Corp.'s** Necco Park toxic dump in **Niagara Falls, New York**.

The company discharged over 185 million pounds of liquid and solid toxic waste into the twenty-four-acre site from 1930 to 1977, including chlorinated compounds such as carbon tetrachloride, PCE, TCE, hexachlorobenzene, chloroform, and methylene chloride, as well as fly ash, barium, and other process wastes.

The site is 1.5 miles from the Niagara River, which is a source of drinking water for over 1 million people. Contaminated

Durnil to speak at Great Lakes United fundraiser

Announcing Great Lakes United's first high-powered fundraiser!

Gordon Durnil, the International Joint Commission's ground-breaking U.S. section chairman from 1989 to 1994, has generously agreed to speak at a \$100-a-plate fundraising dinner for Great Lakes United.

The date is Friday, November 15; the place is the Hyatt Hotel in our headquarters city of Buffalo, New York.

During his tenure at the IJC, a watchdog organization reporting on border-related water issues to the United States and Canada, Durnil achieved international recognition and kudos from Basin environmentalists for his advocacy of strong stands on a range of Great Lakes issues.

Most significant was the commis-

sion's support for sunseting classes of persistent toxic substances that are contaminating the Great Lakes. The IJC's call for the phaseout of the use of chlorine was a critical spur to regional and international efforts targeting groups of problem substances.

In 1994 Durnil received the prestigious National Wildlife Federation Conservation Achievement Award.

Durnil is the author of *The Making of a Conservative Environmentalist*, a 1995 book that received high praise from the *New York Times* and other national newspapers for its enunciation of conservative environmental principles.

Great Lakes United will also



AN T. ZIMMERMAN, United Nations

present lifetime achievement awards to a U.S. and a Canadian activist from the Niagara region.

We hope to make this an annual event that takes place in different cities around the Basin.

GREAT LAKES BRIEFS

groundwater from the site is moving towards the Niagara River through both the present aquifer and, during heavy precipitation, manmade tunnels.

The remediation option under consideration by EPA, estimated to cost \$53 million, would substantially clean up the site itself, but leave the "far-field" area of spreading contamination uncontained. The most comprehensive cleanup option listed by EPA, estimated to cost \$96 million, would do a much better job of containing the migration of far-field contaminated groundwater, but total cleanup would still be incomplete. GLU urged the adoption of the most comprehensive option as a good starting point.

New York Gov. George Pataki's \$1.75 billion "Clean Water, Clean Air" bond act has been approved by the state legislature and awaits voter approval in November. The act has the support of both business and environmental interests, but is being criticized by New York State Assembly Majority Leader Michael Bregman as an inappropriate use of bond monies.

The largest portion of the proposed funding, \$625 million, would be earmarked for clean-water improvements, including improvements in municipal sewage treatment and protection of open spaces. The open space provision is designed primarily to protect New York City's upstate watershed by controlling nonpoint sources of contamination such as agricultural runoff.

The next largest portion of the bond money, \$355 million, would be spent on improvement of drinking-water systems.

The bond would provide \$25 million for municipalities to improve water quality by reducing toxic pollution and eutrophication, excess plant growth that robs the water of oxygen. The money will help implement Great Lakes programs written in accordance with the 1990 Federal Great Lakes Critical Programs Act and the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement.

The bond act provides \$200 million for renovating mildly polluted abandoned industrial sites, or "brownfields." After arm-twisting by environmentalists the administration revised the act to require that cleanup standards be consistent with those

of the state Superfund law.

The bond act includes \$175 million for solid waste management, including recycling programs, solid waste disposal in the Adirondacks, and the closing of the notorious Fresh Kills landfill on Staten Island.

Perhaps most interestingly, the act provides \$100 million for the development of "clean technologies," including the possible development of a state-based electric car industry and creation of a strategy for the most efficient use of electric vehicles.

In the same neck of the woods, after a furious community campaign the U.S. Department of Energy recently decided against attempting to store **radioactive waste** at a dump in **Tonawanda, New York**, near Buffalo. The department has promised to remove some of the waste, but has not yet committed to a complete cleanup. For more information contact For a Clean Tonawanda Site at (716) 876-9552.

