

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



Mini Woodstock on Wheels, A GLAHNF grant recipient, Earthology Records, will be holding "Mini Woodstock on Wheels" eco-entertainment and educational concerts around the Great Lakes Basin in the coming months. To learn about events near you, visit www.CloudCult.com. For more general information about these events and how you can get involved, visit the Great Lakes Radio Consortium website to read/hear a National Public Radio piece on Earthology Records and "Mini Woodstock on Wheels".

May 5-6, 2004,

2004 Great Lakes Sustainability Conference, Cleveland, Ohio
Sponsored by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Great Lakes Commission, this conference will bring Great Lakes stakeholders together to report on progress – and unmet needs – in sustainability initiatives; strengthen partnerships; and devise strategies for collective action. Conference speakers will include senior White House officials and high-level representatives from Congress, officials from all levels of government in the region, as well as environmental stakeholders, industry and academia with a commitment to the binational Great Lakes region. Contact: Rita Straith E-mail: rstraith@glc.org Website: www.glc.org

May 21-25, 2004, National River Rally Charlottesville, Virginia
Sponsored by River Network, this important event will help grassroots groups harness the power of citizen involvement to protect rivers and build healthier communities and watersheds. The River Rally will bring together hundreds of friends of rivers, water keepers, monitors, watchdogs, stewards, guardians and others involved in watershed protection and restoration. Together, we will celebrate rivers, teach and learn from each other, and explore the power of citizen action. Your staff, volunteers, and board members – from new volunteers to experienced leaders – are invited and encouraged to attend. Contact: Wendy Wilson E-mail: wwilson@rivernetwork.org Website: www.rivernetwork.org

June 4-6, 2004, Great Lakes United Annual Meeting

Erie, Pennsylvania Titled "Experience to Action -- Lake Erie Dead Zone: Our Line in the Sand," this meeting will take stock of this indicator lake and its stresses, and consider local stresses and threats throughout the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence system. Last years unveiling of an Action Agenda for the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence marked a new beginning for Great Lakes activism. Join us to continue our discussion on the way forward. We have charted our course, Now it is time to take action of achieving our united vision for the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence ecosystem. Contact: Bonnie Danni Phone: 716-886-0142 E-mail: bonnie@glu.org

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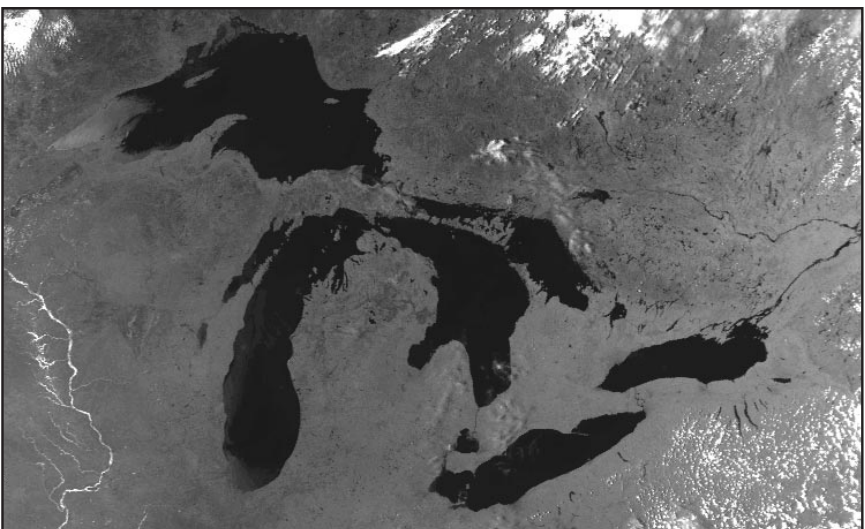
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NEWS QUESTION:

Would a GLAHNF listserv be useful as a discussion forum for activists about aquatic habitat questions and issues?
 E-mail your response to alicia@watershedcouncil.org

PROTECTING THE GREAT LAKES FROM A THIRSTY WORLD

BY: CHERYL MENDOZA, LAKE MICHIGAN FEDERATION



Satellite photograph of the Great Lakes. Photo courtesy of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Detroit District

What if the water coming out of your faucet was contaminated with unsafe levels of radium? Radium can over a long period of time, cause anemia, cataracts, fractured teeth, cancer (especially bone cancer), and death. This is a serious issue that Waukesha, Wisconsin, a community just outside of the Great Lakes Basin, is facing. Communities in southeastern Wisconsin are pulling water out of the ground, to supply a growing number of homes and businesses, faster than nature can replenish it. As a result, the source of that water, the groundwater aquifer, has been dropping an average of 6 feet a year and is an astounding 300 feet lower than it was 50 years ago, according to an inventory of regional groundwater resources. Radium, which is naturally occurring in the ground, is drawn into groundwater as water levels drop. This problem worsens as the communities continue to grow. The most attractive solution to those living in the area is to

divert water from Lake Michigan to meet their water supply needs, which would then be sent into the Mississippi River basin, forever leaving the Great Lakes.

So what would be the problem with sending Great Lakes water to help Waukesha? There are two sides to every story. Though the Great Lakes contain 20 percent of the world's fresh surface water and 95 percent of North America's fresh surface water, this seemingly limitless resource is, for the most part, not renewable. The Great Lakes are glacial deposits and only about one percent of the water in them is renewable through rain, snow and groundwater per year, according to the International Joint Commission. There are limits as to how much water can be taken out of the Great Lakes. Going beyond those limits means depleting the Great Lakes.

continued on page 2

PROTECTING THE GREAT LAKES FROM A THIRSTY WORLD



DIRECTOR'S NOTES



GLAHNF CHANGE

BY JILL RYAN

In order to serve grassroots groups and citizens better, GLAHNF has recently completed a year long assessment and planning process. Through this process we learned a great deal about the needs of groups in the region and the types of services available to meet those needs.

We clearly learned from this work that GLAHNF does fill a critical need for grassroots advocates and that there is no other group filling this particular niche. However, we also learned that we could do a better job of providing services.

In response, you will see some changes coming to the services available through GLAHNF in the coming months. These positive changes include organizing our assistance around the basins of each Great Lake rather than around geo-political boundaries, more funding available for grassroots groups, new opportunities to connect with others doing similar work through regional meetings, and more.

Stay tuned for more information about the changes in the GLAHNews and on our websites, www.glahabitat.org and www.GreatLakesDirectory.org. And as always, please let us know what you think of our services.

"You must be the change you wish to see in the world."

-Mahatma Gandhi

Jill M. Ryan

The problem is where to "draw the line." Waukesha is not the only community close to the Great Lakes Basin looking at the Great Lakes for a potential new water supply as they outgrow their own. Additionally, there are places around the U.S. and beyond that have had a longstanding interest in Great Lakes water. For example, in 1959, supporters of the Great Recycling and Northern Development Canal proposed to divert Great Lakes water to Saskatchewan, the Southern U.S., and Mexico. In 1983 there was a bid to construct a 400-mile concrete canal from Lake Superior to the Missouri River. In 1984 Great Lakes water was wanted in the High Plains and Southwest U.S.

