



THE

GREAT LAKES UNITED

volume 7, number 4

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

spring 1993

U.S. EPA's Great Lakes Initiative finally released

by Rebecca Shriner
National Wildlife Federation

In a giant step toward remedying the Great Lakes' polluted discharge problems, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in late March released its draft Great Lakes Water Quality Initiative Guidance.

The GLI promises uniform water quality standards and anti-pollution regulations across the U.S. side of the Great Lakes Basin. If adopted, it will mean less toxic dumping, cleaner fish for people and wildlife, and a healthier Great Lakes ecosystem.

A five-month public comment period began as of the release date—this will be one of the greatest opportunities the people in the Great Lakes region have ever had to make a difference in

protecting our "sweetwater seas." Your action is vital.

Scientific evidence shows that even low-level exposure to the invisible toxic chemicals to be regulated by the GLI threaten our children's health and learning abilities. Bald eagles, cormorants, mink and other wildlife around the Great Lakes are born deformed or are unable to reproduce. Some fish are not safe to eat. The chemicals responsible for these problems remain in the lake ecosystem, concentrating in and jeopardizing the health of people and wildlife for generations to come.

The new water quality standards will:

- ◆ Replace the hodge-podge of individual state rules with consistent,

stronger regulations

- ◆ Reduce by about 80 percent the dumping of toxic pollution from point sources into the Great Lakes

Reduce the bioaccumulation of pollutants, making fish safer; the initiative for the first time would control pollutants based on their potential to accumulate in the food chain

End polluters' practice of diluting their most dangerous discharges to hide them

- ◆ Begin to shift to polluters the burden of proof about a pollutant's safety
- ◆ Implement several measures to pre-

serve the relatively pristine nature of Lake Superior

- ◆ Strengthen federal policy limiting new or increased in toxic discharges

These proposed rules are a giant step forward. However, they need to be even stronger and your help is important! Polluters with self-serving interests have formed organizations determined to weaken the GLI rules. Two of the most important, the Great Lakes Water Quality Coalition and the Council of Great Lakes Industries, are well-financed coalitions of industrial and municipal dischargers. Their opposition to the GLI is a large part of the reason it is two years behind schedule.

Dischargers have benefitted for years

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Great Lakes polluters are suddenly interested in the IJC

by Karen Murphy
Great Lakes United

Question: Why would at least eleven representatives of major Great Lakes industries—including Dow Chemical, Canadian Pacific Forest Products, Upjohn, and the New York State Power Authority—show up for an hour-long meeting with the commissioners of the International Joint Commission and members of its Biennial Planning Committee to discuss their participation at the upcoming IJC Biennial Meeting?

Perhaps, given the recently released Great Lakes Initiative, the industries are afraid that the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement will finally begin to be taken seriously. If so, perhaps the industries have decided that the IJC may soon be less the paper tiger it has seemed to be for so many years. Whatever the reason, industry representatives indicated they would get their people out in force to this year's Biennial Meeting.

It is time for citizens in the Basin to begin mobilizing for the IJC Biennial Meeting. This year it will be held October 22 to 24 in Windsor, Ontario. Major public opportunities for sending our message to the commissioners include a panel discussion session on Lake Superior, a one-hour formal presentation during Saturday and, public hearings Saturday evening. There will also be presentations by the governments on progress in meeting the goals of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement and by IJC committees such as the Virtual Elimination Task Force.

The IJC is also sponsoring a series of workshops on various topics including

financing for RAPs, Lake Erie ecosystem collapse, enhancing awareness of Great Lakes issues in the educational and health communities, and the future of science in the Great Lakes.

A number of Basin environmental groups are planning events to coincide with the Biennial Meeting—details will be forthcoming; already scheduled is a "Chlorine Free '93" conference sponsored by Greenpeace on Thursday evening.

We need your help! There are a variety of activities that citizens across the Basin can take to get people out to the Biennial Meeting:

- ◆ Get information on the meeting in your local or organizational newsletter. GLU will be developing a packet of information that Basin groups can use for this purpose.
- ◆ Organize a community meeting and we will come and talk about the Biennial and the importance of saving the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement from attack.
- ◆ Get commitments from ten people to attend the Biennial Meeting and work out joint transportation. Great Lakes United and groups in the Windsor area such as Citizen's Environment Alliance are trying to find inexpensive lodging.

For information on how to get involved, contact Mary Ginnebaugh, Great Lakes United, 76 University West, P.O. Box 548, Station A, Windsor, Ontario N9A 6M6, 519-255-7141, fax -7361.

Chlorine-free paper in Canada?

by Jay Palter
Greenpeace

After five years of intense campaigning, the drive to eliminate the use of chlorine in the Great Lakes pulp and paper industry has won a major victory. On February 2, 1993, the Ontario provincial government issued regulations requiring the industry to plan for eliminating chlorine-based bleaching by 2002.

Since the 1987 release of the Greenpeace report "No Margin of Safety," which documented the cover-up of dioxin pollution by the paper industry and regulatory agencies, the drive for chlorine-free paper-making has been the leading zero discharge effort in the Great Lakes Basin.

Greenpeace's Basin pulp and paper effort was punctuated with two expeditions through the Great Lakes, aboard the *Beluga* in 1988 and the *Moby Dick* in 1991. These tours successfully raised public concern about chlorine-based threats to the health of the Great Lakes ecosystem while focusing the political energies of the regional environmental movement on converting the paper industry to chlorine-free production as the first step in achieving zero discharge in the Great Lakes.

With the election of a New Democratic government in fall 1990, the prospects for regulations to eliminate chlorine

in the Ontario pulp and paper industry grew more likely. Last year, the chlorine-free campaign made a final push by organizing a massive postcard mailing supported by television and newspaper advertisements targeting the provincial government.

The campaign's success was truly the result of many people's efforts and commitment over the past five years, but special credit must go to the clever tactics and passionate campaigning of Gord

Perks in Greenpeace's Toronto office.

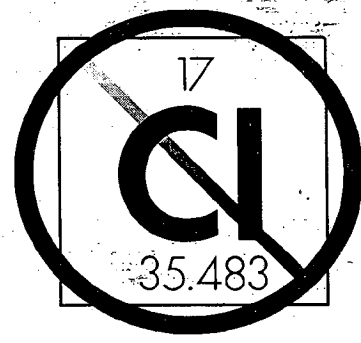
IJC Virtual Elimination Task Force

With the approach of the International Joint Commission's Seventh Biennial Meeting this October, environmentalists

are urging governments to begin implementing the visionary recommendations of the IJC's Sixth Biennial Report. Meanwhile, chemical industry lobbyists are actively campaigning to reverse them, and they plan a big presence at this year's meeting.

In 1990 the IJC appointed a Virtual Elimination Task Force (VETF), whose mission is to advise the commission on the steps that must be taken to reach the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement's goal of "virtual elimination" of persistent toxic substances in the Basin ecosystem. Annex 12 of the agreement states that,

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... Chlorine-free paper in Canada?

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"The philosophy adopted for control of inputs of persistent toxic substances shall be zero discharge."

In its 1991 Interim Report, the task force concluded, "It is logical to investigate processes that produce chlorinated organic substances, and to consider sunsetting the use of chlorine." This helped pave the way for the IJC's Sixth Biennial Report's recommendation to "sunset the use of chlorine and chlorine-containing compounds as industrial feedstocks."

Unfortunately, despite containing some excellent work, the VETF's Draft Final Report suffers as a result of trying to build consensus out of the divergent positions of environmentalists and the chlorine industry: the former want to discuss how to implement a chlorine phase-out; the latter question the need for the phase-out in the first place.

PVC: Dioxin factories

The weight of evidence supporting a phase-out of all chlorine chemistry grew heavier with the public release of new information uncovering a disturbing pattern of high levels of organochlorines (including ultra-toxic dioxin) emitted from PVC plants in Europe.

Four plants were studied in a Greenpeace report entitled, "Dioxin Factories: Creation and Discharge of Dioxins and Other Organochlorines from the Production of PVC." The report estimates that at least 5 to 10 grams of dioxin are formed for every 100,000 tonnes PVC manufacturing components ethylene dichloride (EDC) and vinyl chloride monomer (VCM). Dioxin levels were as high as 320 grams for 100,000 tonnes of EDC produced at a plant in Sweden.

About 18 million tonnes of EDC/VCM are produced to make PVC every year. If European figures are typical of other PVC plants around the world, the dioxin output of EDC/VCM production alone would be equivalent to the maximum annual dose for 8.1 billion people—substantially more than the world's current population. This calculation is based on the World Health Organization's tolerable daily intake for dioxin: 10 picograms per kilogram of bodyweight; assuming an average weight of 60 kilograms (132 pounds) per person. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has a tolerable intake guideline more than 10,000 times lower: 0.006 pg/kg bodyweight/day. Dioxin is extremely toxic—a picogram is a trillionth of a gram.

Polyvinyl chloride, PVC or simply "vinyl," is the second-most common plastic, accounting for a fifth of world plastic consumption. It is used in the packaging industry to make mineral water bottles, tubs, and boxes; in consumer articles such as credit cards, records, toys, and imitation leather; in the construction of window frames, doors, walls, panelling, pipes and gutters; in private homes for vinyl flooring, wallpaper, blinds, shower curtains, and garden furniture; in the office for furniture, binders, folders, and pens; in cars, especially as underseal; in hospitals for medical disposables; and in electronics as wire and cable insulation. PVC is everywhere and responsible for discouraging the use of many ecologically compatible materials such as wood, ceramics, and glass.

PVC is the only major chlorine use sector that is growing in North America. As the dangers of other organochlorines

have been identified and products banned or withdrawn from the market, the PVC industry has become the "sink" for surplus chlorine. Markets in developing countries are also being targeted for significant growth.

Nearly a hundred European municipalities, including the cities of Berlin, Salzburg, Bremen, and Linz, have declared "PVC-free" policies because of environmental contamination from PVC production and accidental building fires involving PVC. Concern with recent discoveries of high dioxin levels in PVC wastes has prompted the Norwegian environment minister to postpone his decision on an application by Norsk Hydro to expand PVC production at its Rafnes plant. In Germany, state environmental ministers recently adopted a report recommending the phase-out of PVC in packaging and construction.

Today Canada moved a giant step toward ending chlorine bleaching in North America; someday we will see the end of all world chlorine production.

Documents

To obtain:

- ♦ The Ontario government's pulp and paper regulation, call 416-323-4321.
- ♦ The IJC Virtual Elimination Task Force's Draft Final Report and supplementary "Case Study" report documenting the chlorine phaseout, contact Marty Bratzel at 519-257-6701.
- ♦ Greenpeace's report on PVC, "Dioxin Factories," and for more information on the PVC phaseout campaign in Europe, contact Jay Palter at 416-345-8408.

P R E S I D E N T ' S M E S S A G E

Of cities, diversity, outreach, Poland, and religion

As we come upon our eleventh Annual Meeting, what for many might be a time for reflection for me is rather one of anticipation. In its twelfth year Great Lakes United will of course be dealing with many issues of long standing, but new directions are evolving out of the collective wisdom of our membership, staff and board.

This year's Annual Meeting is focusing on "Healthy Communities." While GLU has had concerns in this area for many years, our approach has been piecemeal rather than wholistic. Our efforts focused on a given incinerator or wastewater treatment plant rather than on all components of the affected community. A more whole approach is especially important for inner-city areas, which have often been victimized through the siting of polluting facilities such as waste dumps and highways. Residents here are also frequent consumers of contaminated fish, readily caught along industrialized waterfronts. We need to develop a complete strategy for dealing with environmental issues in our Great Lakes Cities.

Implicit in this concern is the responsibility for sincere outreach to and cooperation with minority communities. Blacks, Hispanics, Asians and others are all being hurt by urban pollution. Of course, if such outreach is successful, GLU's board, staff, and priorities will have to change to reflect the organization's new greater diversity.

The same can be said for our developing relationship with native peoples in the Basin. Our current annual meeting program reflects this and I expect the momentum to continue. Hopefully, GLU can serve as a catalyst for change and understanding among all the peoples of the Basin.

With a broader and deeper constituency we can more effectively serve as advocates for the restoration of the lakes. In order to do this we must increase organizational and individual membership in Great Lakes United. This raises another issue that faces all larger environmental groups, especially GLU, with its amazing membership diversity. How can we better serve the grassroots and, in turn, deserve stronger support from them? This has been a concern of long standing with us, but it must be dealt with successfully in the immediate future.

It has been suggested that Great Lakes United consider exporting its binational, multi-interest format to other parts of the globe, especially relating to pollution in large bodies of water. Our working model of citizen action has operated successfully for over a decade; it is unique, and I believe could be of great service internationally. With this in mind I have begun preliminary discussions with a representative of the Poland's foremost environmental organization, the Polish Ecological Club, with specific focus on restoration of the Baltic Sea.

Thus far the Swedes have made some attempts to interest various jurisdictions in nongovernmental organization-type activity, but to little effect. GLU could be of help in this situation. It's something to think about.

Finally, I raise the possibility of developing awareness of environmental remediation and protection among the various religious denominations in both Canada and the United States. Pope John Paul II has shown strong support for such efforts. Carl Sagan, the respected scientist, spearheaded a meeting of scientific and religious leaders (Catholic, Protestant, Orthodox, Jewish, and Muslim) last June in Washington, D.C. with a view to sharing ideas among the scientific and religious communities about the global environmental problems. I believe that Great Lakes United could exercise significant leadership in enlisting the aid of religious leaders and organizations in this area for the benefit of us all.

This is by no means an exhaustive list of potential directions for our future. Pursuit of some of these are absolutely essential to our short and long term viability, others are a matter of environmental and social justice, and a few are mostly fascinating to contemplate. I encourage all of you to comment on these points. Please call or write and I'll respond.

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Great Lakes United

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First step taken on National Pollutant Release Inventory

by Karen Murphy
Great Lakes United

Canada's federal toxic substances information database, the National Pollutant Release Inventory, has finally been established. Unfortunately, it is only a small step for community right-to-know in Canada because the government refused to address the many issues left unresolved by the NPRI's formulators.

Under the Green Plan the federal government committed to develop a right-to-know programme for Canada modeled after the U.S. Toxic Release Inventory, only better. For the last year a multistakeholder advisory committee met to hash out recommendations for the planned NPRI programme. In December the multistakeholder committee transmitted its final report and recommendations to Environment Minister Jean Charest.

The committee failed to agree on a number of key issues. Three were critical to the establishment of a comprehensive right to know about toxic chemicals:

- ♦ The committee agreed that toxic chemicals being emitted from a facility should be reported, but the committee did not agree that information on the toxic chemicals being used should be reported. Information about the use of toxic chemicals is essential for tracking pollution prevention activities.
- ♦ The committee was able to agree to report on the storage, treatment, recycling and disposal of wastes sent offsite, but unable to agree on reporting that same information about wastes kept onsite.
- ♦ Finally, the committee also failed to

agree on provisions to protect public access to information reported under the NPRI.

The final report of the multistakeholder committee was transmitted to Charest with the expectation that the government would decide on the unresolved issues. But in March Charest merely announced his acceptance of the report, adding only that, "Further consultation will take place as the inventory evolves over the coming years." A Section 16 notice was issued in the March 27 *Canada Gazette* requiring companies to report.

Charest's announcement was a clear indication that critical, unresolved issues would not be addressed this year. Environmental, community and labour leaders must therefore continue to advocate for expansion of the NPRI and for sepa-

rate enabling language for the programme that would protect the public's right to know.

This is NPRI's overall framework:

- ♦ Companies whose employees work more than 20,000 hours during 1993 and that manufacture, process or use more than 10 tonnes of a listed substance are required to report.
- ♦ Facilities whose employees work less than 20,000 hours during 1993 are not required to report.
- ♦ Certain industrial sectors were exempted from reporting under NPRI, including fisheries, forestry and agricultural industries; companies involved in the distribution, storage, or retail sale of fuels; research institutions; companies involved in the maintenance and repair of transportation vehicles; and oil and gas drilling and well operation.
- ♦ A preliminary list of 178 toxic substances has been identified for reporting.
- ♦ Companies that meet the employee and manufacture, processing and use thresholds are required to file NPRI reports on the 178 listed substances to Environment Canada no later than June 1, 1994.

The first reports (for 1993 releases) will be available to the public in late 1994.

Documents

"Substances in the National Pollutant Release Inventory," *Canada Gazette*, March 27, 1993, Part I.
"A National Pollutant Release Inventory for Canada," Final Report of the Multi-Stakeholder Advisory Committee, December 1992.

"Reporting to the National Pollutant Release Inventory" (available mid-1993).

All the documents are available from Gordon Pope, Environment Canada, National Pollutant Release Inventory, 10th Floor, 351 St. Joseph, Hull, Quebec K1A 0H3, 819-953-1654, fax 9542. Be sure to get on the mailing list for any future notices or draft review documents on the NPRI.

For more information on environmental activities on the National Pollutant Release Inventory contact Karen Murphy at Great Lakes United.

Canadian federal environmental developments

by Sarah Miller

On April 1, the third anniversary of the Canadian federal government's failure to renegotiate the Canada-Ontario Agreement, Great Lakes United, Pollution Probe, and the Canadian Environmental Law Association announced a boycott of further government consultations.

Last negotiated in 1986 and expired in 1991, COA spells out the human and fiscal resources each government commits to implementing the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. Once COA was the foundation of Canadian Great Lakes programming but over the years even 1986 commitments have been dropped.

The most significant of those commitments is the federal government's cost sharing of water and sewer infrastructure and improvements. The 1986 COA is woefully inadequate to deal with 1993 imperatives as are 1986 funding levels. The agreement was to renegotiate COA every five years but in 1991 and 1992 both governments simply renewed the 1986 contract. This year the Ontario government refused to continue this practice, creating a virtual standoff. While it is difficult to know the consequences of having no agreement at all, Great Lakes surveillance programs could be stopped.

Windsor M.P. Hugh Gray asked the government in Parliament to explain its failure to protect the Great Lakes. Environment Minister Charest's parliamentary secretary stated that his government is prepared to return to the negotiating table as soon as the government of Ontario is ready to do so.

Ontario has been beleaguered by decreasing transfer payments from the federal government even as it has the most jurisdictional responsibilities for actual pollution control and cleanup. Signs are the provincial government might be wise to wait for the upcoming federal election which could bring a more generous partner.

The main issue keeping the governments away from the table is the issue of funding for sewer and water costs. The federal government's water policy suggests that providers of water and sewage should move to full-cost pricing. The federal government suggest that the revenues raised from these increased charges be used for remediation and new water and sewage needs. Although Ontario is moving to do this (see separate article),

it is clear that new revenues will not be adequate or timely to address all of the province's Great Lakes cleanup needs. The historical pollution residing in the contaminated sediments of all but one of the seventeen Canadian Areas of Concern will require huge amounts of money that no one level of government can provide alone.

Traditionally the federal government has spent most of its Great Lakes budgets on scientific research and demonstration projects. The expectations of the Remedial Action Plans is that governments will be moving from research to action in the next few years.

Without a Canada-Ontario Agreement and in this recessionary climate a review of Great Lakes programs reveals an eroding patchwork and little hope for action.

Federal government funding has been thrown into the Great Lakes in election years more for big splash effects than to build strong, consistent programs. Two such programs have been the Great Lakes Action Plan and the Canada Green Plan.

In July 1990 the Green plan committed Canada to work with the United States to develop a bilateral plan for pollution prevention. This plan has not been produced. The Green Plan did set up a Great Lakes Pollution Prevention Centre in Sarnia, Ontario's chemical valley on the St. Clair River. The mandate of the centre is characteristically vague, to act as a catalyst (for others) and to disseminate pollution prevention success stories. However, the centre has too few resources to serve as a clearing house.