Great Lakes briefs written by GLU staff. New York bond act brief written by GLU intern Rachel Broncato.

Great Lakes United

margaret wooster
executive director
stéphane gingras
field coordinator (montreal office)
scott sederstrom
field coordinator (chicago office)
david mahony
regional coordinator
reg gilbert
communications coordinator
libby jewett
development coordinator
donna zellner neal
administrative coordinator
maureen boellig
research assistant
barbara wallenborn
administrative assistant

GLU's nonexecutive staff is represented by
United Auto Workers Local 55, Buffalo, New York

✶

volunteers

paula berkowski
rachel brancato
henry goldman
billy martin
joanne mcneill
sue pfleger
mary wahl

✶

main office

buffalo state college, calsary hall
1300 elwood ave., buffalo, new york 14222
(716) 886-0142, (716) 886-0303 (fax)
glu@glu.org

montreal office

2360 rue notre dame o. #307
montreal, quebec h3j 1n4
(514) 933-0262, (514) 931-1926 (fax)
singer@book.net

chicago office

407 s. dearborn #1775, chicago, illinois 60605
(312) 922-3567, (312) 939-2536 (fax)
sederstrom@glu.org

✶

funded by grants from the
joyce foundation
and the

charles stewart mott foundation

the views expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors.
they do not necessarily reflect the views of
the founders, their offices or trustees

✶

printed on biodegradable recycled paper
50% post-consumer, 50% pre-printing recycled paper
not including white address

BUFFALO OFFICE NOTES

by Libby Jewett

Great Lakes United wishes farewell to its former executive director, Burkhard Mausberg, who left the organization in July. Of German origins, Burkhard lived in Toronto for many years before assuming leadership of Great Lakes United in late 1994. He took over at a difficult time in GLU's history put the organization into much improved financial and programmatic shape. But Toronto friends and family beckoned and Burkhard decided to return home. Great Lakes United wishes him luck.

Also departed is Y-Lang Nguyen, GLU's field coordinator for Area of Concern issues. A fine organizer, writer, and artist, Y-Lang decided to pursue a master's degree in classical literature at Boston University this fall. No doubt the gods will look favorably on the effort. Thanks for everything, Y-Lang.



New leadership

On the brighter side, however, we have a new executive director—Margaret Wooster, a Buffalo River activist and professional urban planner. Wooster is president of the Friends of the Buffalo River and is a consultant in the development of design guidelines for the Buffalo waterfront. She holds a masters degree in urban planning and a doctorate in English literature. Good luck, Margaret!

New donors and members

We have also gained a number of supporters this past quarter. We would like to welcome to the GLU family those who have donated

money to organization since April:

American Federation of Government Employees, Kathleen Barber, Luther Blount, Ruth Bradley, Jan Conley, Martin Cooperman, Lois Corbett, Robert and Catherine Downey, John Fera, Brian Gibson, Terry Kinzel, Margaret Lush, Burkhard Mausberg, Janet May, the M. A. Mott Foundation, Josephine Murray, Edward Neal, Chris Neurath, New York State CAP Council, Philip Niswender, Ruth Niswender, Memo Oshai, Charles Patton, Edward Pleva, Ulysses Pratas, Camilla Smith, Margaret Talboys, and Joe Van Volkenburg.

Thank you all for your generosity.

We would also like to welcome our new members this quarter:

Madelynn Arana, Fred Arney, Bay Area Restoration Council, Robert Beck, Carla Bernaschi, Blackrock Audubon Society, Catharine Blair, James Boehlke, Thomas Bowers, Susan Bryant, Paul Bubelis, Hellen (Gilly) Burlingham, Cannon River Watershed Partnership, Inc., Gary Carrel, Rick Chianelli, Margaret Ciccone, Colleen Clarke, Frank Cole, Agnes DeCarlo, James Devald, William Diamond, Joan Doerr, Eve Dowie, Ed Dowrey, Edward and Janice Emerton, Mary Fagan, David Farrugia, John Feeley, Dino Ferrare, Judith Fox, League of Women Voters-Lucas County, Brad Gavin, Ted Gephart, David Gerber, Michael Gerrity, Mark Giese, Max Gloor, Bernard Goldstein, Francine Gougeon, Ursula Grau, Dave Hallock, Ernie Hanna, Raymond Harshorne, Susan Horvath, Wayne Howard, Greg Hromi, Mary Louise Hyde, Eugene Jaworski, David Johnson, Earl Johnson, Vicki Jones, Rebecca Kanner, Kids for Clean Water, Mark and Constance Klocke, Bruce Klesner, Evelyn Kuszak, Sue Kovats-Bell, David Kozak, Dorothy Kristich, Barbara Laird, Larry Le Blond, Lisa Manos, Carolyn Marsh, M. Martin, Clara Maurus, Valjean McLennigan, Miriam Melis, Bill Metzger, Michigan Citizens Against Toxic Substances (MCATS), Cheryl Miller, Marjorie Miller, John and Ruth Morton, John Mould, Sara Noah, Gertrude Nowacki, Michael Payne, Linda and Steven Pedlow, Sylvia Pinkerman, Planetary Productions, Ltd., Tom Potts, Bernice Quigley, Dorothy Radatti, David Randles, Richard Reinhardt, Resurrection High School - Ecology Club, Jeannette Reynolds Keenan, Geraldine Richtland, Katherine Rill, Carl Rothfels, Rose Sabo, Dickie Seife, Joseph Shakowski, Wayne Siddall, Ann Siegel, G. Skerritt, Kathleen Smith, Ron Sonnenberg, Charles and Joan Staples, Eleanor Stark, Sara Talbot, Waukegan Citizens Advisory Group, Waukegan Port District, Nancy Watson Dean, Ralph Walpole, Elizabeth Wood, and Pamela and Keith Woods.

Thanks to you all for joining our collective effort to clean up the Great Lakes.

Responsabilisation des producteurs

par Stéphane Gingras

Depuis le printemps dernier St-Laurent Grands Lacs Unis participe aux audiences publiques sur la gestion des matières résiduelles au Québec. De l'incinération à l'enfouissement en passant par le surconsommation, les audiences ont été déclenché par le ministre de l'environnement afin d'évaluer tous les aspects reliés à la gestion des déchets solides. Allant de ville en ville, les cinq commissaires nommés pour enquêter dans ce dossier ont collecté les commentaires et les questions de la population du Québec.

Nous sommes maintenant dans la phase

de présentation des mémoires. St-Laurent Grands Lacs Unis présente un mémoire sur la responsabilité des producteurs de biens de consommation.

L'idée maîtresse de ce concept est d'accroître la responsabilité des producteurs vis à vis les biens qu'ils mettent en marché. Pour implanter cette idée nous proposons quatre mesures concrètes:

- ✳ L'élargissement de la consigne à tous les contenants de boissons ainsi qu'à d'autre bien comme les appareils électroniques et les produits domestiques dangereux.
- ✳ Une taxation écologique qui ferait la pro-

motion de produits moins toxiques.

- ✳ Un système d'étiquetage rouge, jaune et vert pour les produits domestiques dangereux qui indiquerait la toxicité des produits pour la santé humaine et les écosystèmes.
- ✳ Une version modifiée du système point vert Allemand pour les emballages pour permettre un plus grand recyclage des emballage ainsi qu'une diminution des emballages.

Pour une copie du document, version française seulement svp contactez le bureau de Montréal: (514) 933-0262.

Extended responsibility for consumer-goods makers

by Stéphane Gingras

Since last spring Great Lakes United has been participating in Québec's long-term provincial hearing on solid waste. The hearing has been called by the Québec environment minister to look at every aspect of the solid waste problem, from incineration to landfilling to overconsumption. Going from town to town, five commissioners appointed to investigate the issue have been collecting questions and comments from the population of Québec.

We are now in the presentation phase of the hearing. Great Lakes United has elected

to present a brief on "extended producer responsibility."