Though such proposals have not been successful to date, needs are becoming more urgent. In the next 25 years, the world will need at least 55 percent more freshwater than is now available to satisfy the growing global population. Whether Great Lakes water is diverted 5 miles outside of the basin to Waukesha or 5,000 miles to another country, the water is ultimately lost to the Great Lakes.

The challenge is how to meet future water needs around the Great Lakes Basin, the United States, and the world while still protecting the Great Lakes Basin from being depleted and its many streams, rivers and lakes from being harmed.

Restrictions under international trade agreements and the Commerce Clause of the United States Constitution make this a significant challenge. According to these agreements, once water is sold we cannot restrict water sales to others around the country or even the world. Further, we cannot put additional restrictions on people or industries outside of the Great Lakes Basin than the restrictions on those living in the Basin. For example, if we use water

wastefully, we may not be able to require others who want to divert Great Lakes water to use that water conservatively.

More needs to be done because our current laws may not be strong enough to protect the Great Lakes from harmful diversion proposals if they are challenged under the terms of our trade agreements. Fortunately, the governors of the eight Great Lakes states and Canadian premiers recognize the seriousness of this threat and are taking proactive steps to develop world-class protection for the Great Lakes, called the Great Lakes Charter Annex. The Annex has three key principles upon which water withdrawals, both inside and those to be sent outside of the Great Lakes Basin, will be regulated:

- Every new project must include all reasonably feasible water conservation measures;
- No new project can cause significant harm – individually, or in combination with other projects – to the Great Lakes, their tributaries, or the people and wildlife they support;
- Every project must be designed to actually improve the Great Lakes and their tributary lakes, streams, and underground aquifers. Avoiding harm is not enough.

These principles go beyond working to ensure Great Lakes water is used sustainably; they are intended to actually improve the Great Lakes. No other water management system in the world manages a watershed in such a proactive manner. If crafted properly into legally binding standards, the Annex will give this world-class resource, the Great Lakes Basin, the world-class protection it needs and deserves.

PROTECTING THE GREAT LAKES FROM A THIRSTY WORLD



The challenge now is to develop the details of how the Annex principles will be implemented and for the region's governments to make them legally binding. The goal of the Council of Great Lakes Governors is to release draft documents for public review on June 18. If not crafted carefully, there is potential for the Annex to have loopholes that could allow harmful diversions from the Great Lakes Basin and potentially even encourage diversions.

After the draft Annex documents are released, public hearings will be held

around the Great Lakes Basin. Your voice is needed to push for strong protections for the Great Lakes. The Lake Michigan Federation will be taking an active role in helping the public weigh in on the Annex. This is an important time to speak out – the future of our Great Lakes depends on it.

For more information, or to be notified of public hearings and updates, contact Cheryl Mendoza at the Lake Michigan Federation at 616-850-0745 or cmendoza@lakemichigan.org.

GLAHNEWS:

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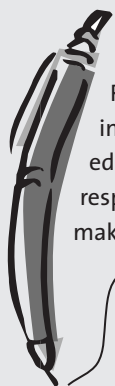
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Visit us on the web at:
www.glahabitat.org, and
www.GreatLakesDirectory.org

Disclaimer:

The Great Lakes Aquatic Habitat News is intended to provide a forum for the free exchange of ideas among citizens and organizations working to protect aquatic habitats in the Great Lakes Basin. The interpretations and conclusions presented in this newsletter represent the opinions of the individual authors. They in no way represent the views of the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council, the C.S. Mott Foundation, subscribers, donors, or any organization mentioned in this publication.

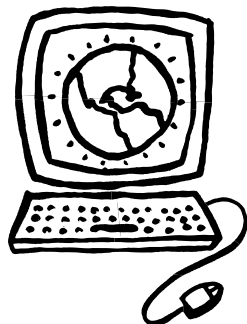
READERSHIP SURVEY RESULTS



Thank you to all who responded to the GLAHNF Readership Survey that was included in the December 2003 edition of *GLAHNews*. Your responses and feedback certainly make a difference. We are working to incorporate your ideas in the *GLAHNews* and our websites!

All names were entered into the prize drawing to receive a \$100 grant to assist with your group's local aquatic habitat work. The winner was the Lower Dead River Watershed Project.

Congratulations!



Resources

The IRS recently issued two new brochures to assist 501(c)(3), non-profit organizations with tax issues. One explains how to obtain 501(c)(3) tax exemption, and the other is a compliance guide with regards to record keeping, return filing and disclosure rules. To obtain the guidelines electronically, visit www.irs.gov/charities.index.html and click on "IRS Issues New Guides for Charitable Organizations".

The *Nonprofit Navigator* is a monthly electronic newsletter that provides up-to-date information on the legal and policy issues that affect nonprofit organizations. Published by the Washington, D.C. law firm of Harmon, Curran, Spielberg, & Eisenberg, LLP., the *Navigator* covers topics such as tax compliance, election law concerns, fundraising, employment and personnel matters, and Internet issues.

Visit www.harmoncurran.com/navigator/index.html to subscribe free of charge.

Great Lakes Aquatic Habitat Network & Fund Fall 2003 Grant Recipients



Since 1996, GLAHNF has made over 350 small grants to grassroots community initiatives to protect local lakes, streams, wetlands, and shorelines. With each new set of applications we are impressed and inspired by the wide range of citizen initiatives working to protect aquatic habitats across the Great Lakes Basin. The decision-making process is always difficult because there are many more proposals worthy of funding than funds available. We are pleased to announce the following 15 outstanding projects, which were awarded GLAHNF funds for the Fall 2003 grant cycle.

To read summaries of these projects please visit www.glahnf.org/fundsum.html#fall2003.