Increasingly the actual pollution prevention initiatives are being left to vague arrangements termed volunteerism and partnerships in what can only be called a deregulation agenda. When the Green Plan programs were first announced they were to be companions to "command and control measures," but such measures have not followed.

The Great Lakes Action Plan was a five-year plan consisting of three programs: the Preservation Plan, the Cleanup Plan and the Health Effects Program. In the first year of the plan no money was allocated and since then funding has been well below targeted levels. For instance, the Health Effects program budget has slipped from \$5 million to \$3 million.

What we do have is diminished expectations. Environment Canada re-

cently called a meeting of its Great Lakes Action Plan Strategic Advisory Committee for the first time in over a year. At the meeting the government presented its draft Great Lakes Strategy.

Great Lakes United board members who attended the meeting, John Jackson, Paul Muldoon, and this author, were dismayed by the strategy. A status quo strategy put forward based on today's eroded allocations, it commits the federal government to the restoration of only seven of the seventeen Canadian Areas of concern.

Objective number one of the strategy, "Restore Degraded Sites," states, "The federal government will contribute to the restoration of seven Areas of Concern in partnership with other stakeholders, and will continue to work towards the restoration of the other Areas of Concern..."

What happened to the cost-sharing partnerships between the federal and provincial governments on all of the RAPs?

Will the public volunteers who have already worked for six years on the unincluded RAPs accept the complete absence of a federal commitment to the restoration of their Area of Concern for another five years?

Is the expectation that the province of Ontario will assume responsibility for all the other RAP implementations?

NEW PUBLICATIONS

The Ethical Shopper's Guide to Canadian Supermarket Products, by Joan Helson et al., EthicScan, Broadview Press, P.O. Box 1243, Peterborough, Ont. K9J 7H5, 705-743-8357, \$14.95.

Empowering the Public, Lessons and Ideas for Communicating in the Great Lakes' Areas of Concern, by Noah Eiger and Peter McAvoy. For a copy contact Mark Elster at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Great Lakes National Program Office, 77 W. Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL 60604-3590, or write the Center for the Great Lakes, 35 East Wacker Dr. #1870, Chicago, IL 60601.

Under RAPs: Toward Grassroots Ecological Democracy in the Great Lakes Basin, edited by John H. Hartig and Michael A. Zarull, University of Michigan Press, P.O. Box 1104, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-1104, 313-764-4330, \$45.00 cloth, \$23

paper.

The Great Lakes Ecosystem Protection Agenda, Sierra Club Great Lakes Program, 214 N. Henry St. #203, Madison, WI 53703, 608-257-4994, free.

Chemically Induced Alterations in Sexual and Functional Development: The Wildlife/Human Connection, edited by Theo Colburn, a zoologist with the World Wildlife Fund. This book compiles the work of twenty-one scientists studying the adverse affects of toxic chemical releases on Great Lakes fish and wildlife. Documented problems include reduced fertility, birth defects, immune deficiencies, thyroid (hormone control) dysfunction, and behavioral abnormalities. For info. contact: World Wildlife Fund, 1250 24th St. NW, Suite 400, Wash. D.C. 20037, or (202) 293-4800.

Fighting Incinerators

Dioxin in Midland, Michigan

by Tracy Easthope
Ecology Center

Dow Chemical Corp. received approval in late April to burn dioxin-contaminated waste at its Midland hazardous waste incinerator, clearing the way for it to become only the second commercial dioxin-burning incinerator in the United States.

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources issued Dow a permit amendment despite significant opposition by area environmental groups, who claim that the permit violates federal law and will significantly add to the dioxin burden of Midland-area residents and the Great Lakes ecosystem.

Although the incinerator is intended to destroy dioxin wastes, dioxin is also created and released in the burning process. The compound is one of the most toxic known, and has been found to cause immune, endocrine and reproductive system damage "at or near current levels of exposure," according to a recent preliminary assessment of dioxin by the Environmental Protection Agency. The EPA scientist in charge of that study says there may be no safe level of exposure to dioxin.

The Dow permit amendment was granted on the day of a meeting scheduled with local residents and area environmentalists to discuss concerns with the permit. Area residents had requested and been promised a meeting *prior* to the permitting to resolve well-documented concerns about the incinerator's safety and burning efficiency. Dow and the Michigan DNR agreed to hold the meeting, but in a dramatic reversal the DNR issued the permit anyway.

"This is clearly an act of bad faith and backroom dealing between the DNR and Dow Chemical," said Charles Griffith from the Ecology Center of Ann Arbor, one of the groups involved in the issue. "We had requested an audience with the company in the hopes that some of our concerns could be allayed or addressed. Dow agreed, but then happily announced to the press that they had received the permit."

Environmental and community groups have expressed the following major concerns with the Dow facility: EPA documents indicate that dioxin

incinerators are not able to meet federally mandated burning efficiency standards for destroying dioxin waste similar to Dow's.

In an ongoing court case in Jacksonville, Arkansas, EPA lawyers and incinerator operators in that city admitted that they would be unable to meet the federal standard. Failure to achieve this efficiency means increased releases of this super-toxic chemical to the community.

Midland area residents should be studied to assess whether the level of chemicals already in their bodies poses a risk before a new source of dioxin (the incineration) in the community is permitted.

Area residents have reason to worry: Midland area soils and resources have some of the highest levels of dioxin in the country. Dioxin persists in the environment and builds up in living things. No study of the amount of dioxin in the fluids and fat of area residents has been done.

EPA scientists are currently reassessing the toxicity of dioxin. Preliminary findings by the review panel found the compound to be far more toxic than previously thought, even in small amounts. Dioxin may act like a hormone in the body, causing human immune, reproductive, and endocrine system damage at current levels of exposure.

Dow should wait until the scientific community has completed the review and new safety levels have been established before adding any more dioxin to the already highly contaminated community of Midland. The review is due in early 1994.

Although Dow has promised publicly to burn only waste from Dow and subsidiary corporations, it refused to put this in writing. As one of only two commercial dioxin-burning incinerators in the country, the Great Lakes ecosystem could now become a primary disposal site for dioxin.

Michigan environmentalists and community groups have sent a letter to Attorney General Frank Kelly asking for an investigation of the DNR's permitting of the Dow facility despite evidence that it may not meet federal standards.

Also testifying were Tom Dibble and Karen Gibson, individual members who had alerted GLU to the illegal diversions.

Dibble provided new evidence showing Pleasant Prairie was planning to provide diverted water to new development, in violation of the conditions demanded by one of the governors that did approve the diversion and agreed to by the state of Wisconsin.

Gibson provided evidence that Pleasant Prairie and Kenosha are also planning to annex the neighboring town of Bristol to build major subdivisions, which also could be supplied with illegally diverted water.

Committee chair Sen. Brian Burke indicated at the hearing that he was considering writing legislation to prevent future unauthorized diversions.

Needlessness in West Lincoln, Ontario

by John Jackson

Our society keeps spending ever more money and time trying to site huge hazardous waste incinerators and landfills when it is clear that both the need and safety of these facilities cannot be proven.

The Ontario government has spent the past thirteen years and \$130 million in such an exercise. A provincial crown agency, the Ontario Waste Management Corporation, went through a lengthy site search process and is now completing over three years of hearings on its proposal for a 300,000-tonne-a-year hazardous waste incinerator and landfill in West Lincoln in the Niagara Peninsula. But the evidence presented at the OWMC hearings presented a picture fundamentally different from that touted by the OWMC and other proponents of such plants.

The OWMC spent almost a year trying to prove the need for the incinerator, but despite a desperate search it has been unable to find the wastes it says the plant would burn. The Ontario Toxic Waste Research Coalition, a coalition of agricultural, environmental, and citizens' groups opposed to the plant, persistently probed the OWMC's need numbers and presented its own experts on the issue. Finally, the OWMC admitted that the wastes received at the plant might be as low as 35,000 tonnes a year—just over a tenth of the original estimates. Even these estimates downplay the potential for hazardous waste reduction and recycling.

Like all proponents of hazardous waste incinerators and landfills, the OWMC has claimed that the plant will be safe. But despite OWMC's ability to buy the best consultants on the continent, its safety claims have been shattered. The OWMC's risk assessment supposedly proved that the additional risk caused by the facility would be less than one in a million, but the assessment was systematically shown to seriously understate those risks. Evidence at the hearings showed that, if all pathways of contaminants to humans were considered, the risk from the emission of only

one contaminant—dioxin—could be as high as one in a thousand, even with the incinerator operating at only half its proposed capacity.

The OWMC did not even include the landfill in its risk assessment because it claimed there would be no hazard associated with it. However, more than half way through the three-year hearing process, the OWMC admitted that its landfill as presently planned would permanently contaminate groundwater under three thousand acres of land. After the public uproar created by this revelation, the OWMC announced that it would redesign its landfill and dispose of chlorides in the waste in a deep well. This shift raises additional issues of the effectiveness of the chloride removal and the environmental wisdom of injecting wastes deep into the ground in the first place. The OWMC has not carried out in-depth studies of this revised approach.

Noise, dust, and odour emissions from the proposed plant were proven to exceed provincial guidelines. Many air contaminants from the proposed plant were also shown to exceed the guidelines currently being considered by the Ontario government under its Clean Air Programme. Some air contaminants would exceed these guidelines by over a hundred times.

Perhaps the OWMC can take a cue from the manufacturers it is trying to serve. Recognizing that what is acceptable environmental practice has changed, even the industry lobby that ten years ago was calling for an OWMC-type plant in Ontario is no longer promoting it.

The OWMC hearings have helped shatter many of the myths that have long surrounded the need for and safety of huge hazardous waste incinerators and landfills. Perhaps governments throughout the Basin will learn from Ontario's expensive exercise. Then the hearings will not have been a complete waste of taxpayers dollars and of the energy of citizens who have fought for so many years to prevent this hazardous waste incinerator and landfill from being built.

... GLI finally released

continued from page 1

from the cheap disposal of toxic pollution into the environment—individuals suffer health problems and the taxpayer pays for cleanups. Polluters are telling elected officials and EPA that GLI's stricter rules will be too tough and expensive. Our elected decisionmakers need to hear from us that we can't afford *not* to reduce toxic dumping in the Lakes.

To help citizens write comments on these complex rules, the National Wildlife Federation's Great Lakes Natural Resource Center, along with a team of environmental scientists, are conducting a thorough review of the GLI Guidance document. In May we will publish our findings on the areas where the GLI should be strengthened.

To help people learn more about this huge document, EPA and the states are planning public information meetings throughout the Basin intended to provide a general overview of the various elements in the proposed new rules. For information on the dates and locations of these meetings, call: in Ohio and states west, 800-621-8431; in Pennsylvania, 215-597-6911; and in New York

State, 716-285-8842.

The full, 308-page Guidance document is available for viewing at some libraries. Ask for *Federal Register* #20802, April 16, 1993. For a fee you can get your own copy from one of the following distribution operations:

- ♦ U.S. Government Printing Office, 202-783-3238, *Federal Register* #20802, April 16, 1993, \$4.50.
- ♦ National Technical Information Service, 703-487-4650, #PB93-164-514 (paper, \$44.50, or microfiche, \$17.50), or #PB93-504-504 (computer disk, in IBM WordPerfect 5.1 format, \$90.00).
- ♦ Educational Resource Information Center, 614-292-6717, document #527D (paper, \$30.75) or #526 (computer disk, \$24.95).

During the public comment period, decisionmakers must realize that citizens want strong and protective rules. The decision-makers *will* hear from polluters. It's essential they hear from us, too! Once the public comment period is over the opportunity is gone.

Wisconsin Senate looks into the Kenosha diversion

by Bruce Kershner
Great Lakes United

The investigation of two unauthorized diversions of Great Lakes water in southern Wisconsin came to a head during a January hearing by the Wisconsin Senate.

At the hearing the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources finally admitted that it had not obtained approvals for the diversions from all the Great Lakes governors, as required by federal law. Great Lakes United, Lake Michigan Federation, and Sierra Club testified before the committee.

A diversion is the use of Great Lakes water that is eventually released outside the Great Lakes Basin. The hearing was looking into diversions by the communities of Kenosha, since ended, and Pleasant Prairie, ongoing but expected to be ended eventually.

U.S. federal government a hotbed of Great Lakes issues

by George Goling
Sierra Club

Great Lakes environmental issues were not exactly show-stoppers in the 102nd U.S. Congress, but there is promise for significant Congressional action in the new 103rd session.

Positive action has already begun in the Clinton Administration. On March 31, Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Carol Browner released the draft Great Lakes Water Quality Initiative, long blocked by the Bush Administration. The draft calls for uniform water quality standards for each of the eight Great Lakes states and promises to frame a major public policy debate, as various stakeholders around the Basin comment on the draft (see separate story).

In February, environmentalists wrote EPA Administrator Browner, asking for her action on several other measures:

- ♦ Dropping the appeal of a successful lawsuit won in 1992 by Friends of Crystal River in Michigan against EPA. This victory forbade the State of Michigan from issuing a wetlands permit for developing a golf course on a pristine river near Traverse City. Dropping the appeal would assure a proper role for EPA in overseeing wetlands delegated to state supervision. So far, Michigan is the only such state, but EPA wants other states to assume delegation.
- ♦ Appointing officials that are sensitive to ecosystem management and the needs of low-income communities in such key positions as assistant administrator for water, assistant administrator for air and radiation, and Region V administrator. Region V, based in Chicago, houses the Great Lakes National Program Office (GLNPO).
- ♦ Securing environmentally sound infrastructure improvements, such as a single full-scale cleanup of a contaminated Great Lakes harbor.

The president's stimulus package did not include the latter recommendation, however, the package did include a new state revolving fund from which small communities may borrow money to meet

Safe Drinking Water Act standards. The president's bill was defeated by a Republican filibuster, but the drinking water revolving fund will be included in separate EPA-sponsored legislation, according to Browner.

Environmentalists still await action on the first three requests. In testimony on April 21 to the House subcommittee overseeing the EPA appropriations for fiscal year 1994, Administrator Browner and GLNPO Director Christopher Grundler promised:

- ♦ Continued action on a pollution prevention initiative with the Big Three auto makers
- ♦ A new program working with the Nature Conservancy to protect critical habitats
- ♦ A continued Clean Sweep program encouraging farmers to turn in old pesticides whose use has been suspended by EPA
- ♦ Continued diligent work on Remedial Action Plans and Lakewide Management Plans.

Several legislative vehicles have emerged at the start of the 103rd Congress that address Great Lakes concerns. Environmentalists are asking the Clinton administration to support the Edwards wetlands protection bill (H.R. 350), the Oberstar Nonpoint Source Pollution Prevention Act of 1993, currently in draft, and the Metzenbaum Great Lakes Sediment Control Act (S. 75).

Wetlands

Rep. Don Edwards (D-CA) is emerging as the House champion for wetlands this session of Congress, just as he was in the last. His bill would:

- ♦ Establish a national policy to protect wetlands
- ♦ Expand the number of activities regulated in the attempt to preserve wetlands
- ♦ Strengthen EPA oversight of the permit program managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- ♦ Require government decisions to consider a forthcoming National

Academy of Sciences study on what defines a wetland

- ♦ Create tax breaks for landowners who donate wetlands to the Wetlands Stewardship Trust

Big business, organized landholders and conservative politicians proposed two counter measures. H.R. 1330, introduced by Rep. Jimmy Hayes (D-LA), would change the definition of wetlands in the current Clean Water Act to drastically reduce the amount of wetlands protected by the law. A similar Hayes bill had substantial support last session. However, Edwards then introduced his bill and the environmentalist lobbying for cosponsorship killed the momentum of the Hayes bill.

The other significant countermeasure is the "Takings Amendment" (S. 177), introduced by Sen. Bob Dole (R-KS). This measure would require the Justice Department to review any regulation that might take away a citizen's private property without just compensation. The proposed process includes neither citizen participation nor any provision for judicial review should the Justice Department choose to delay needed regulations.

Sen. Dole, his twelve Senate cosponsors, and monied interests describe the amendment as a way of protecting private property. However, labor, consumer and environmentalists point out that the U.S. Constitution already guarantees adequate compensation. They charge that the Dole bill is a smoke screen for a generalized attack on government regulation that would effectively roll back all federal environmental laws as well as federal laws for transportation safety, worker health and other regulatory programs.

So far, Hayes has gotten about eighty cosponsors for his bill, Edwards about seventy. Both representatives have testified before the House Water Resources Subcommittee, which is beginning the process of rewriting the Clean Water Act. Hayes is a member of this subcommittee; Edwards is not. At some point in the next few months the subcommittee may vote on the two competing bills, or it may craft a compromise. Subcommittee chair Douglas Applegate (D-OH) will play a central role in the debate. The Senate will watch House activity before going anywhere with this issue.

Just the opposite is true with the Takings bill. Sen. Dole may offer it as an amendment to legislation to make EPA a Cabinet agency, as that bill is marked up by the Senate Government Affairs Committee. However, Dole may be scared off by the Senate's 50-48 vote on April 29 tabling an amendment by Sen. Don Nickles (R-OK) that would have required economic impact analysis of regulatory action. The Clinton administration and consumer, labor, and environmental groups convinced the Senate that such analyses would be inherently slanted and anti-environmental.

If the Senate adds the Dole or other anti-environmental language to the EPA Cabinet bill, then, since it would be unlikely to pass in the House, the issue would probably be decided in the House-Senate Conference Committee. The House is currently conducting hearings on the EPA Cabinet bill.

On January 5, Sen. Howard Metzenbaum (D-OH) introduced a bill similar to one he was almost able to attach to the Water Resources Development Act in the last session. The bill

would:

- ♦ Expand the federal cleanup of Great Lakes contaminated sediments
- ♦ Require better cooperation among federal agencies responsible for the sediment cleanup program
- ♦ Require stronger controls for contaminated sediment disposal facilities
- ♦ Have the Army Corps of Engineers profile the upstream sources of sedimentation in Great Lakes waterways and harbors. This was a provision of a bill written by Sen. John Glenn (D-OH) in the last Congress.

So far, no hearings have been held in the Senate on this bill, and no one in the House has introduced a similar bill.

Nonpoint sources

Rep. James Oberstar (D-MN) is circulating draft legislation generally praised by environmentalists. The bill would:

- ♦ Direct state nonpoint source planning agencies funded under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act to upgrade their efforts to bring runoff-polluted streams into compliance with water quality standards
- ♦ Require better management of runoff on federal lands
- ♦ Support a national citizen monitoring program.

A Natural Resources Defense Council fact sheet on this draft bill points out that it presumes that all land users in a 319 management area are exempt until the state agency designates them as covered. NRDC proposes the reverse: all land users should be covered unless exempted. This policy is supported by several consortia of resource management and environmental organizations.

The matter will continue to be debated as the bill is introduced in the House Water Resources Subcommittee, of which Oberstar is a senior member. No senators have begun drafting nonpoint source bills.

Administration approach

In the larger picture, environmentalists are pressing EPA to include all these environmental protection measures in a single strong reauthorization of the Clean Water Act. Such a proactive role would be a sharp contrast to the approach of the Bush and Reagan administrations, which refused to draft or endorse any Clean Water Act improvements.

Environmental justice

Congress may consider some sort of environmental justice legislation this session. A likely candidate for consideration is a bill to be introduced by Rep. John Lewis (D-GA) and Sen. Harris Wofford (D-PA), which would have the government list the 100 areas of the country most highly impacted by toxic contamination. Special cleanup assistance would then be directed to these locales. Most of them will be communities of color, such as South Chicago or the Mohawk Nation (Akwasasne), to name two in the Great Lakes ecosystem.