The main idea of this concept is an increase in producer responsibility for the fate of the goods they sell. To implement this idea we are proposing:

- ✳ An extended deposit system for beverage containers, household hazardous products, and electric appliances
- ✳ An ecology taxation system that promotes cleaner products
- ✳ A green-yellow-red marking system for household hazardous products based on their degree of toxicity to humans and ecosystems

(as proposed by the British Columbia government)

- ✳ A modified version of the German "dual system," with green and red dots on packaging that indicate whether a product is recyclable or not recyclable.

For a copy of the document, which is in French, please contact the Montréal office.

Le renflouage du Irving Whale

A la fin de juillet cette année une équipe de 300 experts internationaux ont réussi à soulever l'épave du Irving Whale cette barge qui contenait des BPC et des huiles lourdes. La barge coulait à plus de 220 pieds de profondeurs dans le golfe du St-Laurent il y a de cela 26 ans lors d'une tempête.

Les environnementalistes de la région avaient exigé des autorités canadiennes que l'huile et les BPC soient pompés avant de soulever l'épave afin d'éviter une catastrophe environnementale en cas de bris de celle-ci.

L'épave contient 7.2 tonnes de fluide chauffant contenant les BPC et environ 3100 tonnes de mazout après qu'environ 1000 tonnes se soient échappés de l'épave au cours des 25 dernières années.

Les rejets de l'épave menaçaient l'industrie des pêches de la région ainsi que les plages des Îles de la Madeleine.

An English translation is in the briefs section.

**SEND A
FREE ISSUE
TO A FRIEND**

**If you enjoy our newsletter,
please help us let others know about it.**

*Just write or call us with their name and address and
we'll send them a free issue with no further obligation.*

Dragage de la voie maritime du St-Laurent

par Stéphane Gingras

Le port de Montréal et la garde côtière canadienne sont promoteur d'un projet qui vise à draguer les hauts fonds de la voie maritime du St-Laurent entre Montréal et Cap à la Roche. Ce projet prévoit enlever 350,000 mètres cubes de sédiments. Le port de Montréal a présenté une étude d'impacts qui conclue que le projet à des impacts mineurs. Mais en réalité le projet présenté plusieurs problèmes. Le plus important problème, à notre avis, est le déversement des sédiments prélevés dans d'autre partie du fleuve St-Laurent ce qui peut occasionner la création de nouveaux sites toxiques.

Un autre important problème est le manque de données adéquates et complètes sur le niveau de contamination des sédiments que l'on se propose de draguer en particulier dans le secteur du Lac St-Pierre. Le dragage des sédiments remet inévitablement ceux-ci en suspension. Ainsi le niveau de contamination détermine la technique de dragage à employer.

Selon le porte parole du Port de Mon-

tréal, M. Michel Turgeon les opération devrait débuter cet automne. Le Port et la garde

côtière soutiennent qu'ils ont fait toute les consultations nécessaires entre Montréal et Québec.

La motivation principale est bien sûr d'ordre économique. Le port de Montréal est le plus gros port au Canada en terme de trafic de containers. Le projet permettrait aux bateau de containers de transporter 260 containers supplémentaires ce qui représen-

te une augmentation de revenus nets de 200,000\$ par voyage. Le trafic des containers qui augmente depuis les sept dernières années à Montréal est selon le port l'industrie dont la croissance est la plus forte à Montréal.

Le dernier espoir pour modifier ou retarder le projet semble être la tenue d'une audience publique par le gouvernement fédéral. La loi canadienne de protection de l'environnement exige la tenue d'audience publique qui pourrait être conjointe avec le provincial.

Le nouveau ministre de l'environnement fédéral a utilisé son pouvoir discrétionnaire pour surseoir à la tenue d'audiences

publiques. En outre, le ministre de l'environnement du Québec a demandé une révision de l'étude d'impact et la tenue d'audiences publiques. Nous attendons tous la réponse de M. Marchi vis à vis cette demande.



Poorly planned dredging of the St. Lawrence proposed

by Stéphane Gingras

The Port of Montréal and the Canadian Coast Guard would like to dredge the shallow spots in the St. Lawrence River from Montréal to near Québec City. This will require the removal of an estimated 350,000 cubic metres of sediment.