Citizens Environment Watch

Mary McGrath
2 Sussex Avenue, Toronto,
ONT M5S 1J5, CANADA
Project Title: Changing Currents
in the Greater
Toronto Area: Strengthening
Citizen Involvement in Aquatic
Habitat Protection
Grant Award: \$2,500

Environmentally Concerned Citizens of the Lakeland Area

John Schwarzmann
PO Box 537, Minocqua, WI 54548
Project Title: Shoreland Connection
Toolkit and Advocacy Campaign
Grant Award: \$2,500

Erie Streams Association of Volunteer Monitors

Diane Stump
9810 Old Route 99, McKean
PA 16426-1726
Project Title: Watershed Awareness
and Community Involvement Project
Grant Award: \$2,000

Friends of the Detroit River

Blair McGowan
22241 Miami, Grosse Ile, MI 48138
Project Title: Partners Supporting
the Wildlife Refuge
Grant Award: \$3,300

Friends of the Salmon River

Patricia Podrazil
PO Box 111, Duluth, MN 55801-0111
Project Title: Protect Deer Creek Marsh,
Selkirk Fen, the Salmon River
and its estuary
Grant Award: \$3,000

Highway J Citizens Group

Gregory Ohm
4760 Pleasant Hill Rd.
Richfield, WI 53076
Project Title: Grassroots Initiative
to Stop An Environmentally-Destructive
Road Expansion Project in Wisconsin
Grant Award: \$2,900

Minnesotans for Responsible Recreation

Jeff Brown
PO Box 111, Duluth, MN 55801-0111
Project Title: Empowering Citizens to
Protect Wetlands from Off-Road
Vehicle Damage
Grant Award: \$3,000

North Shore Watershed Watch

David Syring
394 Lake Avenue South, Suite 315A
Duluth, MN 55812
Project Title: Power Analysis
of Citizen Opportunities to Shape
Policy on Minnesota's North Shore
Grant Award: \$3,000

People in Need of Environmental Safety

Cathi Murray
1621 Colorado Ave.
Michigan City, IN 46360
Project Title: People in Need of
Environmental Safety Citizen
Empowerment Project
Grant Award: \$3,500

Residents for Responsible Government

Charles Lamb
PO Box 262, Youngstown, NY 14174
Project Title: Protecting the Lake
Ontario Watershed and the Health
of the Community
Grant Award: \$3,000

Taxpayers Against Airport Growth

Marilyn John
1061 Tuscola Lane, West Bend, WI 53095
Project Title: Grassroots Citizen
Wetland Protection in West Bend
Grant Award: \$2,700

Troy Wildlife & Wetlands Coalition

Lon Ullmann
5621 Willow Grove Dr., Troy, MI 48085
Project Title: Grassroots Activism to
Protect Aquatic Habitats in the City
of Troy, Michigan
Grant Award: \$2,000

Waukegan Harbor Citizens' Advisory Group

Susie Schreiber
152 Glenwood Avenue
Winnetka, IL 60093
Project Title: Waukegan Harbor CAG
Public Outreach
Grant Award: \$1,500

White Earth Land Recovery Project

Winona LaDuke
32033 E. Round Lake Road
Ponsford, MN 56575
Project Title: Manoomin Ogitchidaag
(Defending the Rice) Community
Outreach Campaign
Grant Award: \$2,500

Yellow Dog Watershed Preserve Inc.

Cynthia Pryor
PO Box 5, Big Bay, MI 49808
Project Title: Hydrology Pan -
Yellow Dog Plains
Grant Award: \$2,000

Grassroots Project Profile



FRIENDS OF THE SALMON RIVER: *Preventing Harm to Unique Resources*

BY: PATRICIA PODRAZIL

About Friends of the Salmon River

The Friends of the Salmon River, founded in November 2001, is a community based, non-profit environmental group that is dedicated to preventing harm to the unique natural resources of the Salmon River, Selkirk Fen, and Deer Creek Marsh. Our motto is "Pollution is everyone's enemy, prevention and clean-up are our goals."

Who We Are:

Patricia Podrazil, Director
Friends of the Salmon River
PO Box 266, Port Crane, NY 13833
Phone/Fax 607-648-6041
E-mail: friendssalmonriver@earthlink.net

It started so innocently in July 2001. At the Selkirk Beach Association's (21 cottagers) annual meeting, a guest speaker from The Nature Conservancy told us about a disturbing situation. There was a golf course and RV park being developed upland of Deer Creek Marsh, which includes Selkirk Fen. Additionally, the developer applied for a sewage discharge permit to send the effluent to the Salmon River estuary. The developer already has a 1400 site RV park, bounded on the west by Lake Ontario and to the north and south by Deer Creek Marsh. The 1200 acre marsh and the 300 acre estuary are designated as significant coastal fish and wildlife habitats by New York State. They are home to endangered/threatened species including the bog turtle, bog buck moth and black tern.

For the next several months we made phone calls, sent letters, visited permitting authorities and walked the roads that surround the estuary and marsh to let others know what had been done and what was proposed. An overwhelming majority of residents were against the effluent discharge into the estuary. They agreed that group representation would be the best chance of making a difference.

By November our group, which was 23 strong, united as "Friends of the Salmon River." Word was spreading and when spring of 2002 arrived we reconvened and started developing strategies for gathering and disseminating information about the issues. By July of 2002 we had 95 families in our organization and spent the rest of the year on a variety of tasks to demonstrate the importance of protecting these wonderful natural resources. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) started to take a hard look at the project as we raised issues and several draft environmental impact statements were deemed incomplete.

This allowed us time to gather more strength in terms of knowledge, active members, outside contacts, and finances.

For reasons that may never come to light, in June of 2003 NYSDEC allowed the developer to segment the project. In doing so they claimed they no longer had jurisdiction over the project and allowed it to revert back to the Town of Richland for special permits. On July 23rd the town planning board, after listening to more than two hours of public comment about the potential damage to the wetlands, water supplies, and inaccuracies in the applications, approved the golf course. Within a week, Friends of the Salmon River hired an attorney to file an action against NYSDEC, Town of Richland Planning Board and the developer. The action was filed on August 13, 2003 in Oswego County Supreme Court.

At the request of the DEC we are in settlement negotiations instead of court. If any party chooses to opt out of the negotiations the case will be heard in court. In agreeing to negotiate a settlement out of court we are striving for surface/ground water studies, water quality monitoring programs, integrated pest management by best management practices, and predisclosure of future development activities for the parcel. Perhaps most significant is an agreement by the DEC to acquire a 300 acre portion of Deer Creek Marsh currently owned by the developer.

While our legal expenses are far greater than we planned due to negotiating a settlement, we stand to gain much more. Our membership now stands at 130. The current target date for a settlement agreement to be in place is April 15, 2004.



The Salmon River Estuary, shown here during salmon fishing season, is where the effluent would run from the proposed development. Photo courtesy of the Friends of the Salmon River



CITIZENS PROTECTING EVANSTON'S SHORELINE

Lake Michigan provides an inestimable quality of life to Evanston and those who visit its approximately two miles of shoreline. Its six beaches—Lighthouse, Northwestern, Clark Street, Dempster-Greenwood, Lee Street, and South Boulevard—attract thousands of people per year. Its lakefront parks offer year-round recreation, with concerts and picnicking in the summer and cross-country skiing in the winter. Sailing, paddling, and even diving to the wreck of the George Morley off of Dempster-Greenwood Beach all help make Evanston an attractive destination for people to move or simply visit.

In 2002, the city recommended a study of Evanston's shoreline to determine the feasibility of a marina, in part to help generate city revenue. The study is taking place in four phases, with each subsequent phase dependent on the successful completion of the previous one: 1) reconnaissance, 2) feasibility, 3) pre-construction, and 4) construction. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the lead federal agency, is compiling results of the reconnaissance study. A location on the border of Chicago and Evanston has been chosen as the site of the marina project under study.