Wish list

A number of ideas in search of a legislative vehicle and sponsor are circulating. One of the most important is the tightening of Title III of the Clean Water Act, which prescribes the federal pro-

continued on page 12

Join Great Lakes United!

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

The Lorax, by Dr. Seuss

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

- ☐ individual member (\$20.00)
- ☐ family member (\$30.00)
- ☐ subscriber (\$20.00)
- ☐ sustaining member (\$50.00)
- ☐ organizational member (\$100.00)

Name: _____
Organization: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State/Province: _____
Phone: () _____ Zip/Postal Code: _____

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

Great Lakes United
Cassidy Hall, 1300 Elmwood Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14222 (716) 886-0142

Cooperative models of wetlands regulation

Canadian and Ontario governments

by Bruce Kershner
Great Lakes United

While environmentalists in the United States were fighting off attempts by the late Bush administration to weaken wetland laws, the Ontario and Canadian governments were quietly working with environmentalists to strengthen wetland protection.

The joint effort has resulted in the Great Lakes Wetlands Conservation Action Plan, which has set objectives to achieve a zero loss of Great Lakes wetlands, and to reestablish 30,000 hectares (72,000 acres) of wetlands by 2020.

In contrast to the hypocritical "no net loss of wetlands" statement by former President Bush, the Canadian plan shows what happens when government officials are genuinely working to protect wetlands.

The plan proposes \$9.6 million in funding to implement actions for the first five years, with half going to securing and acquiring wetlands.

Great Lakes United chaired one of the committees as well as the initial convening of environmental groups. Most of the recommendations made by the 1991 citizen Great Lakes Wetland Consortium were incorporated into the new plan, demonstrating the value of grassroots consensus for spurring government action.

Actions to be carried out include:

- ♦ Securing and acquiring wetlands
- ♦ Providing incentives for landowners to protect their own wetlands
- ♦ Identifying and protecting government-owned wetlands
- ♦ Developing a priority list of sites for wetland rehabilitation and creation
- ♦ Developing sites where effective wetland creation and techniques can be demonstrated
- ♦ Developing a Great Lakes wetland

database to monitor stresses and changes in wetland area.

In the legal and policy arena, the plan aims to improve enforcement of all existing statutes and regulations and to develop direct wetland protection legislation in future years. Government programs that support wetland conversion will be restricted. Tax credit programs that protect wetlands will be expanded. Sections of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement that apply to wetlands will be targeted for faster implementation.

The plan will attempt to "encourage public accountability in government at all levels by improving access to wetland inventory data and to decisions that affect wetlands."

The Ontario Association of Municipalities played a key role in the cooperative effort, in contrast to the obstructionist role local government often plays on the U.S. side. As a result, the plan outlines actions to maximize protection of wetlands in local zoning and master plans. Principles will be devised to guide municipalities during planning processes.

The primary government agencies involved in the effort were the Canadian Wildlife Service, the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans, the Ontario Ministry of Environment, and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. Besides GLU, the Nature Conservancy of Canada, the Ontario Federation of Naturalists and the Canadian Environmental Law Association were among environmental groups that played key roles.

The next steps are final endorsement by the steering committee, setting up of an implementation team, and obtaining funding. For a copy of the plan, contact Nancy Patterson, Canadian Wildlife Service, 25 St. Clair Ave. E., 7th floor, Toronto, Ontario, M4T 1M2, 416-954-5620.

High lead in some Lakes tapwater

by Bruce Kershner

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency tested the lead content of drinking water from 660 public systems in the United States and found that 20 percent—meaning 32 million homes in 130 cities—had lead levels exceeding the federal action level of 15 parts per billion. Of these, 31 cities in the Great Lakes watershed, home to 5 million people, had unsafe lead levels.

Not every house in a listed city will have contaminated water—only high-risk homes were tested, that is, houses thought to have contaminated water because of suspicion that pipes in the street or the home were leaching lead. The report does not necessarily imply that the public water supply itself is contaminated; the report did not investigate causes.

For readers living in a listed city, what the report does mean is that testing the house water for lead is essential. Plumbing fixtures with lead solder, or old lead pipe connectors in pipes underneath the street are the primary sources of contamination.

Listed cities will be required by EPA to begin mixing lime or other substances in with the water supply in an attempt to coat pipe surfaces and joints so they do

not leach lead. If this technique is unsuccessful in lowering lead levels below the 15 ppb guideline, lead service pipes will be required to be dug up and replaced.

Michigan and Illinois had the greatest number of contaminated water supplies, with twelve and seven respectively. Wisconsin and Ohio each had four contaminated water supplies in the Basin, Indiana two, and New York and Pennsylvania one each.

Syracuse, New York, had the highest levels of lead contamination in the Great Lakes Basin at 50 ppb. Next highest were the Chicago suburb of Oak Park (39), the Detroit suburbs of Taylor (35) and Dearborn Heights (33), and the cities of Grand Rapids (35) and Livonia, Michigan (34).

All of Detroit's, all of Cleveland's, and most of Chicago's suburbs all had unsafe water. Other cities in the Great Lakes states but outside the Basin that had unsafe water were New York City (55 ppb) and Minneapolis-St. Paul (55 and 19).

Nationwide, the worst cities were in Massachusetts, Florida, and South Carolina. Charleston had lead levels of 211 ppb, nearly fifteen times higher than the EPA guideline.

In Western New York

by Bruce Kershner

A model of cooperation between the builders industry, environmental groups and state and federal government in Western New York has led to agreement on fourteen principles to resolve regulatory problems while continuing to protect wetlands. The agreements will be used to develop a regional wetland permit and to help New York State develop regional wetland strategies.

The effort, named the Western New York Wetland Roundtable, was co-founded by Great Lakes United to help defuse the often rancorous controversy surrounding wetland regulations in the area. Western New York is considered to be one of the "hot spots" of controversy in the United States.

The roundtable convened the full range of stakeholders to create a neutral forum for dialogue, airing of concerns, and reaching understandings of other positions. GLU also saw it as a way to head off attempts to weaken wetland protection.

Among the principles reached were that:

- ♦ The state and federal governments should reconcile their differences in wetland delineation methods and develop joint regulatory permits; both are major sources of frustration for

landowners

- ♦ A wetland mapping program should be created and appropriately funded
- ♦ Affected communities should develop broad public processes to assess local values of wetlands.
- ♦ A system should be devised to track regional changes in wetland area and function to aid future decisions on cumulative impacts
- ♦ Government wetland decisions should be sensitive to both private landowner rights and wetland benefits for society.

The roundtable succeeded because:

- 1) The representatives of each side were carefully chosen
- 2) The forum was closed to the media and the presence of politicians
- 3) Ground rules ensured that the meetings were nonconfrontational, and
- 4) All parties agreed beforehand that wetland protection was not to be weakened.

For more information, contact Barry Boyer, Baldy Hall, State University of New York at Buffalo Law School, Buffalo, NY 14260, 716-636-2052.

Great Lakes Cities with
Lead-Contaminated Water Supplies

State	City	Excessive lead level (parts per billion)
New York	Syracuse	50
Pennsylvania	Erie	16
Illinois	Oak Park	39
	Cicero	28
	Evanston	25
	Glenview	25
	Waukegan	20
	Oak Lawn	18
	Palatine	17
Indiana	Hammond	27
	Fort Wayne	21
Michigan	Grand Rapids	35
	Taylor	35
	Livonia	34
	Dearborn Heights	33
	Dearborn	29
	St. Clair Shores	23
	Detroit	21
	Warren	21
	Westland	21
	Clinton Township	19
	Farmington Hills	17
	Royal Oak	17
Minnesota	St. Paul	54
	Minneapolis	19
Ohio	Cleveland - Baldwin Plant	25
	Cleveland - Nottingham	25
	Cleveland - Crown Plant	20
	Cleveland - Morgan	20
Wisconsin	West Allis	22
	Racine	18
	Oshkosh	17
	Madison	16

Radioactive releases in the Great Lakes Basin

by Ronald J. Scrudato and
Linda J. Downing

The Great Lakes Basin's nineteen nuclear power stations, several with multiple reactors, emit a variety of radioactive substances during normal operations. They are not the only source of these dangerous materials. Uranium mining (due to the increase in runoff and erosion from the disturbed land and piles of mine tailings), natural discharges (more than sixty radionuclides occur naturally in the earth environment), atmospheric fallout (mostly residues from surface nuclear weapons testing in the late 1950s and early 1960s), leaking waste management facilities, industrial and medical wastes, and fuel processing and reprocessing facilities are other sources of radioactive releases to the Basin.

During the early years of the nuclear development era, a number of research and processing facilities were established in the United States, including the Basin. The problems associated with improper waste management were not well recognized during that time and large quantities of radioactive wastes were disposed of in municipal landfills and sewers. Radioactive materials used in research or for medical purposes during those early years were also routinely dumped into local sewer systems.

The United States and Canada included a dose-specific radioactivity objective in the 1978 Water Quality Agreement: "The level of radioactivity in waters outside of any defined source control area should not result in a TED50 (total equivalent dose integrated over 50 years...) greater than 1 millirem to the whole body from a daily ingestion of 2.2 litres of lake water for one year." The consumption of Great Lakes water is believed to account for about 85 percent of the total radiological dose of Great Lakes residents (contaminated food is thought to contribute the rest). Tritium and strontium are thought to contribute the greatest radiological dose resulting from drinking Great Lakes water. Other radionuclides are not considered important dose contributors, but there is little information available to assess this assumption.

A review of the literature turns up relatively few published reports on the distribution and concentrations of radionuclides in Great Lakes water, sediments, or biota. This is surprising, given all the focus on water quality during the past decade and a half. Those reports that do exist focus on the distribution of weapons-testing-related cesium and strontium in Great Lakes sediments. There is some information on the concentrations of tritium, antimony, cesium, strontium and select other isotopes in Great Lakes water, although the data lacks consistency and is incomplete. The available studies fail to assess the wide range of radionuclides known to be discharged to the Lakes as well as the accumulations in and impacts on aquatic organisms.

Some useful information is available. For example, a 1981 report by the New York State Assembly noted that millions of gallons of radioactive wastes were discharged to shallow wells in the Niagara Frontier and that thousands of additional gallons were deposited in dumps within the Niagara area including the Love Canal dumpsite. It is not known, however, whether these wastes are currently being indirectly discharged to Great Lakes waters. The West Valley nuclear facility, which operated as a reprocessing plant until 1972, is known to be discharging plutonium and americium to Lake Ontario (where it is found in the lake's sediments) via Lake Erie and the Niagara River. West Valley is currently being reconsidered as a low-level radioactive waste management facility for New York State.

The nuclear industry insists that tritium, a fission waste product discharged by nuclear generating facilities, does not pose a human health risk, but the Atomic Energy Board of Canada reported an 80 percent increase in birth prevalence of Down's syndrome near the Pickering nuclear generating facility located near Toronto. This report noted that tritium is the only radionuclide discharged from the facility in any quantity. This same report further notes that there was also an association between airborne tritium concentrations and central nervous sys-

tem anomalies in the Pickering area. Other human health-related studies conducted in the United Kingdom and in the United States came to similar conclusions and also found links between tritium exposure and cancer.

In 1985 the tritium concentrations in the Port Elgin drinking water supply increased to about 13,000 picocuries, which, although well below allowed limits, represented a direct increased exposure to area residents. The cause of the excess concentration was a failure to mix the discharge from the Douglas Point nuclear station with uncontaminated water, which would not have reduced the total radioactive loading to Lake Huron, but would have reduced the concentration by dilution.

Since federal agencies regulate the nuclear electrical generating industry, many citizens mistakenly assume that there must be effective monitoring of nuclear plant discharges. In the United States the monitoring protocols of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) were established to assess impacts to human health. The protocols are not designed to assess impacts to aquatic ecosystems; NRC annual reports required of all operating nuclear plants do not focus on the specific types and concentrations of radionuclides discharged to the lakes and adjacent environments. This can have damaging consequences.

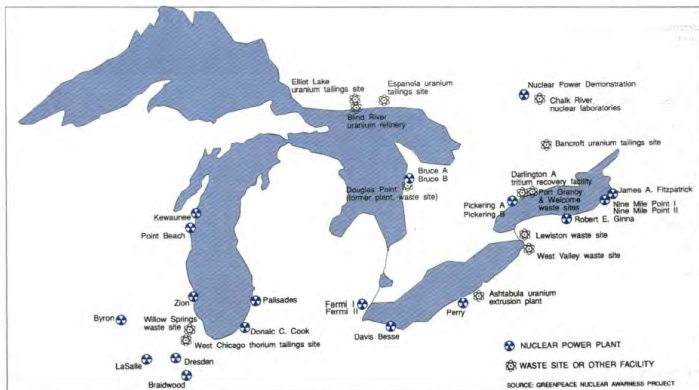
An example. More than a decade ago a nuclear power plant located near Oswego, New York, flooded a subbasement in which drums of radioactive wastes were stored. Plant management did not report the incident, and it only came to light ten years later due to the efforts of a Syracuse newspaper. But a review of the NRC air and water monitoring reports proved unable to determine when the spill and the discharge to Lake Ontario had actually occurred—the monitoring data for the period showed no change in the concentrations and distributions of monitored radionuclides. It is known that radionuclides were discharged, but the NRC required sampling and analytical protocols are not designed to detect discharges of this kind. What is required is monitoring

programs to detect discharges and accumulations in lake water, sediments and biota.

Nuclear generating facilities contribute a number of non-nuclear chemicals to Great Lakes waters as well. One of the nuclear facilities near Oswego discharged hundreds of pounds of copper to Lake Ontario in 1989 when excessive sulfuric acid was added to the cooling waters, stripping copper from cooling water coils. The invasion of the zebra mussel has prompted power companies to resort to the use of strong biocides (a common one is Clamoxol) to combat water intake tunnel clogging. Nuclear plants use millions of gallons of water a day as part of the power production process, mostly to cool the reactor core. Only the most rudimentary knowledge of the toxicity and persistence of the anti-zebra mussel chemicals is available.

At a time of so much focus on Great Lakes water quality improvement and serious discussion of the virtual elimination of persistent toxic chemicals in the ecosystem, more emphasis should be placed on the contributions of toxic substances from the nuclear power industries and discharges of radionuclides from leaking waste sites. Many more radionuclides need to be assessed and monitored in the Great Lakes, and it is time to give more attention to the total emissions from nuclear generating facilities and related human impacts, including genetic damage to disease incidence.

A binational task force should be established to assess the current understanding of the concentrations and distribution of radionuclides in the Great Lakes Basin and the relative contributions from each source. This task force should then make recommendations on future monitoring protocols that will allow the U.S. and Canadian governments and the interested public to gain a better understanding of the potential threat of radionuclide contamination in the Great Lakes. Alternatively, the EPA's Great Lakes Initiative, currently under public review, could be strengthened to achieve these same ends.



One day, near an unsuspecting community named Dunville, someone said, "I know! Let's dump the uranium in the pond!"

by Lawrence Wilson
Environmental Hazards Team

The story you are about to read is true. Near the mouth of the Grand River and a town named Dunville, in the majestic countryside near Lake Erie, stand the remnants of an industrial complex—and a radioactive nightmare.

One of many blights found in the pastoral setting that is home to the Grand, the site in question currently belongs to International Minerals and Chemicals Corp. Canada. IMC operated a fertilizer production plant here from 1974 to 1984. The site was similarly used by other companies dating from 1957.

IMC has been in the process of decommissioning the plant since 1989. Unfortunately, the company does not have an exemplary track record. Production at the facility has caused phosphate runoff into the Grand River and contamination by heavy metals and fluoride. Of greatest concern, however, is the plant's radiation danger—the site is contaminated with uranium 238, uranium 235 and thorium, the result of the concentration of naturally radioactive rocks used in the fertilizer manufacturing process.

Government supervision of the cleanup of the site is desperately needed but not yet forthcoming—the site falls between the cracks of provincial and federal jurisdiction. Radioactive contamination is a federal responsibility, but federal guidelines apply only to radiation produced from the nuclear fuel cycle. IMC does fall under provincial authority in its phosphate operations, but with respect to radiation, the province regulates only point source emissions that affect drinking water standards—the IMC site is primarily a non-point source.

The presence of uranium 238 at the site was not publicly disclosed until 1984—the government classified the information because it thought people would not allow the site to be built if they knew about the uranium, and since the plant would produce fertilizers it would help feed people all over the world. It was a justifiable risk for a small number of people in Dunville.

The plant's location on a wetland heightens its threat to human health and the environment. It is so close to the Grand River that in one area the river's shoreline is in fact a berm built up by IMC as a wall for one of its waste ponds. These ponds contain wastes that have accumulated since the plant began operation, and they also contain waste dumped by other companies—including wastes rejected by Hooker Chemical at Love Canal! All of this, just a few feet of clay away from the Grand River.

The radioactive material at the IMC site is a byproduct of the fertilizer production, mostly in the form of acidic slurry piped directly to the ponds. Much of IMC's production equipment ended up regularly encrusted with a hard scale of radioactive phosphogypsum. Federal scientists estimate the scale's half-life at 8,000 years. Periodically the scale would be routinely cleaned off and dumped into the ponds along with the rest of the wastes. Some of the surfaces found within the remaining buildings have phosphogypsum deposits varying in thickness from less than 2.5 centimeters (1 inch) to about 60 centimeters (2 feet).

Much of the plant has been taken down, but the most contaminated buildings remain and the process of demol-

ishing them is complex. First various surfaces in the buildings and on the equipment must be carefully washed, some then sandblasted. All the resultant waste material will be put in pond D1 on the site, instead of secured in drums. Then all the equipment above allowable radioactive limits must be carefully removed and stored on I.M.C. property until another site can be found where it can be properly disposed of. Thus, at this moment, all the most highly contaminated equipment and scale residue will remain on site.

By dumping the radioactive cleaning waste in with the wastes already in pond D1, IMC will be reducing its contamination level to below 100 picocuries per gram. If this can be done, it is not a true solution at all but merely a testament to the incredible amount of waste already being stored on site. After this dilution has been completed, the company plans

to cap the ponds (other ponds on the site have already been capped), creating what are in effect landfills.

The most incredible part of the story is yet to come: IMC then plans to inundate the landfills with water, in a bizarre attempt to percolate the radioactive material and other contaminants into the peat layer of the wetland that the ponds was originally built on. The absurd theory is that this peat layer will serve as a permanent repository for the radioactive toxic materials. Neither the company nor the Ontario Ministry of the Environment has been able to provide any evidence that the peat will entrap the contaminants. This is a project born of complete speculation by IMC-driven consultants.

Since undoubtedly the contaminants will simply move straight into the water table, with the IMC cleanup experiment probably only accelerating the process,

this effort is in fact nothing but an elaborate shell game, moving very long-lived radioactive waste from one part of the environment to another.

The conclusion to IMC's fantastic plan is to capture the waste water (the water used to inundate the landfills) over the next thirty years, and transport it by ditches to a water treatment plant, then to be sent on to the river.

The area of the Grand River around the phosphogypsum ponds are eerily absent of wetlands or any other lush vegetation. Only grasses can grow here. Company officials will point out that hunters often use their property; they hope this will prove that the site is ecologically healthy. These officials even propose that the site eventually be turned into a recreational area. There is only one certainty about the future of this land, however—it will be radioactively contaminated for at least 8,000 years.