The Montréal port has conducted an environmental impact assessment that gives the proposal a clean bill of health, but in fact the proposal has a number of problems. The most important of these include the plan to dispose of the sediment in another part of the river, which could leave a toxic hot spot in whatever place is chosen.

Another important problem is inadequate testing of the degree of toxic contamination in some of the sections of the river scheduled

for dredging, particularly the Lac St. Pierre area. Dredging unavoidably stirs up sediments, and heavily contaminated sediments must be dredged differently and more carefully than less-contaminated ones.

The port hopes to start the work this fall, according to port spokesman Michel Tourgon. The port and the coast guard have been conducting information sessions on the dredging proposal in communities between Montréal and Québec City.

The main motivation for the project is economic. The Montréal Port is the biggest container port in Canada. Dredging the St. Lawrence will allow container ships to carry 260 more containers than they do now, translating into an increased revenue of \$C200,000 per trip. Container traffic, which

has risen annually for the last seven years, is Montréal's fastest-growing business.

The last avenue for modifying or halting the project is a federal hearing on the proposal. The Canadian Environmental Protection Act requires a public hearing, but in this case it can be a joint federal and provincial hearing, since the Canadian Constitution grants federal jurisdiction over all waterways.

The new federal environment minister, Sergio Marchi, has decided to use his discretionary power to avoid the hearing. The Québec environment minister, David Cliche, has called for a revised impact study and a joint provincial-federal public hearing. We are now awaiting Marchi's response to this request.

GREAT LAKES EVENTS

The Ohio Lake Erie Conference will bring together concerned citizens, researchers, and state and local officials to discuss the latest Lake Erie and Ohio shoreline issues on September 25, 1996, in Toledo, Ohio. Topics will include the lake's fishery, the benthic community, and Ohio shoreline wetlands. For more information call (419) 245-2514.

The Assembly of First Nations is holding "Strengthening Mother Earth—The Environmental Challenge," December 10-12, 1996, in London, Ontario. Conference speakers will include Ovide Mercredi, national chief of the assembly, and Henry Lickers of the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne. The *twenty* workshops include sessions on human health effects, fur harvesting, habitat conservation, First Nations environmental knowledge, "Environmental Assessments for Megaprojects," water monitoring in remote communities, and "Mapping Traditional Lands." Conference events will include a trade exhibition, a poster display, environmental awards, and a traditional supper with music by blues artist Murray Porter. For more information call the assembly at (613) 241-6789.

The Second Biennial State of the Lakes Ecosystem Conference (**SOLEC**) will take place in Windsor November 6-8, 1996. A basinwide gathering sponsored by the U.S. and Canadian governments, this year's conference will focus on "the state of

nearshore aquatic and terrestrial ecosystem." For more information contact Harvey Shear in Canada at (416) 739-4704 or Paul Horvatin in the United States at (312) 353-3612. Comprehensive information is also available on the Worldwide Web at <http://www.cciw.ca/solec>.

International Beach Cleanup Day is September 21, 1996. The New York State chapter of the American Littoral Society will coordinate thousands of volunteers in a day-long beach cleanup along ocean and island beaches and waterways. Call Barbara Cohen at 718-471-2166 to volunteer.

The Canadian government is sponsoring **Connexion '96**, a conference to "bring together business, labour, academic, environment, and government leaders to discuss key priorities and challenges facing our country" in environmental issues. The conference will be held December 5-6, 1996, in Ottawa, Ontario. Speakers will include Minister of the Environment Sergio Marchi and Thomas Homer-Dixon, an authority on environmental security. For more information call (800) 505-8860 or (613) 723-6043.

The 1997 **Great Lakes Student Summit** will be held May 15-16 in Buffalo, New York. Students in grades five to nine and their teachers from Great Lakes and St. Lawrence basins will showcase their research projects, go on field trips, and attend workshops related to Great Lakes is-

sues. For more information please contact Tina Preston at (716) 858-8555, ecdep@moran.com.