Last August, we reported briefly on the potential construction of the marina. At the time, a new grassroots organization called Citizens for Lakefront Preservation (CLP) had recently formed in response to the marina proposal. Over the last six months, CLP has seen interest in the issue from the community grow exponentially, and has been sponsoring regular petition drives against the marina on weekends in Evanston public areas. CLP has also developed a partnership with another grassroots organization, the 49th Ward Beaches and Parks Advisory Committee, just over the border in Chicago. Most recently, CLP held its second public meeting in Evanston with speakers from environmental organizations and the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University.

Because coasts are among the most biologically productive zones in the Great Lakes, and because coasts are attractive for recreation and residential areas, shorelines are under enormous stress. Consequently, any major coastal development proposal—especially marinas—must be conducted with great care.

At a time when bacterial pollution is causing increased beach closures in Evanston, coastal development that leads to the

impoundment of water is of concern for lakefront recreation. As water becomes warmer when separated from cooler open lake water, a more accommodating environment for bacteria can be created. CLP is concerned that construction of a marina at the proposed location may: (a) limit circulation of water at Evanston's South Boulevard Beach, and (b) impact water quality across municipal boundaries at Juneway Terrace Beach, Chicago's northernmost beach. Besides bacterial pollution, compounds used for boat maintenance, such as paints, anti-corrosives, anti-foulants for hulls, and petroleum hydrocarbons can have impacts on water quality¹.

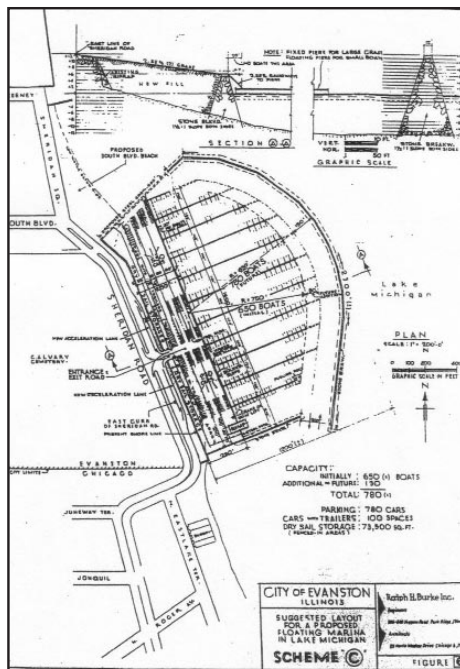
Additionally, a 600-800-slip marina could cause significant traffic problems. With Sheridan Road already at times severely congested, a marina in the proposed location will likely increase traffic flow from the south and to the north, making pedestrian access to Evanston's lakefront parks more difficult, a critical determinant of quality-of-life. Increased air pollution as a result of this increased traffic is a virtual certainty. With swimming and wading opportunities in the neighborhood already severely limited, a marina will continue to constrict opportunities for this type of recreation.

Perhaps more important than individual potential impacts is the assessment of cumulative impacts. A rigorous analysis of the ways in which this marina proposal may have secondary and tertiary effects is critical. "A marina...would

have a huge environmental impact on the existing shoreline due to sand shifting caused by lake currents impeded by a new pier and breakwater," said Ramona Maher of CLP. The impact of down-drift erosion on Chicago's nearby Juneway Terrace Beach and surrounding properties, already a significant issue throughout Illinois, would likely be exacerbated by this structure.

The Lake Michigan Federation is concerned that no formal consideration has been given to other potential sites for a marina despite a suggestion during a meeting with elected officials last year that alternative sites could be open to consideration. For example, the use of the North Shore Channel and the lagoon east of Northwestern University could be evaluated as options. Each of these sites includes their own advantages and disadvantages, such that their own analyses would have to be conducted.

¹ U.S. EPA, "Management Measures for Marinas and Recreational Boating," located at www.epa.gov/OWOW/NPS/MMGI/Chapters/ch5-1.html.



Schematic of proposed 1966 Evanston marina, just south of South Boulevard Beach



Sandra Wilmore

COASTAL WORKSHOPS PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND PARTNERSHIPS

BY: CAROL COOK, SAVE THE DUNES CONSERVATION FUND

Indiana's 45 miles of Lake Michigan coastline support industrial, recreational, and residential developments and activities. Along these miles are four coal-fired power plants, five riverboat casinos, the largest concentration of steel manufacturing in the United States, major pipelines, the Indiana Dunes State Park, and the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. Today, significant changes in the industrial sector present opportunities and challenges for the future development of Indiana's Lake Michigan coastline.

To promote a balanced approach to restructuring the coastline with increased public access and open space, Save the Dunes Conservation Fund hosted two Coastal Workshops funded by the Environmental Protection Agency's Great Lakes National Program Office. Over 90 people attended the first Finding the Right Balance workshop on September 19, 2003. Participants represented academia, business, local government, and the environmental world. Panelists, including experts on restoration, air quality, agriculture, and environmental justice, discussed environmental protection, sustainable development, and social issues as related to the development of Indiana's Lake Michigan coast.

The second Coastal Workshop, Finding the Right Balance II - Finding the Funds and Partners, focused on funding sources and forming partnerships. Over 50 people heard speakers from government agencies and academia on February 13,



John Goss, Indiana Department of Natural Resources Director, as he announces the winners of the 2004 Lake Michigan Coastal Management Program grants during Save the Dunes Conservation Fund's Coastal Workshop at the Barker House in Michigan City, Indiana on February 13, 2004.

2004. After the presentations, participants broke into discussion groups concentrating on three types of grants: coastal, federal, and restoration. The restoration group proposed starting a cooperative group and a listserv that would facilitate sharing project information, equipment, and perhaps labor. The coastal group explored the details and potential of the Lake Michigan Coastal Program 2004 funding cycle, including project priorities, match requirements, and in-kind opportunities.

The group interested in applying for federal grants agreed that there are many new efforts that are inhibited by a lack of cooperation. The group concluded that a land protection plan is needed. The plan should provide acquisition priorities and address methods of acquisition, connectivity, and criteria. Non-traditional groups were considered as good possibilities for partnerships.

The workshop was also the forum for announcing the winners of the current round of coastal grants. John Goss, director of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, flew into Michigan City from Indianapolis to announce the winners.

WETLANDS PROTECTION

INDIANA LEGISLATURE GUTS WETLANDS PROTECTION

FROM THE SIERRAN NEWSLETTER, WITH MINOR REVISIONS

The rumbling you hear in the background is the sound of bulldozers warming up to start eradicating small Indiana wetlands this spring.

Ignoring a gubernatorial veto, a strong public outcry, and newspaper editorials from around the state, the Indiana legislature has stripped most protections from so-called "isolated wetlands" — those wetlands not considered to be waters of the United States. (The federal government continues to assert authority over wetlands that connect to "navigable waters," i.e., rivers, streams and lakes.)