PROFILE OF A MEMBER

Citizens Against Chemical Contamination

by Evi Brauser
Great Lakes United

In 1978 a group made up mostly of organic gardeners and farmers sued the government over plans to spray their land to control the gypsy moth. This began Citizens for Alternatives to Chemical Contamination (CACC), one of the members of the coalition that makes up Great Lakes United. Officials running the joint federal and state agriculture

siting of low- and high-level waste storage/disposal facilities in the state.

Annual Eco Conference

In 1983 CACC started a unique spring program, the Backyard Eco Conference, that combines a weekend of camping out in the woods with environmental workshops and speakers, live music, and a program for children (accommodating as many as seventy kids).



Members of the CACC board of directors in front of the house donated to the organization.

program in central Michigan told CACC's original members that their land would not be exempted from "treatment."

The citizens used the state and won relief under the Michigan Environmental Protection Act, even getting back the money back they invested in the case—the state had not looked for alternatives, as required by law.

Pesticide regulation continues to be a major issue for CACC. The group's efforts on gypsy moth education have been so successful that they are being adopted by other counties throughout the state. CACC hopes to eventually receive funding to put together an entire package to make it easier for other counties to implement educational programs. CACC also acts as a clearinghouse for information on pesticides and has joined with other activists to call for health screening of exposed populations. CACC was a participant in the evaluation and amending of the Michigan Pesticide Control Act.

CACC also has interests in solid and hazardous waste reduction, and in deep well injection, particularly of oil and gas drilling wastes. It has a continued partnership with Don't Waste Michigan and other groups concerned over the

Ste. Marie area of Michigan and Ontario in December 1990. Other chapters include the Huron Environmental Action League (HEAL) in Alpena, which is fighting the cement kiln incineration of hazardous waste on the shore of Lake Huron, and the Citizens League for Environmental Awareness and Responsibility (CLEAR), which formed around the issue of aquatic weed control in northern Michigan inland lakes.

CACC chapters have a member on the board of directors and can take advantage of the organization's federal and state non-profit status. Twelve Michigan groups maintain organizational memberships in CACC.

Through its membership in Great Lakes United, CACC has kept abreast

of major Great Lakes and water issues. It has worked with residents of Drummond Island in their efforts to protect strategic perch spawning beds from dredging operations and the discharge of sewage effluent into the bays and rivers of the island.

A number of riparians have joined CACC as organizational members because of CACC's work in the area of pesticides and water protection.

Despite its array of activities, CACC functions on less than \$400,000 a year, mostly raised through memberships, private donations, and events like the Eco Conference. The group has been given a house on an acre of land as a gift, and will eventually be given twenty-six more acres adjacent to a lake. CACC plans to develop a nature study and retreat on the land.

You can call CACC at 517-544-3318.

Clean water requires involving Ontario's municipalities

by Helen Cooper

Mayor, Kingston, Ontario

The water supply in Ontario is invisible. As with many other municipal services, the province's users and providers alike take the availability of water and its safety largely for granted. Unfortunately, such an attitude causes problems.

The institutional political forum for debate on Great Lakes water quality, of course, is the International Joint Commission, but there are very few municipal politicians who would be able to tell you what the IJC does, or even what its initials stand for. Despite some attempts in the 1980s by the Ontario Association of Municipalities to gain some presence at the IJC Biennial meetings, recognition of the municipal role and participation by municipal officials in the province's water policy is virtually nonexistent.

As a result, decisionmakers in the local context are not encouraged to look at the ramifications of the decisions they make beyond their own boundaries. Many Great Lakes municipalities use the lakes as their principal source of drinking water but forget that it is everybody else's drinking water as well. For municipal governments there is little incentive to take this collective interest into account. The best illustration of this is simply the fact that in virtually every municipality the intake pipe for the municipal water system is upstream from the outlet for the sewage treatment plant. This leads to the blatant disregard of the problems of neighbouring municipalities and a lack of understanding of the importance of collective responsibility for sewage treatment problems.

I cannot begin to estimate what the backlog in capital funding for the provision of adequate sewage treatment must be just within the jurisdiction of the province of Ontario alone. Throughout the province existing water lines have too little capacity and water treatment plants are of insufficient quality. It is of course not only a problem of inadequate capital funds, but also a grave political problem. Municipal boundaries in Ontario were determined in many cases over a hundred years ago and are now grossly misplaced given the change from a rural to an urban population.

Each jurisdiction continues to be relatively autonomous in its water and sewage treatment decisions. Obtaining the funds to adequately deal with those responsibilities is of course proving to be impossible because of both provincial and municipal taxing restraint. With traditional sources of revenue disappearing, pressure on municipalities to find new sources of funding could lead to decisions that may prove costly and environmentally unsound in the long term. The effects on groundwater systems are potentially very serious.

The province of Ontario has recently revived the proposal of the previous government for the establishment of a separate sewage and water corporation, primarily as a vehicle for the raising of capital for both replacement and new installations. However, this mechanism can in no way address the far more fundamental problems of the inadequacy of existing political structures to make appropriate decisions for the allocation of that capital.

The inadequacy goes far further than

simply one of obsolescence. It is quite traditional for people in drawing a political boundary, whether local or national, to identify certain natural features for that boundary. Hence, many municipal boundaries are defined by water courses. This has led to very serious planning problems for the assurance of water quality. For instance, many of the streams that run into the Great Lakes system are part of an extensive natural wetlands system, which of course is also a natural cleansing system. With the municipal boundary running through the middle of the wetlands system, there are many disincentives working against wetland preservation. If a municipality on one side of the line with very good intentions sees its neighbour on the other side of the line allowing extensive in-fill and development—and being rewarded, of course, with greater assessment revenue from property development—then the first municipality is likely to cave in as well. And there is often little incentive to place water treatment systems logically, at river and stream outlets to the lake system, because these systems would then be right on the boundary lines.

The fundamental role that municipalities play in the determination of water quality throughout the Great Lakes system must be recognized by both federal and provincial authorities. And the need for reform of municipal political structures and financing must be jointly recognized by municipalities and provincial politicians.

One of the first and most appropriate ways for both the Canadian and United States governments to facilitate this recognition would be to offer official status

to municipalities within the structure of the IJC in the same way that they currently recognize state and provincial authority. This would force municipal leaders and those they serve to view their role in affecting water quality more realistically and responsibly. Such recognition would also provide a logical forum to force discussion of the need to restructure municipal government.

In the long run, investment in clean water is one of the most important we can make. Municipal governments are increasingly involved in operating community economic development programs. These tend to take on a host of superficial, glitzy trappings in the intensely competitive race to attract new employers from one municipality to the next. These bells and whistles will seem to be only so much frayed tinsel if viable industry and business is not guaranteed adequate basic services in the long term, water supply and quality topping the list.

Great Lakes United could and should contribute to the very important and long-overdue process of municipal self-examination. I therefore invite Great Lakes United, as an organization that has shown a long-term commitment to healing the Great Lakes, to also work towards the goal of greater municipal involvement in water issues and in Great Lakes United itself. It might begin by asking every municipal council in the Great Lakes Basin one very fundamental question—whether the quality of its effluent into the water course in any way matches the quality of the water it takes from the system.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

The Great Lakes salmon fishery may be collapsing

For those who strolled Great Lakes beaches in the 1960s, memories of the stench of dead alewives strewn along the shoreline still offend the senses. The alewife, a small fish in the herring family, is thought to be native to Lake Ontario but in fact entered the upper lakes through the St. Lawrence Seaway and the Welland Canal. Following the demise of the indigenous lake trout due to overfishing and the invasion of the sea lamprey, the alewife proliferated without the natural controls exerted by top order predators. At the same time, increased levels of phosphorus from detergents and inadequately treated sewage entered the lakes, causing an overabundance of aquatic plant life and huge mats of decaying algae.

The control of both phosphorus and the sea lamprey and the introduction of Pacific salmon into the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin ecosystem resulted in dramatic water quality improvements, allowed reintroduction of the lake trout in the middle and lower lakes, caused a gradual decline in the number of alewives, and allowed the development of a thriving sport angler and charterboat fishing industry.

Today we again face major changes in the Great Lakes St. Lawrence River Basin ecosystem. We see changes that

result from the lingering effects of toxic wastes still being discharged to the ecosystem and a gradual but significant decline in the biota of the system as well. The reduction in phosphorus, the invasion of the zebra mussel, and other factors have reduced the amount of phytoplankton (small plants) in the middle and lower lakes. Zooplankton (small animals) which feed upon phytoplankton have declined as a result. Zooplankton serve as the principal food source of young game fish and small fish like the alewife and smelt. Alewives and smelt are a significant part of the forage base for top order predators such as the lake trout and salmon. At the same time the forage base is being stressed from the bottom by the lack of food, it is also being stressed from above by the overabundance of predators, primarily the chinook salmon. The lake trout, which everyone hoped would become a self-sustaining population again, does so only in Lake Superior.

The Great Lakes Fishery Commission has utilized computer models to predict the impact of forces at work within the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Ecosystem on the population of open water predators and forage base fishes such as the alewife, smelt and bloater chubs. Without a major cutback

in salmon planting, the models predict a frightening decline in forage base fishes and ultimately poor survival among the predators in Lakes Ontario, Michigan and possibly Lake Erie. Charter boat operators and sport anglers are understandably concerned, but have resisted efforts to limit salmon planting. Others have even suggested allowing an increase in the levels of phosphorus that can be discharged to the lakes so that more nutrients would be available for phytoplankton at the lowest end of the food chain.

Great Lakes United has strongly supported measures to control phosphorus and other pollutants discharged to the Great Lakes. GLU has also supported restoration of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin ecosystem through the reintroduction of native species such as the lake trout. The suppression and possible collapse of the alewife population and the need to reduce the planting of salmon and other nonnative salmonids will likely have both positive and negative impacts. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation has already decided to reduce the planting of trout and salmon in Lake Ontario to try to head off the collapse of the forage base. Other states will follow suit. The charterboat fishery and the

salmon-based sport fishery may decline as a result.

On the positive side, there may be a resurgence of yellow perch and other game fish that were limited because of predation by alewife on the young of those species. Over time lake trout may be reestablished as the principal Great Lakes predator, hopefully with enough of a reduction of toxic chemicals in their flesh to make them safe for anglers and anglers' families to eat. Further suppression of the sea lamprey (hopefully without the use of harmful chemicals) will continue to provide an opportunity for lake trout to recover and reproduce naturally. Controls on the accidental and deliberate introductions of nonnative species and increased efforts to limit the discharge of toxic chemicals into the Basin through the Great Lakes Initiative will also help protect the ecosystem. The sunseting and virtual elimination of persistent toxic chemicals through adherence to the provisions of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement may give the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin ecosystem half a chance to recover and become a productive, natural, and hence stable system.

Terry Vonker

Michigan's Gratiot mine shows state permitting ease

by John Manty

There's copper in the Keweenaw Peninsula, a part of Michigan's Upper Peninsula that juts out sixty miles into the greatest of the Great Lakes, Lake Superior—but attempts to mine that copper are turning into a battle over environmental quality, corporate responsibility, and jobs.

The Keweenaw has a copper mining history dating back to prehistoric times when Native Americans broke off chunks of pure copper from veins uncovered by erosion. Until the 1970s only this "native" copper interested miners, but then there were some abortive attempts to mine a copper-bearing ore called chalcocite that is also present in the Keweenaw.

In 1990 a Canadian company was formed specifically to attempt to mine the Keweenaw's chalcocite ore. This firm, Great Lakes Minerals (GLM), announced its intention in the fall of 1991 and shortly thereafter appeared at a public meeting called by the National Wildlife Federation and the state Department of Natural Resources to discuss the proposal and inform the public. The company was targeting five deposits of chalcocite with one site "543-S" to be mined first. Later in the fall the company announced that it had entered into a joint venture agreement with Noranda Explorations, a subsidiary of another Canadian corporation, to explore 41,000 acres in the Keweenaw for additional deposits of copper.

The 543-S site is located about a mile and a half from the largest lake in the Keweenaw, Gratiot Lake. Many of the residents of the Gratiot Lake area took a dim view of the proposal to mine in their backyard and an organization was formed to combat the proposal.

This ad hoc informal group, Working Against Keweenaw Exploitation (WAKE) began to gather and disseminate information about the proposed mine. GLM ostensibly disputed some WAKE's fact sheets and threatened a lawsuit against four members of the group, including this author. This phenomenon is known among public activists as a "strategic lawsuit against public participation"—a "SLAPP" suit. Its purpose is to silence opposition through intimidation and financial duress. One of the four entered into negotiations with GLM and eventually printed a retraction. The other three, including this author, refused and were sued by GLM last June 1992. The case is scheduled for trial this September.

As defendants we have received considerable support from the environmental community and have continued to express confidence in our eventual vindication. An indication of the strength of our case came this spring when a mediation panel made a recommendation for settlement that was favorable to us and so unpalatable to GLM that the company filed a motion with the court to have the mediation overturned. The judge denied the motion.

Last fall Noranda Explorations decided to pull out of the area and its joint venture with GLM. During this period the permitting process was moving forward. There are no laws in Michigan specific to permitting mining. Neither is there a mechanism in Michigan by which an environmental impact study can be ordered. The required permits in this

instance are for water discharge and an air permit due to crushing, the only processing that will take place on site.

The crushed ore will be hauled by truck for processing by the Copper Range mill and smelter, located about 100 miles southwest of 543-S near White Pine, close to the shore of Lake Superior. Copper Range is being sued by the states of Michigan and Wisconsin, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the National Wildlife Federation for violating air pollution laws. The proposed mining operation in effect asks the state to allow the processing to be done at an illegal smelter, one we have heard on good authority will not be brought into compliance by the negotiations now being conducted under the pending lawsuit against Copper Range.

The water permit will be voted upon by the Water Resources Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on April 22, coincidentally and ironically, Earth Day. The DNR is recommending that the permit be granted. Its chances of passage have been further enhanced by recent appointments to the board by pro-business/anti-environment Michigan Governor John Engler. There is every indication that the air permit see similarly easy passage.

Transport of the ore will do severe damage to the highway system between the mine and Copper Range, will quite possibly pollute the Snake Creek system into which the mine discharge will go, will degrade the quality of life of the residents of the area and will provide only thirty-five to fifty jobs for five to seven years—jobs that will quite likely deprive miners of jobs at Copper Range, since the ore GLM sends there will displace ore now being mined by Copper Range miners. None of these problems can be considered by the state because there the current permitting process has no criteria to allow the state to do so.

SLAPP suits

Strategic lawsuits against public participation (SLAPP suits) have existed in different forms for many years in the United States. Lawsuits against citizen activists by developers, industries, and even municipalities are often intended to harass citizens and inhibit them from exercising their constitutional rights. The idea is usually to chill a person's desire to use his or her First Amendment rights to promote or oppose a project.

In essence, SLAPP suits are brought by those who have a great deal of resources against those who do not. They can indeed intimidate people, but note: in most such cases the suits are without merit. Fortunately, First Amendment rights to free speech and association provide strong and broad protection. And cases of this kind can arouse significant public sympathy—lawyers are sometimes willing to provide a defense against SLAPP suits at little or no charge.

Citizens who have had SLAPP suits brought against them should do everything they can to turn the suit against the entities trying to curtail their exercise of their constitutional rights. Countersuits against them can bring about the withdrawal of the SLAPP suit and even result in damage awards.

Citizens being harassed by a SLAPP suit might want to publicize the suit to point out how absurd it is. SLAPP suits can make the entity bringing them look both foolish and evil.

Some states have legislated standards that make it more difficult to bring SLAPP suits. In New York the legislature recently passed a bill allowing the courts more leeway in sanctioning SLAPP suits, if the suits were intended merely to harass.

IJC board says no to water levels control structures

by Terry Yonker

Great Lakes United

After lengthy studies and hearings, the International Joint Commission's Water Level Reference Study Board has recommended against building major structures to control fluctuating water levels in the Great Lakes. Great Lakes United has long advocated the position ultimately adopted by the board.

The board made the recommendation in its final report to the IJC this March, concurring with GLU's position that land use management alternatives such as setback requirements be used to protect property from erosion and flooding damage during high water periods.

The board took its position despite heavy pressure from vocal and highly organized shoreline owners' groups at recent hearings held throughout the Basin. GLU commends the board for basing its position on the scientific and economic facts.

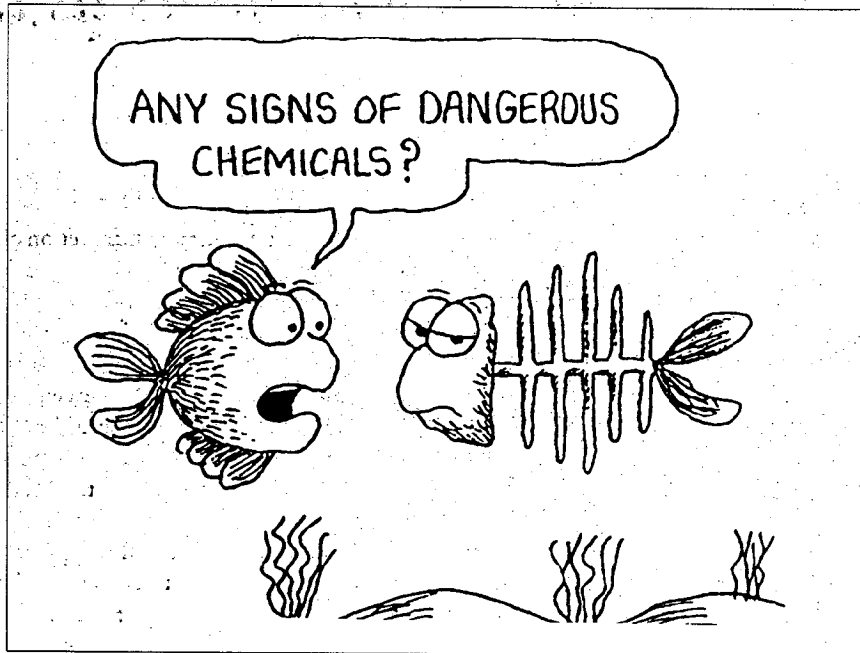
The board's study indicates that very few shoreline property owners have actually suffered damage to their residences as a result of increased erosion or flooding during periods of high water.

However, if water level fluctuations were controlled by the construction of dams and the dredging of connecting channels, the board found that significant damage was found likely to occur to wetlands as well as wildlife and fish spawning habitat.

Downstream damage to the shoreline of the St. Lawrence River would also result from shoreowner's favored three-lake plan, which included construction of a dam and dredging at the headwaters of the Niagara River between Buffalo and Fort Erie. The study found that protecting the St. Lawrence River from extreme flows was cost-prohibitive—into billions of dollars.

For the past two years GLU Executive Director Terry Yonker, previous Executive Director Phil Weller and GLU Treasurer Fred Brown have been participants in the IJC's Water Levels Reference Study Board.

Now it is up to the IJC to review the board position and submit its own recommendations to the U.S. and Canadian governments. "GLU's goal is to follow these actions to ensure that the recommendations are adopted," said GLU President Dick Kubiak.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Former GLU president and current board member John Jackson has been appointed to the Ontario Environmental Appeal Board last October. The twenty-one-member board hears appeals by companies and private citizens of orders and certificates issued to them under Ontario's environmental laws. Jackson is active in Ontario environmental groups on hazardous waste and solid waste management issues. The Society of Envi-

ronmental Toxicology and Chemistry has awarded Jack Vallentyne its Rachel Carson Award for his key role in reducing phosphate loadings to the Great Lakes and getting the ecosystem approach into the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. Vallentyne is an emeritus research scientist with the Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans at the Canada Centre for Inland Waters in Burlington, Ontario.

GLU Volunteers

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membership services

Ontario's water policies are undergoing big changes

by Sarah Miller
Great Lakes United.