The conference "**Atmospheric Deposition to the Great Waters**" will be held October 28-30, 1996, in Niagara Falls, New York. Among the *thirty-six* consecutive sessions (you don't have to miss any of them) will be reports on the Lake Michigan Mass Balance Project, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's "Great Waters" studies, "Seasonal Pesticide Emissions from Agricultural Lands," and analyses of atmospheric deposition of numerous individual substances, including mercury and PCBs.

International Joint Commission U.S. Chair Thomas Baldini will speak the evening of October 29. The day before the conference, attendees may take a day-long course on atmospheric deposition or a half-day-long course on integrating air lessons in middle and high school curriculums.

The conference is presented by the U.S. EPA, the Air and Waste Management Association, and the Great Lakes Center for Environmental Research and Education, located at Buffalo State College, the very same school that is home to Great Lakes United's main office.

Costs of advance registration for nonmembers of the association are \$325 for the conference, \$410 for the atmospheric deposition course, and just \$15 for the curriculum course. Student nonmembers can go to the conference for \$70. For more information fax the association at (412) 232-3450.

GLU opens Chicago office

Great Lakes United has opened a new office in Chicago's Loop. Field Coordinator Scott Sederstrom, who was working in Ann Arbor, Michigan, will now coordinate Little Zeros campaigns and Clean Production Task Force activities from the birthplace of urban electric blues—and the home of two of the world's most storied baseball teams.

"Being in Chicago provides Great Lakes United with a presence in the western Great Lakes Basin, gives us an opportunity to coordinate our work with Illinois and Wisconsin member groups, and establishes GLU

in the largest city in the Great Lakes Basin," said GLU Executive Director Margaret Wooster. Great Lakes United recently gained membership in the Environmental Fund of Illinois, a cooperative workplace giving campaign.

The new office is located in the office of a longtime GLU member group, Citizens for a Better Environment, at 407 S. Dearborn #1775, Chicago, Illinois, 60605. The new phone number is (312) 922-3567; the new fax number is -939-2536. Scott can still be reached by email at seiderstrom@igc.org.

Save the date!



**Great Lakes United
Annual Meeting**

May 30–June 1, 1997

Hamilton, Ontario

board of directors

officers

john jackson
president
kitchener, ontario

jack manno
vice president
syracuse, new york

diane heminway
secretary
medina, new york

jane wilkins
canadian treasurer
bel fountain, ontario

joe klimek
u.s. treasurer
buffalo, new york



regional directors

jan conley
lake superior

lois corbett
lake ontario

marc hudon
st. lawrence river

brennain lloyd
lake huron

kira medlin-henschel
lake michigan



at-large directors

craig boljkovac
ottawa, ontario

sally coleman
erie, pennsylvania

liliane cotnoir
montréal, québec

dan emerton
flint, michigan

julian hollenstein
thunder bay, ontario

ed michael
highland park, illinois

anne mitchell
toronto, ontario

gayle peterson
st. paul, minnesota

beverley thorpe
montréal, québec

marty visnosky
erie, pennsylvania

jack weinberg
chicago, illinois



first nations/tribal director

rick peters
ottawa, ontario

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Basinwide efforts have the power to inspire

Some readers may remember the Remedial Action Plan workshops held by Great Lakes United all around the Great Lakes about ten years ago.

I was on the Buffalo River Remedial Action Plan committee at that time, so I attended a workshop GLU conveniently held on Buffalo's waterfront. Present were people from the Hamilton Harbor and St. Lawrence, Fox, Rouge, and Grand Calumet River Areas of Concern—all of them citizens who were already launched into well-developed campaigns to monitor and restore their beloved rivers.

The workshop was inspiring and empowering. I took away the crucial lesson that RAPs are about much more than dredging contaminated sediments. It was a lesson many of us on the Buffalo River RAP committee took to heart as we went on to organize the Friends of the Buffalo River, which is still going strong. Like many other Basin grassroots groups, the Friends was spawned by the findings and ideals of the RAP and by GLU's cross-fertilizing activities.