In late January the legislature overrode former Governor Frank O'Bannon's veto of House Enrolled Act 1798, the law that contains the wetlands language, by overwhelming margins — two-to-one

in the House of Representatives and almost three-to-one in the Senate. The act also contains language allowing municipalities and counties to raise taxes to meet new stormwater control requirements and calling for a shutdown in motor vehicle emissions testing in Clark and Floyd counties by 2007.

Legislators fixed some flaws in the wetlands law with a new bill (HB 1277), but the minor changes made will still leave most small wetlands, as well as many larger wetlands, unprotected. HB 1277 is pending final legislative approval at this writing. The new law purports to classify wetlands into three categories based on their supposed quality, but the unscientific classification scheme will qualify few if any wetlands for the most protective category. The middle category leaves wetlands under one-quarter acre unprotected, while half-acre wetlands in the lowest category are vulnerable. Some legislators concede that they may have to adjust the law once its impact is felt.



Laura DiBetta

NEW YORK NEEDS TO BE A LOCAL AND NATIONAL PLAYER IN RESTORING AND PROTECTING THE BASIN

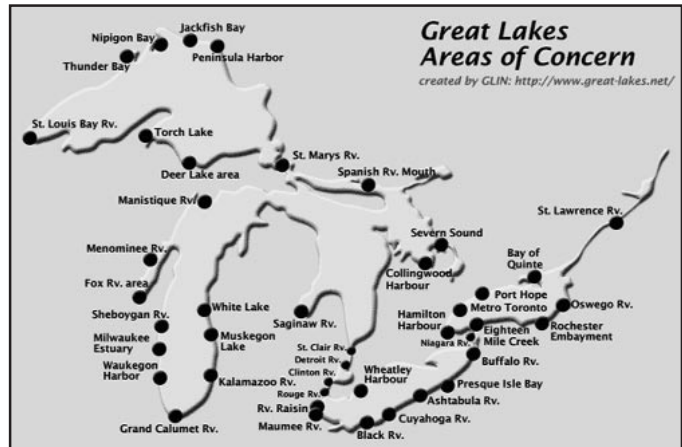
BY: DAVID HIGBY

Regular readers of this newsletter need no reminders about the myriad environmental problems facing the Great Lakes Basin, the persistent ones that go unattended as well as the new ones that crop up. Twenty-five years ago, for instance, the U.S. and Canada signed the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement that laid out 14 beneficial uses to evaluate the health of the Lakes. From that evaluation, the Canadian and American governments eventually listed 43 geographic Areas of Concern (AOCs) in the Basin. Despite the fact that 28 million Americans rely on the lakes for their drinking water, the American AOCs still are in need of a great deal of work.

More recently, wetland protection in the U.S. suffered a major blow in 2001 when the Supreme Court issued the SWANCC Decision (for the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County which brought the suit), a case that is widely interpreted as removing “isolated wetlands” from the jurisdiction of the Clean Water Act. The Great Lakes watershed is one of the areas most affected by this change, since it is home to many of the estimated 20 million acres of previously protected water bodies that are now exposed to development and other degradation.

If the public policy logjams that have plagued Great Lakes issues are to be relieved, it will take regional, federal and local efforts by organizations and governments working in coalition, and individually. New York State, for a number of reasons, including those that are geographic and political, will need to show leadership in addressing the Basin problems. New York’s wetlands, for instance, especially those now judged to be “isolated,” are particularly at risk – the state long ago ceded a considerable portion of its wetland protection authority (anything under 12.4 acres) to federal regulation. Of the state’s 2.4 million acres of wetlands, just over half are in two regions, the Adirondacks and the lake plains. The latter are principally the areas in and around Lakes Erie, Ontario and the Finger Lakes, all of which are included in the Great Lakes watershed. Since the Adirondack region is regulated separately as part of the Adirondack Park – a six million acre carefully zoned public and private preserve where wetlands over an acre are protected – New York’s Basin wetlands make up the lion’s share of its unprotected water bodies.

New York has no regulatory “SWANCC fix,” but both houses of the state legislature have introduced legislation that would bring wetlands under state protection. Moving the bill through the fractious legislature (each house is firmly controlled by different political parties) will require



The 43 original Areas of Concern. Map courtesy of the Great Lakes Information Network.

considerable effort by a coalition of parties interested in preserving the state’s Great Lakes Basin wetlands.

One good model for this effort is provided by the recent Bush Administration decision not to change Clean Water Act rules. The rules changes could have eliminated federal protection for up to 60 percent of the nation’s wetlands and streams. That turnaround in water policy came after the proposal met intense opposition from environmentalists, scientists, hunting and fishing groups, 39 states, and over 230 members of Congress from both political parties who expressed their strong desire to see protections for the nation’s waters remain strong.

New York has six of the American Areas of Concern (AOC), including the Niagara River, the Buffalo River and the Rochester Embayment. One of the state’s AOCs, the Oswego River/Harbor, involves upriver pollution on Lake Ontario’s second largest tributary and affects a drainage area containing 1.2 million people. The Remedial Action Plan for this project is ready to be implemented, making it a prime candidate for becoming one of the first American AOCs to be delisted.

This, however, like all Basin restoration projects will require money. Federal help may be on the way as two similar Great Lakes funding bills are working their way through Congress. Both New York senators are co-sponsors, and one of the prime sponsors of the House version is Representative Thomas Reynolds, a New York representative whose district includes a substantial Lake Ontario shoreline. “With \$7 billion being

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GROUPS BAND TOGETHER TO FIGHT FOR A MERCURY FREE MINNESOTA

Environmental, parent, angler and health groups across the state of Minnesota have banded together and formed Mercury Free Minnesota, a coalition dedicated to reducing mercury in the environment, and safeguarding future generations. Amid a torrent of concern over mercury pollution and recent federal reports that find dangerously high mercury levels in fetuses and infants, groups across the state of Minnesota are urging the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to tighten restrictions on mercury emissions.

All three Lake Superior states (Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan) advise children and women who may become pregnant to limit the fish they eat from any lake within these states. The need for such advice is clear; a 2001 study by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that 10 percent of U.S. women of childbearing years now have mercury in their bodies at levels that may affect a developing fetus.

The EPA has released new air pollution regulations, which ignore the threats of mercury and asbestos pollution from the taconite industry. These regulations fly in the face of the Clean Air Act. Not only does the Act stipulate that the taconite industry must be regulated, it says that the deadline for doing so was three years ago. So not only do the new regulations fail to govern the taconite industry, they are being issued years past the deadline.

The taconite industry is the largest source of mercury emissions in the Lake Superior basin. According to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, in 2000 Minnesota's taconite industry released 758 POUNDS of mercury. Minnesota enacted a voluntary mercury reduction program in 1999, but not one taconite producer agreed to reduce emissions or even look into the research and development of mercury control technology.