In February Ontario Premier Bob Rae announced the creation of a new crown corporation, the Ontario Clean Water Agency. The new concern would take over the water and sewer utilities now operated by the province, about half of such entities in Ontario. Provincial grants to municipally run water services would be provided by the new agency as well.

The Clean Water Agency was actually conceived by the previous Liberal government as the Clean Water Secretariat, and was headed by engineer James MacLaren, a pioneer of water conservation in Canada. It took the New Democratic government two years to decide to go ahead with the plan. With the rising provincial deficit, new measures to create jobs and cut provincial costs may have been deciding factors.

The goal of the new crown corporation will be to help municipalities "plan and develop water and sewage services in a way that protects human health and the environment," according to the government announcement. The agency will also "encourage conservation of resources by promoting efficient use of existing facilities and will support provincial land use planning and growth and settlement objectives."

The double mandate of environmental conservation and involvement in planning and development decisions is important. Environmentalists have been concerned that the balance could well favor development that can not be sustained by available local water supplies. As conceived under the Liberal government the agency was to have been under the jurisdiction of the ministry of Municipal Affairs, which oversees planning and development in Ontario. Environmentalists argued that the jurisdiction over water and sewage should remain with the Ontario Ministry of the Environment so that it will have a pollution control bias.

Since the inception of the Clean Water Agency idea, several other initiatives have influenced water and sewage control. In the context of predictions that Ontario municipalities will double their per-capita use of water and related energy by 2011 if water inefficiencies, waste, and use patterns continue at their current rate, the Ministry of Natural Resources, which is responsible for permitting water withdrawal from Ontario waterways, held an extensive consultation on a water efficiency strategy for Ontario last year. This consultation was attended by Great Lakes United with representatives of many other sectors.

The ministry's strategy concentrated on conservation measures for water and sewage systems, focusing on a full-cost pricing approach. It is unclear whether the water efficiency strategy will be embraced by the Clean Water Agency.

Experience with crown corporations in Ontario have given the public a healthy skepticism toward them. Corporations like Ontario Hydro have become self-regulating and have grown exponentially with little accountability to the public or the governments who created them.

Ontario is now taking on the hard task of carving back Ontario Hydro while dismantling Ontario's dependency on nuclear power. With its scale, mandate, and accountability mechanisms still undefined, the effectiveness of the new Clean Water Agency with respect to environmentally sound water conservation and land use planning issues is still

unclear.

Considerable efforts are also underway in the Commission on New Planning for Ontario to redesign the provincial planning process around sustainable, environmentally sound principles. This reform, due to be completed this fall, will be setting new ground rules for approvals and expansion of water and sewer infrastructure.

The Greater Toronto Area is growing faster than any other area in the Great Lakes Basin. Consequently some areas on the boundaries of the areas of Toronto's urban sprawl have reached the capacity of existing infrastructures. In order to develop, new and expensive infrastructures must be approved and built, and local watersheds must have the capacity to receive the waste waters created by that growth.

These development pressures are rising during a time when provincial water control and planning approvals are in transition. This has created opportunities for private interests. One such opportunist proposal is a plan to pipe water from the Georgian Bay to southern Ontario. TransCanada Pipelines Ltd., a Calgary-based firm, is proposing to build the longest drinking water pipeline in the province. The \$500 million project proposes to funnel 227 million liters of water a day to municipal customers in Kitchener, Waterloo, Cambridge, and the York region north of Toronto. The company proposes an intake and treatment plant originating in the Collingwood Area of Concern. This proposal is currently under review by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and several other ministries. However, concern is fast building in the areas which could be impacted by this project.

The Kitchener-Waterloo and Cambridge region is dependent on dwindling ground water supplies and some water

from the Grand River. Their waste water goes into the Grand River and then into Lake Erie. This region has currently has implemented the best water conservation program in the province and is undertaking a reassessment of its long-term water supply strategy with public involvement.

Region residents are very conscious of the limitations of their water resources, which are largely the result of unbridled growth in the 1980s. Area activists prefer to examine alternatives and plan a long-term strategy to buying into the pipeline—they picketed when the TransCanada Pipeline road show came to town to make a presentation to Cambridge Council.

Organizer Brenda Thompson pointed out a national concern about the pipeline. "Once you build a pipeline from Georgian Bay to Waterloo Region it becomes that much easier to send water down to the United States."

TransCanada currently moves natural gas from Canada to the United States facilitated by provisions of the trade agreement. Many water resource experts think that provisions of both NAFTA and the existing free trade agreement between Canada and the United States would make it impossible to turn off water supplies once they are diverted, regardless of local needs.

The Ministry of Natural Resources has expressed some tentative reservations about the pipeline plan as well, since it contradicts the ministry's own draft planning reforms. In its recent study "Cross Boundary Issues in South Central Ontario," the ministry promotes watershed planning and suggests that the current capacity of the area waterways to accept sewage flows is "likely to be the ultimate limit to the sustainable growth of most communities... Water supplies must be planned together with

sewage disposal to protect watershed ecosystems and ensure efficient public investments in infrastructure."

The Georgian Bay Association, representing twenty-eight resident associations and five thousand families on the eastern shores of the bay, has written to Minister of Municipal Affairs Ed Philip on its concerns about the impact of the proposed pipeline on the bay's ecosystem and on the livelihood of the area, which relies on recreational revenues.

The association wants the pipeline proposal to be subject to Ontario's Environmental Assessment Act. The EAA usually applies only to government projects, but it can be applied to private projects at the discretion of the minister of the environment and the Cabinet.

Such designations are rare. This raises questions about if and how routine public scrutiny, assessment of needs, and alternatives of new water works will be handled if the province is to indeed create the Crown Clean Water Agency, which would be a quasi-private entity.

Even as the Ontario government stands poised to permit TransCanada's scheme, it is opposing other Great Lakes diversion plans in the United States. In April a provincial representative attended a Michigan meeting to express concern about the Mud Creek irrigation proposal, a large tile irrigation bed project that would result in a large consumption of Great Lakes water. While not a diversion, the project it has a similar effect. It will consume water in quantities so large that the Great Lakes Charter provisions that mandate consultations with other Great Lakes jurisdictions will be triggered.

Great Lakes United's Levels and Georgian Bay pipeline at GLU's annual general meeting.

Deadlock in renegotiation of the Canada-Ontario Agreement enters its third year

by Jane Wilkins

Flipping through some back issues of the *Great Lakes United*, I found an article entitled "New Canada-Ontario Agreement Planned." I had to laugh—if the article hadn't been dated a year ago we could almost print it again. Most of the details are unchanged, give or take a few environment ministers.

The Canada-Ontario Agreement (COA) is the agreement specifying provincial and federal responsibilities in implementing the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (GLWQA), the commitment signed by Canada and the United States intended to assure a clean Great Lakes. COA expired in March 1991. The agreement has been maintained as current for two years to provide time for the relevant federal and provincial government departments to examine what could be accomplished by the year 2000.

A letter sent by a coalition of environmental groups to the governments in 1991 stated that, "The renegotiation of the COA provides an excellent opportunity to show government leadership and willingness to solve the ecological perils of the Great Lakes." With a federal election looming this fall, it seems like a good time to review the status of COA, what we can expect, and where we might want to add a little pressure in the com-

ing months.

The existing document has three principal components:

- ♦ Surveillance and monitoring
- ♦ Joint federal and provincial action on RAPs
- ♦ The winding down of phosphate production

Costs are to be split 50/50 except for those involving RAPs, which are to be examined individually.

A new agreement needs a clear timetable for government actions, a mode of accountability to ensure that they are carried out, and specificity about the amount and source of funds required to implement cleanup and protection programs. The new COA must also allow for public involvement in its revision.

A framework document designed for renegotiating COA was jointly produced by the federal and provincial governments in November 1992. An advisory body made up of environmental and industrial representatives called the Great Lakes Action Plan Strategic Advisory Council participated in discussions with the Environment Canada last fall but the public input officials said they were committed to ensuring has otherwise been noticeably absent. These officials have been giving what is now an annual assur-

ance that "there will be wider public participation by the summer."

The federal-provincial cost sharing remains a major stumbling block. The Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Energy has produced a report that estimates a cost of \$2.3 billion to implement the major components of the framework document. At a meeting between Environment Canada and MOE it was decided that given the tough financial climate facing both levels of government "assessments of the implications of constraints and where cost sharing is possible" would be examined. The two departments have until May 30 to identify budgetary constraints and funds available and to prioritize the use of funds.

On the surface this seems like progress towards the renegotiation of COA, but it is a far cry from giving environmentalists confidence that the needed money will be forthcoming. With the whole process hiccupping along, Canadian activists might use both the upcoming federal elections and the fall meeting of the International Joint Commission to bring the lack of provincial and federal action to the attention of the public. This might help move the Great Lakes up from its pitifully low rung on the ladder of government priorities.

Winter navigation just keeps on going . . .

by Wayne A. Schmidt
National Wildlife Federation

Like the mythical Phoenix, winter navigation is reborn after each death, here in Great Lakes ice instead of flames. Now it's back again, thanks to the perseverance of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Once again, the Great Lakes are at risk of disturbance of contaminated sediments in Areas of Concern, undesirable spills that cannot be cleaned up, and destruction of shoreline wetlands and fish-spawning areas.

The Corps now is nibbling at the winter shipping season from both ends, making it a little longer in the fall and starting it a little earlier in the spring. The Corps ignores protests by environmentalists that its actions violate the Coastal Zone Management Act and the National Environmental Policy Act. In effect it asserts unilateral authority to set winter shipping seasons and judge environmental costs of its own actions. This has chilling implications for the fate of the Lakes.

The Corps is not the only bad actor on this issue. Many citizens are not aware that the U.S. Coast Guard already routinely maintains shipping channels in the St. Marys River on a year-round basis. Icebreakers such as the cutter *Macdonald* and smaller Bay-class vessels make daily trips up and down the St. Marys River during maximum ice conditions in order to permit the passage of fuel oil tankers and other bulk carriers from Lake Huron to Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario.

Winter navigation is a boondoggle of monumental proportion, first proposed by the steel industry thirty years ago in an era when the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River too often were viewed as a convenient plumbing system to float iron ore from mine to mill. The beaver-like Corps, following its unofficial motto "Keep Busy," has been ever anxious to accommodate those who would ditch, dike and dam our waterways.

The Corps' ambitious plan for all-year shipping on the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence River was soundly defeated in the early 1980s by a broad coalition of opponents. Great Lakes United, for which restrictions on winter navigation was one of three founding issues, fought hard to kill that proposal, helping shape Congressional opposition in the United States and vocal opposition in Canada. Key allies were GLU member—especially the Michigan United Conservation Clubs and Save the River (in upstate New York). But coalitions and environmentalists and Congressional interest came and go. The Corps, however, just hunkers down, does another study and waits for a better day.

Following its defeat, the Corps negotiated an agreement with the state of Michigan and quietly extended the early-winter shipping season through the Soo Locks until January 8 each year, plus or minus a week depending on ice conditions and shipping demands. The Corps' closing date was to be set each year based on consultation with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources

(MDNR).

The Soo Locks are located on the seventy-mile-long St. Marys River, which links the lower lakes to Lake Superior ports serving iron mines, western coal docks, and grain terminals.

Shippers complained that unpredictable dates for operation of the Locks made business planning difficult. So in 1990 the Corps proposed setting a fixed winter shipping season, closing the Locks on January 15 and opening them on a date to be determined in mid- to late March. All the while, the Corps opened the Soo Locks prior to its required April 1 date virtually every year, citing needs of industry. Shippers applauded.

with a lawsuit if it continued operating the Soo Locks without consideration of environmental conditions. "My staff and our expert witnesses, many of whom conducted the environmental studies for the Corps, have concluded that there are significant gaps in the data collected—both in terms of the type of data and when the data was collected. Further, our experts believe that adverse impacts to fisheries resources and aquatic habitat are very likely occurring with winter shipping under the current vessel speeds."

Biologists have documented a 25 percent reduction in emergent vegetation in the St. Marys River over the past thirty years, the same period during which

winter navigation has occurred. The Corps blames the loss of critical wetland habitat on fluctuating water levels.

"That's not plausible," says MDNR official Chris Shafer, who has tracked winter navigation for decades. Shafer says the wetlands have been ripped away by shifting ice from U.S. Coast Guard ice breakers and commercial ships plowing through the ice.

Shafer says the damage is even more severe during late-March shipping than early-January shipping on the St. Marys River due to spring fish spawning patterns.

Michigan threatened to sue the Corps if it opened the locks early, but the promised lawsuit never materialized. On March 12, with Michigan Attorney Gen-

eral Frank J. Kelley poised to file suit in federal court, Gov. John Engler blocked the litigation. The National Wildlife Federation and others protested Engler's reversal of his state's long-standing opposition to winter navigation, but in the end Kelley acquiesced to Engler's wishes.

Engler's veto was based on objections from the state Department of Commerce, which claimed early shipping would help financially strapped McLouth Steel near Detroit. According to press reports, the state recently loaned the company \$5.6 million to keep it afloat and employees have taken wage cuts. McLouth reportedly was unwilling to pay extra costs of shipping iron ore from Escanaba on Lake Michigan (which requires longer rail shipping from Lake Superior ports).

As always, the perennial questions about winter navigation are "Who benefits?" and "Who pays?" In this case, shippers and steel mills benefit, the taxpayers pay for the early ice-breaking and operation of the Soo Locks, and all of us bear the greatest cost—the loss of substantial parts of our natural heritage.

Environmentalists want the Soo Locks' schedule to be conservative, flexible, and based on weather and ice cover. Acceptable conditions should be determined by an interagency group that includes the MDNR and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

So what's next? Under current plans the Soo Locks will be closed for just sixty-four days each year. Already the Coast Guard is routinely breaking ice in late March. Since this period sometimes brings the thickest ice of the year, it is only natural to think the Corps will eventually challenge the need for restricting winter shipping at all. And if it works so well on the upper Great Lakes, why not extend the shipping season on the St. Lawrence River?

. . . U.S. environmental developments

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gram for controlling water pollution from industrial discharge pipes.

The U.S. General Accounting Office, an investigatory arm of Congress, reported in 1990 that legally permitted corporate discharges into the Great Lakes amounted to 7 million gallons of oil, 89,000 pounds of lead and 1,000 pounds of mercury, among other substances.

Hoping to go beyond merely preventing further degradation of the lakes, environmentalists are seeking bills that would:

- ♦ Ratchet polluters' permits towards the goal of zero discharge of persistent toxic chemicals
- ♦ Sunset some very toxic chemicals (that is, schedule the complete elimination of their use)
- ♦ End the practice of using zones of dilution of toxic chemicals near outfalls as a way of meeting water quality standards.

Other legislative approaches to curb toxic chemicals include:

- ♦ Improved community right-to-know legislation, in particular detailed information on industrial use of toxic chemicals rather than just their emission. This would promote pollution

prevention efforts; a major backer of such legislation in the last session, Rep. Gerry Sikorski (D-MN), was defeated in last year's elections.

- ♦ A national contaminated sediments program with deadlines and funds for EPA to write detailed cleanup standards
- ♦ A requirement for total cleanup of contaminated harbors
- ♦ A moratorium on construction of incinerators of hazardous and municipal waste
- ♦ A ban on the use of chlorine in paper production.

One final bit of Washington action affecting the Great Lakes environment in 1993 spans both the executive and legislative branches of government. In November EPA will report to Congress on whether airborne toxic chemicals deposited into the Great Lakes and other "great waters" need further regulation.

As increasingly dire scientific information on the ill ecological and health effects of persistent toxic chemicals has mounted in the past three years, environmentalists increasingly see the EPA report as a bellwether of federal will to restore the Great Lakes.





Vol. VII, No. 1

Great Lakes United—a binational coalition for the Great Lakes/St. Lawrence ecosystem

Summer 1992

GLU Looks Ahead to Second Historic Decade

by Bruce Kerehner,
GLU Field Coordinator

"Great Lakes United is more than an organization, more than a movement... it's a family. A family that leads by example and seeks higher ground. And it makes the courageous journey from values to action."

This was the way that GLU was summed up on its 10th Anniversary Celebration. Dave Miller, GLU's first executive director, and National Audubon Society Northeast Region's Vice President since 1988, spoke these words during GLU's 10th Annual Meeting held this May 1 to 3 in Saginaw, Michigan.

During the three-day event, held downshore "a bit" from the place where GLU was founded ten years ago, speakers described where we have come from, where we are going and what we have achieved.

On this last point, GLU has achieved many individual environmental successes. But John Jackson, on the last day of his term as president of Great Lakes United, stressed the broader, more subtle successes. "It is the citizens that turned the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement into a meaningful document. Ever since GLU's 1986 Water Quality Hearings, the Agreement became a citizen's document, not just a government document. Another change in the Great Lakes is that industry is now using our terms... 'Zero Discharge,' 'Pollution Prevention.'" We have been changing people's awareness that corporations do not just make private decisions. Corporate decisions are public decisions."

Jackson referred to the effect our movement has had in defining what is normal. "Is it normal to have to read a book to decide what fish are safe to eat? Is it normal for mothers to have to worry about the safety of breastfeeding their infants? NO! The normal that we

must maintain is that the Great Lakes will be known as a magical jewel on this magnificent planet."

Dr. Thero Colburn itemized examples of abnormal. "In the last 10 years, no one has been able to find a salmonid in the Great Lakes that has reached full sexual development, or a coho salmon or lake trout that does not have an enlarged thyroid. She described how toxic chemicals cause feminization or loss of sexual activity in animals. "One meal of dioxin-contaminated fish for a pregnant rat on the 15th day leads to feminization of all male baby rats."

Dr. Barry Boyer, University of Buffalo law professor and environmental leader, described the invisible and unofficially non-existent constituency that is exposed to toxics: women, newborns, low income anglers, urban youth and Native people. "The Native people adopted a philosophy that we must consider the effect of our current decisions on the next seven generations. Western Society has adopted the opposite—we have contaminated our women who will pass their body burden of toxics down the next seven generations."

Dave Hahn-Baker, a consultant for non-profit groups, addressed the need to expand the environmental movement to include people of color. He pointed out that not only are minorities the most seriously impacted by toxic chemicals, but "we must also recognize some social justice issues are also environmental issues, such as deteriorated housing and neighborhoods (as degraded habitat), or the drug epidemic (as toxic contamination)."

Turning to politics, Paul MacCannan, the Buffalo News' renowned environmental reporter, referred to the pressure being put on U.S. EPA administrator William Reilly to make environmentally unsound decisions. "If Reilly has any conscience, if he wants to have any credibility, he must walk away from [the Bush] administration."

Other speakers were Doug Draper, environmental reporter for the St. Catherine Standard, who addressed concerns about the RAP process, and Ron Doering of the Canadian Roundtable on the Environment, who described how lack of accountability, enforcement, a preventative approach and fragments

tion of authority have been obstacles to getting toxics cleaned up.

During the Saturday night banquet, Carol Swinehart (GLU's first elected Secretary), GLU co-founder Rick Spencer of Save the River, Dave Miller, Tim Eder (GLU's first field coordinator), and John Jackson all inspired the audience with eloquent memories and projections about the past and future of GLU.

Emotional moments occurred when a number of co-founders and long-time board members and supporters were honored for their service to GLU: Phil Weller (GLU's outgoing Director), Joe Finkbeiner, Paul MacCannan and Daniel Green. This was Green's tenth year as a GLU board member. He was a co-founder and GLU's first Vice President. (Befitting the co-

continued on p. 2



Dave Hahn-Baker spoke on need to bring people of color into Great Lakes movement at Annual Meeting.