Great Lakes United is a coalition, so for many years I was less aware of the organization than of the growing chorus of voices for the Great Lakes it helped orchestrate. Three years ago I came with a three-van contingent of adults and kids from Buffalo to the International Joint Commission's biennial meeting in Windsor. The stage for a meaningful dialogue among the many Great Lakes interests was set by the IJC's groundbreaking *Sixth Biennial Report*, which called for zero discharge of persistent toxic chemicals. Since half of the 362 known chemicals in the Great Lakes are synthetic chlorinated organic substances, the IJC targeted chlorine and its compounds as the first candidates for sunseting.

Our cover story on the IJC's desire to end its biennials is especially saddening to me, because the 1995 meeting seemed so successful in both broadening dialogue on cru-

cial Great Lakes environmental matters and in educating the public to these issues.

Chemical industry representatives at the meeting challenged the notion of sunseting in general and the recommendations on chlorine in particular. They predicted a devastating loss of jobs around the Great Lakes if the production of chlorinated compounds was regulated. Labor groups objected to the jobs versus environment trade-off, and called for pollution prevention to protect worker health and safety.

Citizens' groups coordinated by Great Lakes United were prepared with riveting testimony for the commissioners. They conveyed the magnitude of pollutant loading to the Great Lakes by calling attention to some of its results—like the toxic accumulation in the St. Lawrence River's beluga whales, which is so great that beluga bodies that wash up on the river bank must be disposed of as hazardous waste.

They then proposed solutions, including a step-by-step timetable for sunseting chlorine in paper bleaching and in PVC and pesticide production, areas where alternatives to toxic production already exist.

The testimony was to the point, optimistic, practical. It was a group effort. It was proactive in the face of the numbing list of obstacles.

This is what the collective effort that is Great Lakes United consistently does.

As GLU's new executive director, I would like to acknowledge our board, our staff, our coalition members, and all of our newsletter readers for their commitment to a healthier Great Lakes. The work we are doing is not always easy, the results often unclear. However, I know from my own experience how important Great Lakes United has been and continues to be in moving the agenda forward, from international planning to the grassroots action.

I am honored to be a part of it.

Margaret Wooster

These Lakes Are Your Lakes

*by Johnny Biosphere
to the melody of Woody Guthrie's "This Land Is Your Land"*

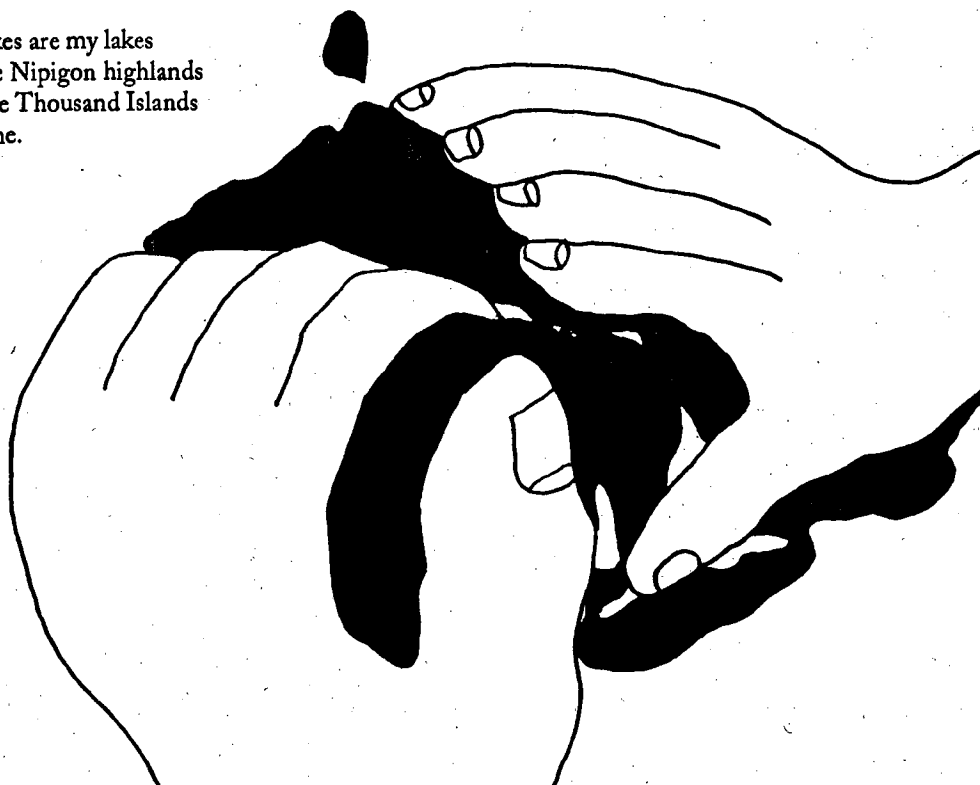
These lakes are your lakes. These lakes are my lakes
From the Long Point marshes, to the Nipigon highlands
From the Michigan sand dunes to the Thousand Islands
These lakes were made for you and me.