In response to this governmental failure, Minnesota environmental groups are suing the EPA. The National Wildlife Federation is spearheading efforts to convince the EPA to tighten its belt on the taconite industry. Northern Minnesota groups including the Minnesota Conservation Federation,

Lake Superior Alliance, and Save Lake Superior Association have joined as co-plaintiffs in the effort.

The plaintiffs would like to see an emissions limit that would push the industry to research and develop control technology but also allow for relief if a company is unable to meet the standard after diligently pursuing such technology. As it stands now, there is a disincentive for any research or development by the industry.

Neither federal nor Minnesota law sets limits on the amount of mercury that these facilities can emit, and current air permits do not prevent increases in mercury emissions.



*The taconite industry is the largest source of mercury emissions in the Lake Superior basin.
 Credit: Michigan State University - Dept. of Geography*

Although Minnesota's 10-year-old product legislation has resulted in a decline in mercury from intentional uses, many products that contain mercury continue to be sold and used. When these products are left in the waste stream, they can release mercury during incineration, evaporation, or directly into water.

Because mercury is harmful in such small amounts, the safe level for people and wildlife is approximately the same as the natural background level. Reducing mercury to background levels requires a phase out of mercury releases from all major human sources.

It takes only one teaspoon of mercury to contaminate an entire 20-acre lake. Coal-burning power plants release 48 tons of the metal into the atmosphere each year in the U.S. There is a proposal from the Bush administration on the table right now that would allow "dirty" plants to buy credits from clean ones to avoid or delay installing mercury control technology. These utilities argue that they don't have the money to install the technology, and want to buy more time.

EPA's own analysis in 2001 found that using the strongest pollution control technology currently available, not the "cap and trade" system mentioned above, could reduce emissions 90% by 2008. The current proposal will not reduce emissions even 70%; and is not scheduled to get there until 2018 or later. This ten-year delay in mercury clean-up is a violation of the Clean Air Act and will endanger millions of Americans.

For more information, visit the Mercury Free Minnesota's website at www.mercuryfreemn.org and the Great Lakes Directory's "Children's Health and Environmental Toxins" Issue Page at www.greatlakesdirectory.org.



GOVERNOR GRANHOLM OUTLINES WATER PROTECTION PLAN

Michigan has a new plan for water protection, introduced by Governor Jennifer Granholm in a letter to the legislature in January, but early indications warn of turbulent waters ahead.

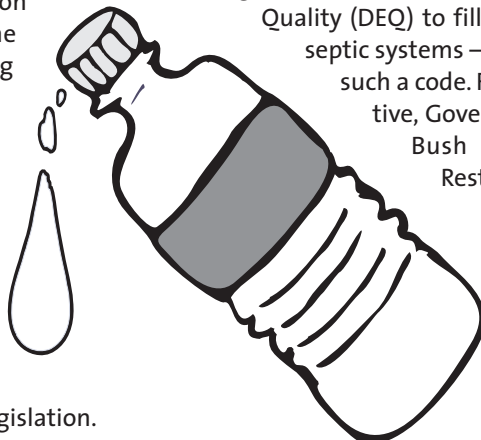
Some Recent History

The unveiling of this plan came shortly after the Granholm administration's decision to support a "stay" of a Mecosta County judge's ruling in favor of a GLAHNF funded group, Michigan Citizens for Water Conservation (MCWC), which would have forced the Nestle Corporation to cease water pumping operations at its Ice Mountain water bottling plant. The Appeals court agreed with Nestle and the Granholm administration, granting the stay and allowing the company to continue pumping during the appeals process. Michigan's environmental community was extremely disappointed with Granholm's decision to support a stay of the ruling, and called on the governor to quickly introduce much needed groundwater withdrawal legislation.

An Ambitious Plan Unveiled

In the January 20th letter to the Legislature, Granholm outlined a plan for protecting water that included legislation to regulate groundwater withdrawals in the state. The Michigan Water Legacy Act, which was introduced in March of this year, is unfortunately almost 20 years overdue. In 1985 Governor Blanchard, along with the other seven Great Lakes Governors and two Canadian Premiers, signed the Great Lakes Charter. The Charter requires, among other things, that all signatories manage water withdrawals over two million gallons per day in their state or province. Michigan is currently the only state that has not followed through on this agreement. The Michigan Water Legacy Act is intended to fill this gap by providing a clear regulatory structure for groundwater withdrawals. Details of the proposed legislation have been guarded with tight lips thus far, and many groups in the state that have experience with groundwater disputes, such as MCWC, are eager to weigh in on the legislation.

In addition to the proposed Michigan Water Legacy Act, Granholm is urging the Michigan Attorney General to pursue legal avenues to require that the Environmental Protection Agency regulate ballast water from ships in the Great Lakes to help control aquatic invasive species. She has signed an Executive Directive prohibiting state agencies from approving the open water disposal of contaminated dredge materials in Michigan waters, and plans to sign an Executive Directive to protect isolated wetlands on state-owned lands. The governor has also asked the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to fill the gap regarding a sanitary code for septic systems – Michigan being the only state without such a code. From a Great Lakes Basin-wide perspective, Governor Granholm has called on President Bush to support Great Lakes Ecosystem Restoration bills currently in congress.



A final water protection initiative that has recently met significant political hurdles is a plan to fund the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System through a system of fees for those organizations (primarily industry, agriculture, and municipalities) requiring a permit. Currently the tab for

this program is picked up by Michigan taxpayers. After fees had already been agreed upon in the DEQ's fiscal year 2004 budget that began in October, the enabling legislation became stuck in a House / Senate conference committee until early February. The legislation that was finally approved by the conference committee and later by both the House and Senate contained a deal breaking measure that required the DEQ to receive prior permission from the Legislature before creating any administrative rules. This provision essentially ignores the separate roles of the legislative and executive branches, and definitely prevents the department from doing its job. Governor Granholm has labeled this a "power grab" and will likely veto the bill; meanwhile, Michigan's water continues to be polluted free of charge.

Turbulent Waters Ahead?

If the above situation provides any indication, there may be more political games ahead that block real progress. The tireless advocacy efforts of Michigan's grassroots environmental groups are invaluable in helping to move beyond political games and toward lasting, sensible policies that protect water and aquatic habitats in the state.



LAKE ERIE: A DUMPING GROUND

Exotic species, legacy toxins, and the dead zone are not the only imminent threats to Lake Erie.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) dredges sediment from channels and harbors to fulfill its responsibility to maintain the navigability of the Great Lakes. The sediment is often laced with PCBs and other toxic chemicals. So where does this contaminated dredge material end up? A majority of the lesser contaminated sediments end up in the open waters of Lake Erie – a practice that is opposed by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA). While the Great Lakes Legacy Act helps to pay for dredging and removal of contaminated sediment from the Great Lakes, the Corps is dumping that same contamination right back into Lake Erie.