Canada Moving Toward Toxic Phaseout

by Paul Muldoon and Burkhard Mauberg, Pollution Probe

Following up on an announcement made at the IJC Biennial meeting last year, the Ontario Ministry of the Environment (MOE) finally released its lists of substances which are candidates for possible phase-outs and bans. The primary lists consist of 21 hazardous chemicals which are persistent, toxic and bioaccumulative.

Examples include arsenic, mercury, polychlorinated dioxins and furans, pentachlorophenol and benz(a)pyrene. The secondary list, made up of 46 substances, are chemicals which are toxic and either persistent or bioaccumulative but somewhat less toxic. Examples of the secondary lists include chloroform, lead, uranium and styrene.

The development of these lists is based on scientific criteria such as bioconcentration factor, environmental persistence, acute lethality, sublethal effects and others. Of the 800 chemicals assessed, each substance was assigned a score for each criterion according to its characteristics and behaviour.

The development of the criteria system and sunset lists is a good one because it changes the policy question from asking "how much is too much?" to asking "which chemicals are so bad that they should be completely eliminated?" However, implementing the bans will be more challenging than developing the lists. MOE originally planned to incorporate the lists as part of the Municipal-Industrial Strategy for Abatement (MISA) program. However, in releasing the list, the Ontario Government has put the onus on the federal government to evaluate the economic and technical implications of banning and phasing out these chemicals. The federal

government is coordinating a multi-stakeholder process, the ARETS process, to determine which substances should be phased out, and the appropriate time-tables and implementation schedules. It remains to be seen what the federal process will produce, but the province has indicated that it will not proceed any further in implementing the bans until the federal process is completed.

The federal effort centers on the Accelerated Reduction and Elimination of Toxic Substances (ARETS) group, which consists of eight delegates each from government, non-government (labour, Native and environmental groups), and industry. The goal of ARETS is to recommend ways to reduce and ban specific substances. The recommendations will be presented to the Federal and Provincial Ministers of the Environment in the next 12 to 18 months.

After a shaky start, the ARETS process has established several sub-groups, including a criteria group which will develop a system to decide which substances need to be eliminated or significantly reduced, a group to develop some short-term action, and a group to develop a strategic plan and a work plan.

There are still significant differences between environmental representatives and industry. First, the issue of regulatory versus voluntary action needs to be resolved, since industry is primarily interested in voluntary efforts, while environmentalists are pushing for regulatory efforts. Second, reducing and eliminating the use of toxic substances is also not settled, with industry not interested to reduce and eliminate uses of chemicals. Finally, the use of the criteria is still debated. While environmentalists want to establish criteria to

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News Flash

Major Great Lakes Victories on Lowell Diversion and Crystal River Wetland!

See page 5 and 6

IJC Sounds Alarm on Toxic Threat

by Karen Murphy,
GLU Field Coordinator

"Are humans and our environment in danger from persistent toxic substances now? Are future generations in danger? Based on a review of scientific studies and other recent information, we believe the answer to both questions is 'yes.'"

This is the conclusion of the International Joint Commission in their just released 8th Biennial Report to the U.S. and Canadian governments.

They based this conclusion on a series of recent epidemiological, wildlife and public health studies and conferences. Considering the stature of this body, which was

established by international treaty, such a conclusion has extremely important ramifications.

Their report recommended that use of chlorine and its compounds be eliminated and that a freeze should be put on increased discharges of persistent toxic chemicals into Lake Superior, with a plan and timeframe for phasing out existing sources.

The IJC established benchmarks against which to judge government progress in achieving these goals over the next two years. Not only did they request the elimination of specific chemicals but called upon the Federal Governments to compel industry to make process changes.

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GLU's 10th Anniversary

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medic style of Green, he was given a Red Herring as a symbolic gift.

Another entertaining moment at the banquet reminded everybody of the emotional impact that the late Abbie Hoffman (Barry Freed) still has on people. The "Save the River" T-shirt that the controversial activist and GLU co-founder wore at GLU's founding meeting in 1982 was auctioned off, sparking great enthusiasm among competing bidders (see picture below).

Last the reader think the 10th Annual Meeting was only about eloquent speeches, memories, banquets and tours of wildlife refuges, the participants did conduct serious business. Task forces debated and developed 29 Annual Resolutions (see adjoining article), and 11 board members were reelected or newly elected.

GLU's fourth president is another GLU co-founder, Dick Kubiak of the Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen. The new Vice President is Sarah Miller of the Canadian Environmental Law Foundation and the new U.S. Treasurer is Fred Brown, GLU's previous president.

The election also resulted in the history-making election of GLU's first official Native Nations representative, Carole Mills of the Assembly of First Nations, to the Board of Directors. GLU became the first major environmental organization to recognize the sovereign status of Native or First Nations by creating a formal position for them on the Board of Directors.

The reality presented by difficult issues returned when Michigan Governor John Engler's senior advisor met with the new Board of Directors after the Annual Meeting to sound them out on what position to take in the historic vote on the latest Great Lakes diversion by Indiana. Five days later, the Lowell diversion was defeated, considered to be a historic victory for GLU and the Great Lakes.

It was a great way to start off the next decade. □

Resolutions Chart Direction For GLU

by Tim Bristol, GLU Intern

Twenty nine resolutions were approved at GLU's annual meeting this May:

Air Quality. GLU urges the governments to implement a pollution prevention program, ban incinerators, and phase out all waste burning facilities.

Water Levels, Flows and Coasts. GLU strongly supports U.S. bill S. 1860, which would make badly needed changes to the National Flood Insurance Program. This program is a financial disaster and endangers habitat, water quality, fisheries, and the Federal Treasury.

More than ten diversion projects have surfaced in the last ten years and GLU reaffirms its opposition to any out-of-basin Great Lakes diversions. GLU also demands a formal government investigation of Kenosha, Wisconsin's, illegal water diversion.

Labor and Environment. GLU calls upon Great Lakes Congress members and the president to reject trade legislation and agreements that would undermine safe-

ty, environmental, and labor standards. GLU endorses U.S. OSHA Reform legislation (S. 1622, H.R. 3160) to expand law enforcement, OSHA coverage, and worker training.

Being an organization of the Great Lakes Basin, GLU resolves to look first at purchasing environmentally sound products produced in unionized shops within the Great Lakes Basin.

While GLU supports Toxic Use Reduction and Zero Discharge, this will impact people's jobs. GLU promotes worker compensation and economic protection to counter balance these impacts, and we support the Clean Water/Jobs program as part of the Clean Water Act.

Fish, Wildlife and Habitat. GLU urges Ontario to protect Long Point, the world's longest fresh water sand spit, from harmful development. GLU will work to protect natural heritage areas against destruction by development and will support the Great Legacy Program to preserve natural areas.

GLU strongly opposes political intervention in the Crystal River and other wetland permit cases. GLU also supports U.S. pro-wetland legislation (HR 4256), and we oppose the anti-wetland bills HR 1330 and S. 1483.

GLU urges establishment of an Environmental Trust Fund in New York State. We petition Congress to increase funding of federal Great Lakes research programs. GLU calls on EPA's Region 5 Administrator to ask for a Federal Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed development on North Fox Island. We also ask Ontario to thoroughly review the Matthews Project on Wolfe Island in the St. Lawrence River. GLU requests the U.S. and Canadian Nature Conservancies and Center for the Great Lakes to protect islands and shoals basinwide.

GLU supports H.R. 4046 to strengthen the U.S. Endangered Species Act. We also support Michigan's HB 4719, the Biological Diversity Conservation Act to protect

1 - GLU staff at banquet (from L. standing: Phil Waller, Glen Gelinas, Roy Gillett, Mary Ginnabough, Sean Enright, Karen Murphy, Michelle Downey, Sarah Miller, Bruce Kershner, Doreen Carey, Secretary Whiting, IN Jeanne Jabonski, Canadian Treasurer, Toronto, Ontario; Fred L. Brown, Ph.D., US Treasurer, Midland, MI; John Jackson, Past President, Kitchener, Ont.)



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From the President

To say the least, my initial six weeks as GLU president have been interesting. Long-standing issues such as Great Lakes diversions, lake levels and flows, contaminants and human health, etc., were now joined by new directions and concerns such as the environmental health issues of Native peoples and urban dwellers in the basin and our first foray onto the global stage at Rio.

The single most immediate need was to secure a new executive director for the organization, and many of you know, Phil Waller has resigned the post to join his wife in Austria where they will begin a new life together. Our search for a replacement over the last several weeks was successful and I am pleased to announce the hiring of Terry L. Yonker as the third executive director of GLU.

In his letter of application to John Jackson, chair of the search committee, Mr. Yonker described himself as a person with an "abiding love and concern for the Great Lakes" and one who views himself as "a citizen of the Great Lakes Basin." These sentiments were again strongly reinforced in his interview with the committee in Buffalo some weeks later.

Terry was born in Grand Haven, Michigan and has lived most of his

life in the heart of the Great Lakes. He comes to us after a five-year tenure as executive director of the Michigan Audubon Society, headquartered in Lansing. M.A.S. is the largest Audubon organization in the Basin with 10,000 members in 44 chapters. He and his 35 employees located throughout the state were responsible for 5,000 acres of land in 14 wildlife sanctuaries, two nature centers and an observatory. Under his direction the Society raised over a half million dollars for research in the past three years.

Yonker's background includes an understanding of the workings of politics as related to the environment. In 1970 he joined the administration of Michigan Governor William Milliken as an environmental advisor. In this capacity, he wrote the first major policy paper advocating a human ecosystem approach to management of natural resources in Michigan and the Great Lakes. In 1972 Terry was involved in drafting the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement and was present at its signing.

His work in Michigan was widely recognized, but he is also well known across the Basin and is comfortable working both in the U.S. or Canada. In fact, he spends

nearly a third of his business and personal time in Canada. His basin wide environmental experience includes initiating the formation of a binational effort to bring corporations and environmental organizations together to work on Great Lakes issues. He also serves on the IJC Lake Levels Study Board, Working Committee on Land Use and Natural Resources, and on his initiative, Michigan Audubon is leading an effort to establish a Great Lakes Regional Specimen Bank in cooperation with the Great Lakes Protection Fund.

In addition to this busy professional life, Yonker maintains active community involvement, especially with the Girl and Boy Scout movement. He is also an avid outdoor recreationist. This includes fly fishing and fly tying, wilderness canoeing, camping and backpacking, cross country and downhill skiing, sailing, and nature photography. He also plays the French horn! I look forward to a close working relationship with this committed and experienced environmentalist.

An interesting six weeks indeed, punctuated by this bittersweet moment. Farewell to Phil, welcome to Terry. Strength and fortune to them both. -Dick Kubiak

Binational RAPs Plagued With Serious Problems

Detroit River

by Saulius Simoliunas and Rick Coronado, Citizens Environment Alliance

The Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement dictates that Remedial Action Plans are supposed to be a way to clean up the 43 Great Lakes Areas of Concern. The Agreement states, "The Parties, in cooperation with State and Provincial Governments, shall ensure that the public is consulted in all actions undertaken pursuant to this Annex."

Despite this, Michigan and Ontario made a key mistake in June 1987 by consolidating the role of public participation, resulting in the loss of public profile in the preparation of the Stage 1 Remedial Action Plan (RAP). Since then, neither Michigan nor Ontario have been able to effectively include the public interest. Furthermore, both agencies attempted to control public input. Ontario's role in public involvement has been as misguided as that of Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), which is the lead agency in charge of effecting a clean-up plan for the Detroit River. In 1986, Ontario Ministry of Environment (MOE) refused to fund a public participation proposal submitted by a Windsor environmental coalition. Bureaucrats intimated that monies earmarked for Canadian public involvement and education on the Detroit River were never spent for fear of offending Michigan DNR and its lead role.

Citizens want several changes to occur: 1) a separate technical review committee should be set up to actually write the RAP; 2) subcommittees should be set to look at various components of the RAP, including permits, sediments, point and non-point sources and treatment plants; 3) the public should control and run its own involvement and be directly funded by government; 4) a special citizens-community group (Friends of the Detroit River) should be created by invitations sent to environmental organizations that have not participated in the Detroit River RAP; 5) a public edition of the Stage 1 RAP, that only contains public input, review, and dissenting opinion, should be published for public consumption to bridge the gap between the public and its understanding of the role of science and engineering in environmental remediation.

There are some positive aspects of the Detroit River RAP binational experiment. However, they are far outweighed by the negative aspects. The Detroit River RAP should be split into a Michigan and Ontario RAP, as was first proposed in 1986, with periodic integration and joint evaluations of ongoing documentation and progress in this Area of Concern. Public interest groups would then be promoting Friends of the Detroit River concept, and at the same time, democratic decision making and public ownership.

The Detroit River Binational Public Advisory Committee (BPAC) was formed in December of 1987. The BPAC consists of 40 stakeholders, 20 each from Michigan and Ontario, made up of environmental, labour, academic, industry, recreation, municipal, port authority, conservation, non-point source and citizen representatives. Unfortunately, stakeholder participation at BPAC meetings has dwindled down to the point where only three industry representatives are active

and only the Cities of Windsor and Amherstburg have been attending meetings. The City of Detroit has not been involved. Furthermore, public attendance has not been high at BPAC meetings, but the public membership and involvement in the Detroit River BPAC has been consistent. Citizens Environment Alliance published its own dissenting report, the "Citizens Guide to the Detroit River Remedial Action Plan." However, this material is not found in the Detroit River Stage 1 RAP report.

As Stage 1 of the Detroit RAP was completed, members of the BPAC attempted to delay the document's formal acceptance, but the MDNR sought approval of its document from the Michigan Water Resources Commission; the approval was given but not unanimously. Many critical details of the Stage 1 document still need to be addressed and are being carried over into Stage 2. Ten studies have been identified as having a high priority for the Stage 2 RAP. We recom-



mend that a study of quantitative risk assessment to human health, for at least PCBs and mercury, be done as well.

The role of the public in the preparation of the Stage 1 RAP for the Detroit River has been under dispute and confusion since December 1986. Both Michigan and Ontario have different interpretations of public involvement, while the public involved in the BPAC has another view. In addition, MDNR and MOE admit they do not possess the ability to deal with social or economic factors. The technical information for the Detroit RAP was gathered by the RAP Team, which is made up primarily of MDNR (the lead agency), MOE and other federal and provincial bureaucrats.

A Technical Advisory Committee was organized, but was only given the opportunity to comment on the RAP, not assist in preparing it. The Committee had no chance to review the Detroit River Stage 1 RAP. Furthermore, the Committee did not have the opportunity to interact with the BPAC; this acted to separate the science and technical aspects of the RAP process from the BPAC and general public understanding.

The RAP Team did include four public members of the BPAC on its committee, plus the BPAC Chairperson, but their role was minimal due to the lack of opportunity for review and interaction between the RAP Team and the Technical Advisory Committee. In other words, the separation of science and the public continued throughout the preparation of the Stage 1 RAP, and there was no chance for an independent technical review of the RAP by the BPAC.

As a result, the Stage 1 RAP did not receive an extensive and thoughtful review of what is known about impairments in the Detroit River by the public. Although the MDNR says the RAP is not a public document, it cannot be classified as a comprehensive technical document either, because of the many clarifications of data and comments by MDNR bureaucrats.

The 1988 Upper Great Lakes Connecting Channels Study was published before the present Stage 1 RAP. This study provided excellent and practical recommendations and has been referred to by a Great Lakes scientist as "the best data we will get for the next 50 years and we should use it and act upon it." But these data were not used effectively by the Detroit River RAP Team. In addition, neither MDNR nor MOE have effectively demonstrated the two-track system as described by the Great Lakes Water Quality Board. The first is to expedite and accelerate existing programmes; the second is to identify steps to determining actions

St. Clair River

by John Jackson and Tim Eder, St. Clair River International Citizens' Network

The St. Clair River and Walpole Island down river from Canada's chemical valley have long been recognized as one of the most seriously contaminated areas in the Great Lakes. Seven years after it began, the Stage 1 Remedial Action Plan (RAP) for the St. Clair River was submitted to the IJC in January 1992.

This RAP was initiated in 1985 when Michigan and Ontario signed an agreement to create a binational RAP for the St. Clair River. Ontario was charged with taking the lead in developing the RAP. In 1987, RAP planning began in earnest when a RAP Team was formed to lead the effort.

Frustrated by endless delays, environmental groups led a walk-out by the binational public advisory committee (BPAC) to the RAP in September 1990. BPAC refused to continue meeting until the governments strengthened their commitments to the RAP. After a flurry of government activity, BPAC members returned several months later.

The Stage 1 RAP that has finally been submitted does a good job of compiling data, but the interpretation of the data downplays the problems, emphasizing progress rather than noting the serious extent of the remaining problems. The story of the destruction of the St. Clair River ecosystem is a horrible example of human assault

St. Marys River

by John Campbell, St. Marys River BPAC

"We're mad as hell and we're not going to take it any more!" Those words were uttered recently by frustrated and angry St. Marys River Binational Public Advisory Committee (BPAC) members as their Stage I RAP continued to languish in "agency review."

On June 18, 1991, the Stage I RAP was released for public review and public meetings were held in July for local citizen review and reaction to the document. Agency review started in mid-August and continues to this date.

Following the 60-day public review period, which ended in mid-August, segments of the Stage I RAP have been revised by some of the RAP members. However, the RAP team has held no meetings to review the revisions, nor has the BPAC seen the revised document.

The BPAC was told in January by Ontario Ministry of Environment (MOE), the lead agency, that funding had run out for BPAC activities and no funds would be available until next fiscal year, starting in April. MOE officials said that no meetings of the public

that are necessary beyond existing programmes to fully restore impaired beneficial uses in the Detroit River Area of Concern. In its present form, the Detroit River RAP has no momentum for maintaining public and community action and interest over the long-term.

Another of the shortcomings of the Stage 1 Detroit RAP is that it was written by bureaucrats, not scientists. This is an example of the failure of MDNR's and MOE's experiment in binational public relations, because they ignored, misinterpreted, and in some cases, found fault with the science of the Technical Advisory Committee and the Channels Study. □

against nature.

This report fails to adequately emphasize the negative effects that contamination is having on the lives of the Native residents of Walpole Island. It all but ignores the plight of rare, threatened and endangered birds, fish, animals and plants in the region. It pays little attention to the massive destruction of wetlands in this once lush complex of wetlands. There is virtually no information on the effects of chemical dumping on human health.

The members of the St. Clair River International Citizens' Network are pleased that we are finally moving beyond problem definition to search for solutions to the problems. We are now entering a more challenging and difficult stage. We fear that the outrageous delays that plagued Stage 1 may be escalated in Stage 2.

While RAP development continues, it is business as usual for the industries in the St. Clair River. Spills of toxic chemicals into the River occur regularly, forcing Walpole Island and Walpole Island to close down their water intakes while they wait for the chemicals to flow by. Daily, massive quantities of hazardous chemicals spew from stacks and discharges pipes into the water and air of the St. Clair area. And the chemicals continue to build up in the Walpole delta at the mouth of the River and in the tissues of all life in the area.

Prevention and clean-up efforts must be escalated now. We cannot wait for completion of the Stage 2 RAP to carry out these critical actions. □

advisory council would be necessary until April or May because the group had already made its comments on the Stage I draft.

BPAC members heatedly objected to OMOE's statements and decided to meet on their own in January, February, and March.

Council members emphatically stated they hadn't finished discussing the plan and, until they have a chance to review the amended document, the group will not endorse the Stage I report.