And there beside me, in those clear waters
Came Summer breezes and Autumn colours
And Winter snow storms and Springtime flowers
They said, "These lakes were made for you and me."

Above Niagara, I stood in wonder
At the rush of water and the roar of thunder
And way down under, I heard her whisper
"These lakes were made for you and me."

The sun was shining, white clouds were drifting
And eagles soaring, and rivers throbbing
And fish romancing, the whole Earth dancing
These lakes were made for you and me.

These lakes are your lakes. These lakes are my lakes
From the Long Point marshes, to the Nipigon highlands
From the Michigan sand dunes to the Thousand Islands
These lakes were made for you and me.



IJC to abandon biennials 1
Hurley resigns IJC 1
White Pine acid mining 1
Michigan landfill and PCBs 1
Michigan gas development 3

Biodiversity & Habitat

"Lost in an aspen monoculture" 5
Self-sustaining lake trout 6
Canada restores sea lamprey funds 7
Mayflies make a comeback 8
Marsh monitoring program 8
Task force update: "takings" 9
Ohio wetlands: net loss 10
Lake Ontario trail guidebook 10

In this issue

Clean Production

Medical waste incinerators 12
Task force update 12
More TRI reporting industries 13
Report: Dioxin in the Great Lakes 14

Healthy Communities

Metro Toronto Area of Concern 16
Buffalo River Area of Concern 17
Task force update 18

U.S. drinking water act passed 19
GLU's 1996 annual meeting 19
U.S. House voting record 20
Briefs 22

Boundary Waters-Pennsylvania water standards-Ontario forests-Irving Whale-Chippewa communal fishing license-Woodlawn Beach-Crescent Du Wisconsin forest diversity-Toronto plan-sunken logs-World Trade Organization-Aquatic Habitat Fund-new tario environment minister-Duluth dump-New York environmental bond

New York radioactive dump
Durnil to speak for GLU 25
Buffalo office notes 26
Québec: "producer responsibility" Irving Whale 27 (English brief)
St. Lawrence dredging 28
Events 29
GLU's new Chicago office 29
Executive director's message 3
"These Lakes Are Your Lakes"

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

Sure! Somebody's got to care! Sign me up as an:

- ☐ Individual member—\$25 ☐ Family member—\$35 ☐ Sustaining member—\$50
☐ Library subscriber—\$50 ☐ Organizational member—\$25* or \$100

*annual budgets of \$15,000 or less

*All members get a year's subscription to the GLU newsletter—four issues.
Organizational members may designate 2 additional subscriptions and vote at the annual meeting.*

Name: _____ Affiliation: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

State/Province: _____ Mailing Code: _____ Phone: _____

[Your membership expiration date is noted on your mailing label.]

*In the United States please make checks payable and send to Great Lakes United at
Buffalo State College, Cassety Hall, 1300 Elmwood Ave., Buffalo, New York, 14222*

In Canada please make cheques payable and send to Great Lakes United at 2360 rue Notre Dame O. #307, Montréal, Québec, H3J 1N4



Buffalo State College, Cassety Hall
1300 Elmwood Ave., Buffalo, New York 14222
(716) 886-0142, fax: -0303, glu@igc.org

Address Correction Requested

Sarah Miller
Canadian Environmental Law Association
517 College St
Toronto, ON M6G 4A2 6202

U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
BUFFALO, N.Y.
PERMIT NO. 1762