The Toledo Harbor shipping channel is the most heavily dredged of the Great Lakes shipping channels. Nearly one million cubic yards of sediment are removed annually from the Maumee River and Maumee Bay - three times more dredging than that of the next-biggest dredging project, in Cleveland.

In the Toledo area, the least-polluted silt that is dug up from the shipping channel is dumped directly into western Lake Erie. The most polluted sediment is buried in a waterfront landfill called a confined disposal facility (CDF). Few people argue with the need for this dredging. The Port of Toledo is a major Great Lakes hub for coal, iron ore, and other bulk cargo shipments, pumping \$500 million a year into the local economy and supporting more than 5,000 jobs.

It is, however, also important to note the importance of a healthy Lake Erie to the economy of Ohio. The Lake Erie shoreline region contributes \$2.5 billion a year in travel revenue to the Ohio economy – a third of all travel revenue in the state. Tourism, recreational boating, and fishing along Ohio's North Coast anchor local shoreline economies in Ohio, providing \$1.5 billion in sales and 50,000 jobs each year. Lake Erie's public beaches attract more than a million visitors each year and generate more than \$21 million for the economy of local communities. These beneficial uses may be harmed by degraded water quality and ecosystems caused by open lake disposal of dredged materials.

Sediment that is dredged from the bed of the Maumee River is chemically tainted with mercury and other heavy metals along with everything from motor oil to farm fertilizer. The Ohio Environmental Council (OEC) and others are calling for the open lake dumping of dredge materials to stop. Open

lake dumping has a variety of negative impacts on the water quality and ecosystems of Lake Erie. Biologists and fish and wildlife experts fear that open lake disposal — even of less contaminated sediment — wreaks environmental havoc to the valuable fishery in the western basin.

OEPA director Chris Jones has joined his three predecessors in opposing the Corps' practice of open lake dumping.

1. The sediment is moderately contaminated and there are very large quantities to be handled,
2. Open lake disposal in the western basin results in movement and redistribution of sediment contaminants in the ecosystem,
3. Water quality standards were violated during open lake disposal in the 1980's, and
4. The goal of the Ohio and US EPA phosphorus reduction strategy is to remove phosphorous from the system, not further disseminate it in the ecosystem.

Unfortunately, finding alternatives to open lake disposal could be costly. In addition to problems caused by open lake disposal, CDF's have filled in nearly 750 acres of Maumee Bay. Maumee Bay is very shallow and dredge materials currently fill about 5% of the sixteen square mile bay.

The OEC believes that it is necessary to look beyond short-term solutions to these problems and search for alternatives that will provide a long-term strategy to dealing with these sediments and do not involve open lake

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*Dredge sediment that is removed from waterways to maintain the navigability of the waters is often laced with toxic chemicals.
Photo credit: www.newbaybridge.org*

Wisconsin Update

WISCONSIN WETLANDS ASSOCIATION

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Becky Abel

WISCONSIN DNR MAKES WETLAND PLANNING EASIER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

BY DEREK STROHL

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is developing a tool for local governments to use to restore, manage, and protect wetlands in the Milwaukee River basin, and grassroots groups can encourage their local leaders to take advantage of this opportunity. The DNR, with funding from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), is using geographic information systems (GIS) to develop tools that can use existing computerized natural resource data to find the locations of the basin's restorable wetlands. These "GIS Decision Support Tools" will also go one step further and identify the potential benefits of restoring particular wetlands. The DNR's next step is to ground-truth the output, further assess the restorability of identified sites and support local governments in using the tool in their land use planning. If this approach proves to be useful to local governments and conservation organizations in planning for wetlands restoration, then it is likely to be replicated in other basins throughout Wisconsin.

This represents two important opportunities for grassroots groups in the Milwaukee River basin. First, the DNR will be seeking proposals from local agencies to ground-truth the data that make up the wetland assessment tool. This means that the DNR will pay for local agencies to gather wetland data up close, by visiting and monitoring sites, in order to hone the data that have been collected from existing maps. DNR has selected three local cooperators to work with in Ozaukee County, Sheboygan County and Washington County. These cooperators will test and refine the maps and decision support tools developed in the project. The specific cooperators are:

1) Ozaukee County Planning, Resources and Land Management Department in conjunction with the Ulao Creek Partnership and Ozaukee Washington Land Trust. They will be working in the Ulao Creek and Mole Creek Subwatersheds - Andrew Struck is the contact.

2) Washington County Planning and Parks Department, Land & Water Conservation Division, with other divisions of their Department (GIS, Land Use, Planning) will be working in the Quass Creek and Upper Cedar Creek Subwatersheds - Blaine Delzer is the contact from LWCD; their GIS person is Eric Damkott, planner is Deb Sielski.



*A new tool is being developed to restore, manage, and protect wetlands.
Photo credit: John and Karen Hollingsworth/USFWS.*

3) Sheboygan County Land & Water Dept and Planning & Resources Dept will be working in the Mink Creek Subwatershed. Eric Fehlhaber and Chris Ertman are the contacts.

The second opportunity for local groups is to encourage their local leaders to use the wetland assessment tool in their Smart Growth plans, which are land use plans that are required of municipalities under Wisconsin law. When the tools are fully developed and tested citizens can present the wetland assessment as a resource that can help communities to develop sound plans that will ensure wetland restoration and protection.

The DNR has rolled out the red carpet for local governments to gain from restored wetlands and for citizens to take an active role in the process, and we applaud them for their innovative work.

Questions about this project should be directed to Tom Bernthal at (608) 266-3033, Thomas.Bernthal@dnr.state.wi.us or Marsha Burzynski at (414) 263-8708, Marsha.Burzynski@dnr.state.wi.us.



NEW GOVERNMENT'S INITIATIVES LIKELY TO BETTER PROTECT AQUATIC HABITATS

Now that the new provincial government is firmly installed as a result of the October 2003 election, we are starting to see some positive environmental initiatives, most or all of which will better protect aquatic habitats.

In December 2003, the government introduced Bill 26, which will amend the Planning Act. When finally passed, it will, among other things, require that municipalities "be consistent with" the Provincial Policy Statement or PPS (which includes wetland protection policies) when they make their land use planning decisions. The decisions of the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB), to which municipal planning decisions can be appealed, will also need to ensure that their decisions are "consistent with" the PPS. This is a significant improvement, since in the past, OMB decisions merely had to "have regard for" the PPS. For example, the PPS states that there is to be no development in Provincially Significant Wetlands.

Ontario conservation groups are pressing the government to overhaul the PPS before it brings Bill 26 into law, since many of the policies in the PPS are not sufficiently protective of natural habitats. A number of statements in the PPS actually encourage urban sprawl and therefore destroy habitats. Conservation groups would generally like to see the rest of Bill 26 approved, but with a hold-back on the "be consistent with" section until such time as the PPS is made greener.