A series of additional travesties have generously assisted in causing BPAC discontent to reach the boiling point:

The Stage I process began over three and a half years ago. During this time, numerous RAP coordinators have come and gone, technical writers disappeared before anyone could recognize them by name, contracts for administrative assistants terminated unexpectedly, there were never any funds available for public involvement projects, and BPAC requests for agency information were periodically buried in RAP time capsules. It has been so long since the RAP team last met, there is speculation it no longer exists. □

New Report Gets to the (Toxic) Bottom of It

by Eleanor Kinney, Coast Alliance

The U.S. Congress was asked to "get to the bottom of it" during "Great Lakes Week in Washington" this April. The "bottom" refers to contaminated sediments, which are described in a Coast Alliance/CLU report "Getting to the Bottom of It: Threats to Human Health and the Environment from Contaminated Underwater Sediment." This report is part of an ongoing effort to educate the public and lawmakers about a major, yet largely ignored, source of water pollution. The report concludes that a problem Great Lakes residents have known about for years—contaminated underwater sediments—is degrading waters throughout the nation.

While the toxics lie at the bottom, they are not buried. Wave action, dredging, and burrowing animals all act to resuspend the pollutants, which are then eaten by bottom-dwelling organisms, who are in turn eaten by other predators. Sediments are thus the first link in a chain of food web contamination that extends all the way to the predators at the top: humans.

In Green Bay (Lake Michigan) and Saginaw (Lake Huron), numerous deformities have been found in wildlife because of exposure, through the food chain, to contaminated sediments. Cormorants and Caspian terns are being born with crossed bills, club feet and missing body parts, while mapping turtles are found with open abdomens.

The accumulation of toxics in fish, shellfish, and wildlife has serious implications for the humans

who eat them. The most disturbing evidence of human health impacts comes from the Great Lakes region. A 1984 study of mothers who ate Lake Michigan fish poisoned with PCBs illustrated that PCBs were passed both in the womb and through breast milk to their children. Babies were born smaller and with neuromuscular problems. In a follow-up study of four year-olds who had been exposed to PCBs as babies, the children exhibited continued growth retardation as well as poorer short-term memory.

It is clear that the problem of contaminated underwater sediments cannot be ignored. Contaminated sediments pose serious problems that are national in scope, yet there is no national program to identify and address polluted underwater lands. Nor is there an adequate program to assess, properly monitor and manage sediments dumps, which are in Confined Disposal Facilities.

At a minimum, Congress should include new objectives in legislation to reauthorize the Clean Water Act. The objectives should be:

- Create national sediment quality criteria and standards. The EPA should develop such criteria and standards to fully protect the health of Great Lakes and marine ecosystems affected by in-place contaminated sediments, and their disposal in CDFs and in the ocean. The criteria should address all effects on the aquatic community, including bioavailable and bioaccumulative effects on wildlife and human health.

- Compile a national inventory. The EPA should compile a national



Coast Alliance director Beth Millman spoke on contaminated sediments (shown in "Vile Vials" on table) March during Great Lakes Week in Washington. (Credit: Coast Alliance)

assessment of the extent of the problem of contaminated sediments. It should plot the extent of contamination in the Great Lakes, marine coasts, and major rivers.

- Develop a national program. A national program to direct the removal and cleanup of the most contaminated sediments should be created and administered by EPA. EPA should develop strategies and incentives that encourage the use of new and particular attention should be paid to demonstration clean-up projects (ARCS program) currently underway in the Great Lakes. EPA should oversee cleanup and safe disposal of contaminated sediments and should supervise Corps dredging contracts.

- Discontinue ocean and open water Great Lakes disposal. In order that aquatic ecosystems, and the important fisheries, wildlife and recreational values they support, be fully protected from toxic sediments, ocean and open-water Great Lakes disposal of contaminated sediments should not be allowed.

- Implement pollution prevention measures. The most economically efficient way to prevent future sediment contamination is to improve water quality by halting the rain of pollutants that enter water bodies including effective source control, waste pretreatment and pollution prevention measures. EPA should develop a toxics source reduction strategy that includes improvements in pollution prevention, industrial pretreatment, and urban, agricultural, forestry and mining/runoff abatement programs. Army Corps of Engineers projects should use dredging techniques to minimize release of sediments dur-

ing dredging.

- Establish a funding mechanism. A coordinated funding mechanism to pay for removal and cleanup of contaminated sediments must be created. Possible financing mechanisms include 1) user fees, tonnage fees, discharge fees and permit fees for harbor authorities, shippers and dischargers, marinas and for dredging operations; 2) state and local matching grants; 3) fines levied for spills and violators of dumping and water quality laws; 4) creation of a National Contaminated Sediment Restoration Trust Fund.

Currently there is legislation before the U.S. Senate—the Water Resources Development Act—that would require a national inventory of contaminated sediment sites, while better managing the disposal of sediments in Confined Disposal Facilities (CDFs) in the Great Lakes, and in ocean waters.

To express the extent of citizen concern over contaminated sediments, copies of the Coast Alliance and Great Lakes United report, along with "vile vials" of toxic mud from our nation's harbours, were delivered to every Senator. Senators, including the Great Lakes delegation which plays a critical role in Congress, will vote very soon on the sediments provisions of the Water Resources Development Act. If the Act passes the Senate it will then go to the House, hopefully with the sediments provisions still intact. However, the ports and Army Corps of Engineers are aggressively opposing strong sediment legislation, so it is an uphill battle in which citizen voices are more than welcome.

"Personal" Air Toxics Study Begins

by Rick Coronado,

Citizens Environment Alliance

The Ontario Ministry of the Environment (MOE) has initiated a special study on " Windsor Air Toxics '91/92." This "Personal Exposure Pilot" (PEP) study will provide important information on sources of air contaminants and pollutants, to which Windsor-Essex residents are exposed daily.

The CEA, the Sandwich Pollution Committee, the local office of MOE and the Windsor-Essex District Health Unit provided volunteers for this project. They sampled indoor air not only in the home, but also on the commute to and from work, whether the mode of transportation was by car, bus, bicycle or walking. Outdoor air was also sampled throughout Windsor, including areas in Essex that are affected by west-end air pollution. Some volunteers, where the employer consented, also sampled indoor air at their workplace.

This PEP study will provide interesting results in terms of personal exposure to a number of toxic contaminants including volatile organic compounds (VOCs). VOC levels are high in the outdoor air in Windsor, but there are also other sources in the home and workplace where personal exposure is significant.

Public Comment Wanted on New Air Report

The U.S. and Canada governments seek public comment by Sept. 30 on the new report on the U.S.-Canada Air Quality Agreement, which addresses cross-boundary air toxic and acid rain pollution. For a copy, contact LJC, 1250 23rd St. NW, Ste. 100, Washington, DC 20040, 202-736-9000, or 100 Metcalf St., 18th Floor, Ottawa, Ont. K1P 5M1, 613-996-2384.

cant. VOCs include, but are not limited to, the following: cosmetics; cleaning solvents; paints and solvents; glues; room fresheners; floor waxes and furniture polishes; fragrances; aerosols; and the petrochemical industry. The CEA is also involved in a VOCs study on fugitive emissions from the petrochemical industry.

This study has also incorporated another significant component. Approximately 130 Windsor-based industries have been contacted and asked to submit to the MOE, on a voluntary basis, data on their emissions. This part of the study is unique and may set the basis for a new Clean Air Program (CAP). Ontario's long-awaited air regulations revision. Emissions data will be collected by the Ministry in order to pinpoint local sources of air pollutants. Information will also be collected on the storage of chemicals and the types of energy used in local plants. Estimates will be made on the fugitive emissions that may be escaping from industrial operations. In addition, data on auto and truck emissions as well as pesticide spraying will be generated from sampling. This aspect of the Windsor study is therefore very important in terms of evaluating the inventory data with CAP limits.

Since the passing of the U.S. Clean Air Act, there has been added pressure for Ontario to initiate similar legislation. In the U.S., the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requires industries to report emissions data. This information is then published and made available to the public. This is called the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) and the CEA will be pressuring the Province for public release of all information collected in the Windsor study.



A TWELVE INCH PIPE DISCHARGING WASTE INTO THE LAKE IS INTOLERABLE; PUT IN TWO SIX INCH PIPES.

Canada to Begin Toxic Phaseout?

continued from p.1

decide which substances should be phased out and banned, industry wants to eliminate some of the chemicals and reduce others.

Whether or not the ARETS process will deliver results remains to be seen, given the wide differences in viewpoints on crucial issues. Nonetheless, industry seems to be interested to engage in a dialogue to reduce and eliminate toxic substances.

Other jurisdictions, especially on the U.S. side of the Great Lakes also need to develop sunset policies. Indeed, as Ontario Minister of the Environment Ruth Grier notes, "We

challenge all other governments in the Great Lakes Basin and across Canada to work together and quickly adopt the time frames for phasing out these chemicals. We believe that eliminating these chemicals must be done not only on a national level but on an international level."

For more information and copies of the report "Candidate Substances List for Buns or Phase Out," contact Adam Socha, Hazardous Contaminants Branch, MOE, 2 St. Clair Avenue, West, 12th floor, Toronto, Ont. M4V 1L5, (416) 323-5106.

Court Delivers Major Wetland Victory at Homestead

by Dave Petrits, Northern Michigan Environmental Action Council

In a monumental victory for wetlands and environmental due process, U.S. District Judge Enslin ruled in favor of environmental groups opposed to the proposed Homestead golf course. This development would have destroyed part of Crystal River's wetland, adjacent to the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore in the Grand Traverse region of Michigan.

The project would not only have destroyed a wetland, it would have set a dangerous national precedent that could have affected all U.S. wetlands. This is because it would have allowed political intervention into wetland permit processes. This occurred when Michigan Governor Engler, on behalf of the project's developer (a campaign manager for Engler), personally asked

EPA Administrator William Reilly to overturn his Regional Administrator's veto (which he did).

"The eyes of the country are watching this land's crisis," said GLU director Phil Weller shortly before the ruling. "An anti-wetland decision would set a very unfortunate tone for national policy." Many concluded that Reilly's overturning of his regional office's veto was a clear saving in anti-wetland developer interests and a direct turn-around of President Bush's pledge of "No Net Loss of Wetlands."

Judge Enslin ordered a permanent injunction against the State of Michigan's DNR from granting a wetland permit for the proposed Homestead project until such time as they obtain an Army Corp of Engineer permit for their project.

Over 18 months ago, the Chicago Regional office of the EPA ruled

that the Homestead developer, Robert Kuras, must obtain a wetland permit before proceeding with his planned development, thus overruling the Michigan DNR which had granted such a permit. Neither the DNR or the State of Michigan formally contested this decision by the EPA's regional office within the 90-day time limit for such appeals. Therefore, Enslin ruled that the decision was automatically in the hands of the Army Corps of Engineers. Interestingly, alternate upland sites suitable for a golf course exist in the vicinity, but were ignored.

Had it not been for Judge Enslin's injunction, construction of the golf course would likely have already begun, since EPA's overturning of their previous decision on May 8 paved the way for the Michigan DNR to quickly issue a wetland permit. In his ruling, Enslin noted that the May 8th decision amount-

ed to an "unlawful attempt" to revoke the Army Corps of Engineers' authority in the matter.

Although Enslin's decision is a major victory so far, the war isn't over. Governor Engler's office has announced that they will appeal the decision.

Groups that brought the court challenge are Friends of the Crystal River, Michigan United Conservation Clubs, Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund, National Wildlife Federation, Trout Unlimited, Sierra Club and Isaak Walton League.

The decision is a warning to other developers who seek to use political intervention to get wetland permits. We and other groups intend to remain vigilant on the Homestead case, and NMEAC calls on a boycott of the Homestead Resort. For information, contact us at 616-946-6931, Box 1166, Traverse City, MI 49686. □

Great Lakes' 1st US Marine Sanctuary?

by Maureen Eldridge, Center for Marine Conservation

Since 1972, the United States government has designated ten National Marine Sanctuaries. These areas, the "best" of our national marine heritage, are designated as sanctuaries to ensure their protection and wise management. Sanctuaries are special areas of the marine environment that possess unique ecological, cultural, research or historical quality.

Unfortunately, the Great Lakes, America's "Fourth Coast," have been left out of this program to date. However, this may soon change. What may become the Great Lakes' first U.S. Marine Sanctuary has been proposed for Thunder Bay, located at Alpena, Michigan, on the western shore of Lake Huron (see profile in adjoining article). If Thunder Bay is designated, it will be the U.S.' first sanctuary in the Great Lakes. Canada already has a federal Great Lakes underwater sanctuary - Pathom Five National Marine Park, part of the new Bruce National Park at the tip of Lake Huron's Bruce Peninsula.

The National Marine Sanctuary Program began in 1972 with the passage of the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act. This act gave the U.S. government the authority to set aside discrete areas to receive special management protection. Sanctuaries are not closed to human activity, but are designed to allow management consistent with resource protection. Sanctuaries are managed by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Existing sanctuaries include the only U.S. mainland tropical reef, kelp forests off California, and the great Farallones bird rockeries.

Unlike National Parks, which are created by acts of Congress, sanctuaries are designated through an administrative process that allows a great deal of public input and consensus building. Normally, the process begins with a site being selected from a list of eligible areas called the Site Evaluation List, and moved to active candidacy status. This is followed by consultation with state and federal agencies, preparation of a management plan, and environmental impact statement, and public hearings. At the completion of this process, and with approval of Congress (and the governor for sites which include State waters), a site is designated.

Although we are on the verge of

seeing many more Sanctuaries designated in the coming year, and can hope to finally see a sanctuary on our Fourth Coast, the Sanctuary Program has not always been so dynamic. The program suffered from severe underfunding and neglect under President Reagan, and the designation process for most sites came to a grinding halt. Public concern prompted Congress to mandate the designation of some sites and to move others to active candidacy.

The Bush administration has a better record but the program still suffers from a severe lack of funding.

How would Thunder Bay benefit?

If Thunder Bay is designated, it will be the only Great Lakes site entirely within State waters and one of only two sites with significant cultural/historical resources. Sanctuary designation would ensure that this area receives integrated management between all federal and state agencies, with a primary focus on resource protection. It would not exclude users from the area, but would require that activities in the sanctuary are compatible with both the environment and the important cultural resources. Designation would also provide cultural opportunities for research and education. Sanctuary status also focuses attention on aquatic environments, provides a focal point for education and awareness efforts, and allows a great deal of public participation.

How can you get involved?

The Center for Marine Conservation has played a major role in the designations of several sanctuaries. We have spearheaded coalition movements that have tracked the federal review process, turned out hundreds of speakers at public hearings, and helped generate thousands of written comments. By maintaining pressure on the government, we have been able to get stronger, larger sanctuaries, and pushed designations forward. All this has been possible because of the work of many groups and individuals, acting together in coalitions.

Individuals can also influence the process by contacting NOAA, attending public hearings and submitting comments.

The future

This year marks the 20th Anniversary of the National Marine Sanctuary Program. We have

View of Thunder Bay, MI, proposed as Great Lakes' first U.S. National Marine Sanctuary. Thunder Bay Island (center), Sugar Island also in it. Credit: Tim Gagnon, Fairbridge Point Marina, Alpena, MI.

achieved a great deal, but still have a long way before we can say that we have indeed saved the best examples of our national heritage.

Four other Great Lakes sites are potential future candidates for the sanctuary program. These areas are: Cape Vincent, NY (Lake Ontario), Western Lake Erie Islands including Sandusky Bay (Lake Erie), Green Bay (Lake Michigan), and Apostle Islands/Le Royale (Lake Superior). Presently, there are no immediate plans for activation.

A Look at Thunder Bay Sanctuary

by Michele Richhart, National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration

The U.S. waters of the Great Lakes may soon get their first National Marine Sanctuary: Thunder Bay, located on the western shore of Lake Huron at Alpena, Michigan. It would also be the first freshwater National Marine Sanctuary. The proposed area includes Thunder Bay and vicinity (up to Middle Island) with depths extending to over 300 feet along the northeast section of the site. Approximately 400 square miles are encompassed, all of which are in State of Michigan waters.

The Thunder Bay area contains varied geologic formations and natural resources, including the Misery Bay Sinkhole, the Thunder Bay Island Rock Wall, North Point Reef, the Michigan Islands, a variety of wetlands, and part of the area's smallmouth bass, northern pike, yellow perch, Chinook salmon, and steelhead. The marsh vegetation along the edges of the islands provides habitat and breeding grounds for thousands of ring-billed gulls, common terns, herring gulls,

and other colonial nesting birds. The American osprey and the American bald eagle, threatened species, have also been observed within the area as well as the sandhill crane. Finally, the Bay holds over 100 historical shipwrecks including wood-hulled schooners, steamers, barges, Great Lakes tugboats, a steel-hulled steamer, and ocean-going freighter.

A large number of activities occur in the Bay, including recreational boating, diving, fishing, and nature appreciation. Visitors are attracted by the area's diverse cultural and natural resources and by the recreational and educational opportunities found here. Thunder Bay is also a part of the Michigan Underwater Preserve System administered by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources in cooperation with the Michigan Department of State, Bureau of History. The preserve system was established to recognize unique concentrations of shipwrecks and to provide further protection for the wreck sites from illegal salvage. □

Success! Great Lakes Diversion in Indiana is Vetoed

by Glenda Daniel, Lake Michigan Federation, and Bruce Kershner

In a historic victory for the Great Lakes, the proposed Lowell, IN, out-of-basin diversion was defeated this May. Great Lakes United and the Lake Michigan Federation led an intensive, year-long campaign against the diversion.

Early in 1991, the Town of Lowell, IN, 25 miles south of Gary, IN, proposed to pipe in up to 10 million gallons per day (later reduced to 1.7 mg/d) of Lake Michigan water to replace their contaminated well source of drinking water. They ignored other alternatives and turned to Lake Michigan only because it was the cheapest source. Since the water was to be discharged into the Mississippi River Basin, U.S. law required the unanimous approval by each of the eight Great Lakes Governors before it could be authorized.

After a suspense-filled week of consultations and meetings between government officials and

environmental groups, seven governors voted to approve the diversion, and Michigan Governor John Engler was the lone dissenter. His single veto killed the diversion. Up until nearly the last moment it looked as if some form of diversion would be approved.

The decision was historic because it was the first governors' diversion vote under the 1986 Water Resources Development Act, and, as such, set a major precedent for all future diversion proposals. More than ten diversions have been proposed over the past decade, and plans for at least three new ones are being discussed. Approval of Lowell's diversion would have encouraged more diversions.

Diversions are one of the three founding issues of Great Lakes United. This is because of the irreversible effects diversions would have on the hydrology, economy, wetlands, toxic contamination, hydropower, wildlife, fisheries, drinking water, shipping and beaches.

Great Lakes United and LMF applauded Governor Engler's courage to be the only dissenting vote among the Great Lakes governors, despite strong pressure to conform. Since Engler was elected, he has been severely criticized for his actions on other environmental issues. Therefore, his stance on diversions was particularly welcome.

Great Lakes United, LMF, MUCC and other groups from every Great Lakes state and province joined in opposing the diversion. GLU members adopted two annual resolutions opposing it and made several presentations to the Council of Great Lakes Governors, among other actions. Lastly, the entire GLU board of directors, representing 23 citizens' groups, met with Engler's advisor within days of the vote. It was a prime example of the power of citizens' groups when they unify on an issue.

Up until the week of the vote the Province of Quebec appeared as

though it was going to approve it, and the Province of Ontario had an uncertain position on it. Heavy pressure by members of GLU's coalition led to both provinces voting against it. While the provinces do not have the power to veto diversions under U.S. law, it reduced the isolation of Michigan and raised it as an international matter, with Canada opposing most of the states.

The issue is far from over, however. Within weeks of the veto, U.S. Rep. Jim Jontz (D-IN.) introduced a bill that would eliminate the ability for the governors to veto a diversion under 5 million gallons per day, which would exclude Lowell and many other diversions. Environmentalists need to strongly oppose the bill because of the cumulative effects of many small diversions.

GLU is pushing for a Basin-Wide Water Use and Conservation Plan to create a rational and ecosystem approach. Such a plan would include a direct role by Ontario and Quebec, and the public.

Environmental "United Way" Formed

by Sean M. Enright, GLU Information Manager

"United Way" for the Environment—that is what Great Lakes United and 15 other environmental groups around New York State have formed. It is a new way to raise funds, as well as involve thousands of people.

The federation is designed for workplace donations after the model of the United Way, but is entirely made up of groups dedicated to the environment. The United Way does not have environmental member groups. The payroll deductions plan may eventually net millions of dollars for groups, whose work touches almost every aspect of New York's environmental problems.

Seen as an environmental alternative to the United Way, environmental federations have been formed in several other states in the past few years. These have proven to be an effective way to reach thousands of people who would not normally donate, but are concerned about the environment. Last year these groups, along with the Environmental Federation of America, brought in over \$6 million to support a wide variety of local and national groups.

Lee Wasserman, chair of EFNY, believes that the organization will "expand the level of participation of

state citizens for the benefit of our environment" at a time when environmental awareness and advocacy is on the increase. The organization also presents an opportunity for groups such as GLU to access a whole new avenue of funding. Work place donation drives reach many more people than do traditional direct drives and are far more cost effective.

Because automatic payroll deductions are small and spread out, and simplify the process of giving for the donor, individuals tend to donate amounts far in excess more than with direct contributions. For example if a worker allows only one dollar per week to be donated from her paycheck, the \$52 she will have given at the end of the year is considerably greater than she would probably ever have donated at any one time.

EFNY plans to run its first campaign this fall and will be seeking employers who will sign up in the program. They hope to join the NY State Employees Federated Association (SEFA). It is the largest program of paycheck deductions for charities in the state. This tack was very successful in Oregon where \$94,000 was raised in the first year just through state and county governmental campaigns.

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Get Ready to Sweep the Beaches!

by Karen Furnisher, Shedd Aquarium and Beach Sweep Coordinator

More than 3,700 volunteers in the U.S. and Canada stooped to conquer the problem of aquatic debris during the first Great Lakes Beach Sweep, held on September 21 and 29, 1991. 1991 was also the debut for Ontario, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin. The program is an effort by the Center for Marine Conservation.

It took since 1991 to tabulate the results. The haul was more than 20.6 tons of trash that littered 273.5 miles of island beaches from Superior's North Shore, around the Upper Peninsula, looping down and back up Lake Michigan, over to Huron and along Erie to Lake Ontario. Their rewards were (temporarily) clean beaches, a deep sense of satisfaction and first-hand knowledge about the trash that's despoiling our lakes and shorelines.

More than a quarter of a million individual pieces were carefully categorized and counted on data cards for CMC. The information is used to identify sources of aquatic debris, including sewage, commercial and recreational fishing, industrial operations and beach use and implement ways, from education to legislation, to eventually eliminate garbage from the world's waterways.

The leading item found in almost all areas in the Great Lakes and world-wide was cigarette butts (made of nondegradable plastic). Far and away the leading category of beach debris in all areas except Ohio were beverage containers including six-pack holders, bottle caps and pull tabs. Whether dropped overboard or on the beach, these items characterize a careless attitude on the part of recreational users of the lakes.

The Great Lakes region also matched or exceeded other coastal

areas in sewage-related trash, most notably plastic tampon applicators, indicating the need to address inadequate sewage systems.

The Great Lakes Beach Sweep was not without some weird finds. Volunteers found nearly enough automotive parts to put together a car, including a fuel pump, bumper and 70 tires (Michigan), a transmission (New York/Lake Erie), several batteries (Illinois and Wisconsin) and a muffer and radio (Illinois) and the grand prize in Chicago, a Jeep complete except for the wheels (Michigan).

The coordinated Great Lakes beach cleanup had a grand start last year, with efforts in each of the eight states and in Ontario. Coordinators hope to enlist help in Quebec this year and expand on all of the shorelines.

For a copy of the 1991 International Coastal Cleanup results, contact Center for Marine Conservation, 202-429-5609.

Join the Great Lakes Beach Cleanup!

Saturday, Sept. 12
(Sept. 19 in Pa.)

No previous experience needed.

For more information, contact:
Illinois: Margaret Rader, Lake Michigan Federation, 312-939-0838. Indiana: Tim Batty, Aquapure Project, 219-473-4355. Michigan: Terry Cabala, Lake Michigan Federation, 516-723-5114. Minnesota: Tim Ammon, The Bluestone Company, 218-722-6768. New York/Lake Erie: Sharon Trembly, 716-549-4330. Ohio: Marcia Reinold, Ohio Sea Grant, 614-242-8949. Quebec: Coordinators needed. Ontario: Coordinators needed. Pennsylvania: Frances Stoltz, Presque Isle State Park, 814-471-4251. Wisconsin: Lee Dudley, Lake Michigan Federation, 414-271-5059.

Regional coordinators: Karen Patwegger, Shedd Aquarium, 312-499-3435, ext. 3374.

GLU Recognizes Native Sovereignty

by Bruce Kershner, GLU Field Coordinator

In a historic and precedent-setting move, Great Lakes United appears to be becoming the first major environmental organization to recognize the sovereign status of the North American First Nations by creating a position for a Native Nations representative on its board.

At GLU's 10th Anniversary Annual Meeting this May, the members unanimously elected the first Native Nations representative on GLU's Board of Directors.

The new board member, Carole Mills, represents the Assembly of First Nations communities in Canada. She coordinates the E.A.G.L.E. (Effects on Aborigines from the Great Lakes Environment) Project, a community-based study of Native health as affected by contaminants in the Great Lakes Basin.

"Word of this move by Great Lakes United will be applauded by indigenous peoples," remarked Henry Lickers, Director of the Mo-

hawk Council of the Algonquians' Environmental Division. Lickers is a past member of GLU's Board of Directors.

There are approximately 96 Native reserves in the Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River Watershed, with 60 of those on the shorelines of the lakes or their connecting rivers.

Examples of reserves threatened by toxic contamination are the Algonquians reserve of the Mohawk Nation, Walpole Island, Reservoir River and Fort Williams, and several. Besides the environmental damage done by toxic contamination, serious damage to Native culture and economy is resulting.

Use of Native lands for permanent flooding for reservoirs such as the massive HydroQuebec project near Hudson Bay has also been a serious issue. Another delicate issue is that of allotment and sharing of resources and the fisheries in the Great Lakes.

Citizens Must Speak Up on Water Levels Debate

by Phil Weller,
GLU Executive Director

After six years of investigation, IJC's Water Levels Study Board will soon recommend whether artificial manipulation of Great Lakes water levels is possible, necessary, or ecologically sensible. The study has emphasized separating water level fact from fiction. However, the study has set the stage for a political struggle between some shoreline property owners, who want the lake levels controlled, and environmentalists and others who believe that control of shoreline development is the wisest way to avoid damage from fluctuating water levels. Over the next six months, Great Lakes advocates need to participate in and influence the decisions that will be made. If environmental voices are not heard in upcoming public hearings in November, the shoreline owners could hold sway in final decisions.

By March 1993, the Study Board will have answered these questions: Is it technically possible, economically feasible, politically desirable or ecologically sensible to construct control structures that would manipulate Great Lakes water levels? Or are there other ways we can reduce damage to buildings and property from naturally changing water levels?

Using a hydrologic model, the study examined what would happen if levels on the five Great Lakes were kept at or near the long-term monthly average. Preliminary results show that the water level changes in each of the connecting channels would fluctuate much more dramatically under such a scenario. In other words, lake levels would be stable but riverside residents in Montreal, Niagara River, Detroit, Windsor and Sault Ste. Marie would all experience more extreme water level fluctuations than now occur.

The study also examined a contentious issue critical to environmentalists—are water level fluctuations important for maintaining wetland area and diversity? The answer to this question is a resounding yes: Approximately \$200,000 has been spent studying this issue and the results are unequivocal. Water fluctuations are necessary to maintain the biological

diversity and area of wetlands. Each wetland responds somewhat differently to natural water level changes but, in general, wetlands need periods of high water to kill off woody upland plants that encroach into a wetland, and they need low water periods to allow seeds in the soil to germinate and grow. Stabilized water levels would damage both the biological diversity and area of Great Lakes wetlands already threatened by government neglect.

The study has also addressed the impact of high water levels on shoreline erosion. Shoreline property owners aim to reduce periods of high water levels because they believe that if water levels are higher, there is increased erosion. The shoreline owners are promoting the false belief that "higher water levels always increase erosion." The study concluded, however, that when water levels rise, erosion does not always increase.

The preliminary conclusions of the study angered some shoreline property owners who maintain that the conclusions are part of an ongoing government conspiracy, supported by "fanatical extremist environmentalists" to prevent them from receiving financial relief for erosion damage. Despite the facts brought forward by the study, a certain percentage of shoreline owners have shown they will never accept the study conclusions and will continue to promote their "right" to manipulate water levels throughout the lakes to protect their private property. It is for that reason that the coalition of interests, environmentalists, sportsmen, and Native people must speak out loudly and clearly during the upcoming public hearings.

The study has exposed the divergent and often conflicting interests that exist in the water level debate. At public meetings, shoreline residents from Lake Superior expressed anger about water levels being kept higher on Lake Superior as a way to regulate and stabilize levels on the middle lakes, Huron, Michigan, and Erie. Similarly, the people of Montreal and the St. Lawrence River have expressed concern about the river being used as a large drainage pipe that can be shut off and on to keep water levels stable in Lake Ontario.

No one wants damage to public and property in the Great Lakes to occur as it did during the high water years of 1985-86. But it is certainly not prudent to shift the impacts of water level changes to other areas of the basin and at the same time create irreversible ecological harm. Making sure that property is not built on hazard-prone lands remains the most sensible and effective way to prevent damage from fluctuating water levels.

Protecting private property built in hazard zones by regulating the lakes with publicly funded control structures is unwise and unfair. But unless the environmental community speaks up, that might be just what happens.

For updates on the study or copies of reports, contact: Ruth

New Environment Fund

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SEFA has traditionally not allowed environmental groups into its program. Under SEFA regulations, the appeal can only accept groups dedicated to "health, welfare and recreation" and most of the local committees, which decide on applications, have interpreted this narrowly to exclude environmental groups, even though they deal with health and recreation issues. EFNY has applied to seven SEFA regional campaigns, arguing that employees have the right to decide to whom their donations will go.

GLU director Phil Weller sees EFNY as an exciting new way to involve the public in the environmental movement. "It has a great potential for increasing GLU's revenues." GLU got "in on the ground floor" last winter and became one of EFNY's charter members.

Some of EFNY's other charter members are the Adirondack Council; Environmental Defense Fund; Hudson River Sloop Clearwater; National Audubon Society; Natural Resources Defense Council; The Nature Conservancy; NY Public Interest Research Center; and Trust for Public Land.

If you know employers who might participate, or have questions, call Camilla Smith, GLU's EFNY liaison, 212-226-2088.

IJC Urges Governments to Act on Toxics

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Specific recommendations are:

- Define what a persistent toxic substance is.
- Phase out and ban production, use and disposal of PCBs, DDT, dieldrin, toxaphene, mirex and hexachlorobenzene, and sunset use of lead and mercury.
- Work with industry and others to change production processes and feedstock chemicals that lead to the production of dioxins, furans, and hexachlorobenzene as byproducts.

Although the IJC did not make explicit recommendations regarding Remedial Action Plans, they identified specific problems in RAPs. First, they noted that "major new investments and long-term commitments to remedial and preventive programs will be required." They also stated that very few RAPs recognize the Agreement objective of zero discharge and actively incorporate this objective in the RAP. And finally, they highlighted the failure of the binational RAPs to achieve real progress.

The IJC recommended that pristine natural areas be identified and protected, and further, they supported the designation of Lake Superior as a UN Great Lakes

Edgett, c/o Water Levels Communications Centre, Environment Canada, 867 Lakeshore Rd., Burlington, Ont. L7R 4A6, (416)336-4581/4629, or Anne Sudar, c/o Institute for Water Resources, U.S. Army Corps, Casey Bldg., Ft. Belvoir, VA 22060, 703-355-2336.

Public Forums on Water Levels Findings:

Nov. 30--Thunder Bay, Ontario
Dec. 1-- Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Dec. 2-- Sarnia, Ontario
Dec. 3-- Oswego, New York

Public Meetings on Final Report:

Feb. 22--Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario
Feb. 23--Chicago, Illinois
Feb. 24--Buffalo, New York
Feb. 25--Dorval, Quebec

1992 GLU Resolutions

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biological diversity.

Due to environmental concerns, GLU opposes construction of the Lake Calumet Airport near Chicago.

Human Health. GLU's proposed Human Health Project was endorsed and adopted.

Water Quality. GLU supports the Great Lakes Protection Fund in not considering applications from Indiana until they join the Fund.

GLU strongly recommends that Indiana adopt revisions to the state's national pollution permit system. We call on the governments to stop the discharge of toxic chemicals and to adhere to the promises in the Great Lakes WQ Agreement. GLU demands immediate publication of uniform basinwide water quality standards in the Federal Register to preserve the public's right to fair access.

GLU supports H.R. 2880 to expand right-to-know reporting requirements, to close recycling loopholes and require companies to have toxic use reduction plans.

Other. GLU urges the governments to invite public comment on the new Canada-Ontario and Canada-Quebec Agreements. We also oppose Ontario Waste Management Corporation's proposed hazardous waste disposal facility on the Niagara Peninsula.

Biological Reserve.

Environmental education was emphasized as a fundamental need in the IJC's report. They stressed the need to incorporate the Great Lakes ecosystem into existing curricula and other programs.

The basis for the Commission's strong recommendations on persistent toxic substances lies in the mounting evidence that these substances are causing irreparable harm to humans, wildlife and the Basin ecosystem. Research demonstrates that toxic substances disrupt the endocrine (glandular) systems of fish, birds, and mammals, including humans, with these impacts: thyroid dysfunction, decreased fertility, decreased hatching success, gross birth, metabolic and behavioral abnormalities, reversal of sexual development such as defeminization, and compromised immune system. One of the most disturbing findings is that the levels of these chemicals in human populations are above the levels known to cause impacts in wildlife.

One more highly important recommendation: that the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement not be renegotiated and that the governments instead focus on implementing the Agreement.

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

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



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THE GREAT LAKES UNITED

Vol. VII, No. 1

Great Lakes United—a binational coalition for the Great Lakes/St. Lawrence ecosystem

Summer 1992

Grassroots Must Create Common Great Lakes Vision

by Paul H. MacClemens

Do we have a vision, the foresight, the path?

Over the past 20 years the Great Lakes have emerged as a cause celebre, a cause that has spawned an immense support group from citizen activists to governors, from bureaucrats to diplomats, from children to senior citizens.

Lakes issues have developed a new set of constituents—riparian owners concerned about flows, Native Americans concerned about traditional values being plundered by yet another government, women concerned about their children's health, fishermen concerned about the safety of their catch, cities and industries concerned about getting rid of their wastes and ordinary citizens caught up in enthusiasm for the environmental movement.

More often than not these groups are at odds with one another. Issues are divisive—low water levels sometimes protect shoreline property but mean lighter cargoes on ships; governments complain about stricter discharge limits and industries contend zero discharge is unattainable. Environmental groups want tougher rules and politicians seeking campaign money bluster about regulations costing jobs; developers push construction of golf courses and second homes saying people want to be on the water; and conservationists warn of the consequences of destroying woodlands and wetlands.

Often there are different agendas. In Canada where there is less development, it is sometimes easier to protect open space. But along the shorelines of the eight states,

much of the coastal area is already crowded and there is pressure to use what is left.

Thus, while citizens and governments are paying closer attention to the lakes than ever before, there is more conflict than ever before. Environmental protection and the ecosystem mean different things to different people.

As more lakes-oriented groups form, there is more fragmentation. Two decades ago there were only a handful of groups: state conservation groups, the International Joint Commission, the Great Lakes Commission, fishing groups and some industrial coalitions. Now there are many more, from the Great Lakes Governors to Great Lakes United, from the Great Lakes Protection Fund to the Great Lakes Environmental Administrators, from the Center for the Great Lakes to the Lake Michigan Federation.

At the IJC meeting in Hamilton four years ago, Greenpeace eloquently spoke for the need to protect the lakes. At Traverse City last year, scores of citizens spoke with both deep emotion and hard facts about the failure of governments to heed their concerns. Neither the top U.S. nor Canadian environmental administrators hung around long enough to listen.

So here residents around the lake stand today, activated, but often divided; concerned, but often preoccupied; wanting better, but uncertain as to how to attain their goals.

Perhaps a major obstacle to achieving the vision of a restored fresh water gem is the unwillingness to change. Our very lifestyle is a threat to the lakes. Our consumptive/destructive patterns, our wasteful habits, our love affair with everything new regardless of the consequences takes a toll. In effect, Bush said in Rio that (North) Americans are not going to give away their lifestyle without a fight. The one great failure of the environmental movement—one that has plagued us since the first Earth Day, since the first UN environmental summit in Stockholm—is our refusal to change our lifestyle. That in itself is devastating the planet we seek to protect.

Beyond that, I believe there is serious confusion on what exactly are our goals, our vision for the

Great Lakes. I hear many voices, see many ideas, read many informative papers, but fail to see a coherent concept of what we seek for the Great Lakes region.

I suggest that the people of the Great Lakes need to gather in their own summit with their own agenda and start to draft their own vision of the Great Lakes—as they would have them a decade and five decades hence.

Efforts thus far have concentrated on the mechanics of restoration, the grunt work of cleaning up

tus must come from the grassroots and move upward with a force that will give pause for thought and serious consideration from those who fill positions of leadership. The imbalances that led to economic destruction of the region and its environment must be weighed and placed in a perspective with other values.

The UN conference in Rio centered around heads of government and their retinues. But thousands gathered around the conference site and did their own



Award-winning environmental reporter Paul MacClemens is honored by GLU at their 10th Annual Meeting

generations of wasteful, harmful, uncaring ways. There is a movement to protect what is still pristine, but it is lost in the restoration movement. It is time to confront our differences, to develop common goals, a consensus that through give and take will provide a blueprint for the future.

Now it is time to start thinking about what will be done with that restored waterway, those rehabilitated shorelines, those reclaimed city waterfronts, those priceless fish and wildlife, that wonderful chain of lakes, rivers, tributaries and connecting channels that led our ancestors to settle in this region.

Isn't it time for men and women, children and teenagers, steelworkers and activists, cottage owners and beachcombers, sportspeople and sunworshippers, to think about what they want for generations to come?

This must include those in political life, in executive suites, the movers and shakers. But the impe-

thing. The difference at a Great Lakes summit would be that the non-governmental people would be on center stage, developing a consensus that will go as a mandate to those charged by voters and consumers to carry out the public will.

Idealistic? Impossible? Unrealistic? Perhaps, but something worth saving deserves a new approach, an outpouring from the grassroots representing a consensus that can be ignored only at the peril of rebellion. And remember it was rebellion that led to the founding of this country and an ideal that for a time was heard around the world.

What is our vision? What are our hopes? What is our political will?

Paul MacClemens is an award-winning environmental reporter for the Buffalo News. He covered GLU's founding meeting and has been an unflinching critic of government inaction for decades.

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