Habitat activists want to see a sweeping overhaul of the Planning Act (Bill 26 consists of only a very few though important changes), as well as comprehensive reform to the OMB hearing process, which tends to favour developers over cash-strapped grassroots groups fighting to protect habitats. The provincial government has indicated a strong interest in overhauling the OMB process.

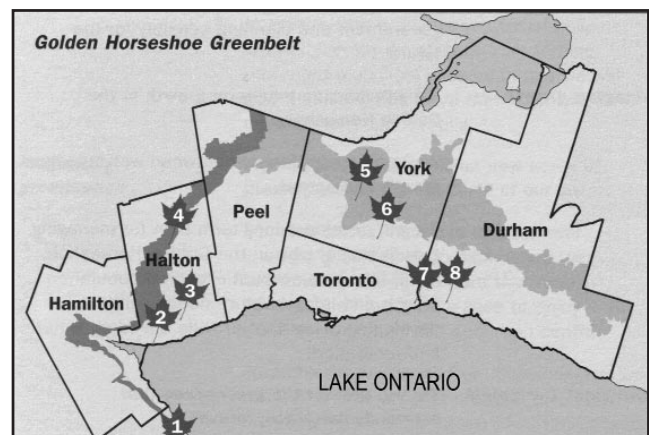
Specifically on water, in December 2003, the Province announced an immediate one-year moratorium on the issuance of new and expanded Permits to Take Water for most forms of commercial water-taking, such as for bottled water. The one-year freeze will provide time to review Ontario's groundwater supplies and draft new rules for water-taking. The government also plans to stop the give-away of Ontario's water; in the future, Ontario will charge commercial water-users for the resource.

To follow through on the December announcement, Ontario Minister of the Environment Leona Dombrowsky released a "white paper" in mid-February that sets out for discussion a framework for planning to protect drinking water sources. This discussion paper – a step in the direction towards new provincial law to protect watersheds and water resources that is welcomed by conservation groups – is the government's follow-up to the recommendations of the Walkerton Inquiry, which

examined the deaths of seven people and the illness of 2,300 more in the year 2000 from municipal well water in the town of Walkerton tainted with a virulent strain of the E coli bacterium.

Another positive move by the new government was the December 2003 introduction of Bill 27, to create a 600,000-acre greenbelt in the "Golden Horseshoe" area from Niagara Falls to the western end of Lake Ontario at Hamilton and including the Greater Toronto Area. While the multi-stakeholder Greenbelt Task Force develops recommendations for how the government can create a greenbelt in this most intensively developed part of Ontario, the government has imposed a one-year freeze on urban boundary expansions in the Golden Horseshoe. What remains to be seen is exactly how the government will create the proposed greenbelt, and what land uses will be permitted and prohibited. Much of the land is already protected through the Niagara Escarpment Plan and the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan; what we do not yet know is how the government plans to protect the remaining large swaths of land in the proposed greenbelt.

The picture is not entire rosy, however. Despite encouragement from numerous conservation groups such as Ontario Nature, the Lake Ontario Waterkeeper and Friends of Red Hill Valley, the new provincial government has not cancelled the \$120 million in provincial funding for the proposed Red Hill Creek Expressway in Hamilton – smack in the middle of the proposed Golden Horseshoe Greenbelt. This would be a quick and easy way for the cash-strapped Province to save money – and the precious terrestrial and aquatic habitats of Red Hill Valley.



- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 - Niagara Tender Fruit Lands Agricultural Preserve | 5 - Oak Ridges Moraine |
| 2 - Bronte Creek park - Escarpment link | 6 - Cancellation of homes on Moraine |
| 3 - Provincially owned North Oakville lands | 7 - Dufferin-Rouge Agricultural Preserve |
| 4 - Niagara Escarpment | 8 - Provincially owned Seaton lands |

Up to 600,000 acres of land within the borders of the municipalities shown here are to form Ontario's Golden Horseshoe Greenbelt.



Pennsylvania Update

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Annette Marshall

LARGEST REMAINING PARCEL OF PENNSYLVANIA'S LAKE ERIE SHORELINE PROTECTED WITH ACQUISITION

By: TOM FUHRMAN, PRESIDENT OF LAKE ERIE REGION CONSERVANCY

The largest tract of undeveloped land remaining on the Commonwealth's Lake Erie shoreline was protected recently with its purchase by a conservation

organization, and will be turned over to the Commonwealth for public use and enjoyment.

Western Pennsylvania Conservancy (WPC) concluded the acquisition of the 540-acre Coho tract in western Erie County from Reliant Energy in late December 2003. The Conservancy intends to turn over the land to the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) in 2004 for inclusion in its state park system.

Jim Bissell, botanist at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, created a preliminary inventory of the botanical significance of the property in the 1980's and 1990's. In his reports, he indicated that the Museum found at least 11 species of special concern plants, including the:

- state-threatened Richardson's rush (*Juncus alpinus*)
- state-threatened small-headed rush (*Juncus brachycephalus*)
- state-endangered variegated horsetail (*Equisetum variegatum*)

Bissell also noted that the property's fossil dune ridge are "the only quality oak savannah I have seen in Erie County thus far." The property is already known to harbor this significant level of biodiversity, yet a complete inventory has not been accomplished.

"We applaud the diligent work of all the partners involved and commend them for recognizing the property's significant ecological, recreational, historical and economic value to this region," said DCNR Secretary Michael DiBerardinis. "This is a remarkable piece of property, and will make a wonderful addition to our public lands."

"This site not only demonstrates our primary mission as a conservation organization, but also integrates and promotes economic growth through tourism for the Lake Erie region and the Commonwealth," Secretary DiBerardinis said. "Aspects of this property complement Presque Isle State Park and the Tom Ridge Center, creating opportunities for multiple-day visits and educational study among the three sites. This site also provides opportunities to expand the outdoor recreational programming initiatives now being pursued by DCNR."



Lake Erie Shoreline facing west. Photo
Courtesy of the Lake Erie Region Conservancy

Larry Schweiger, president of Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, said that efforts to protect the property had been underway since 1998, when a group came together to encourage protection because of the site's unique values. That group eventually became the Lake Erie Region Conservancy. "Lake Erie Region Conservancy helped engage the community and local officials in the area and remained persistent in their efforts" Schweiger said. "There is widespread community support for the project, and I'm pleased all of the partners were able to achieve this important goal."

Schweiger said in addition to one mile of shoreline with scenic views from 90-foot bluffs, the property also contains mature old growth forest; rare, endangered, and threatened floral communities; a rare oak savannah sand barren ecosystem; wetlands; and archaeological sites spanning the entire cultural sequence known for the Commonwealth's Lake Erie shore. The property is located immediately adjacent to the mouth of Elk Creek, considered to be one of the best shallow-stream steelhead fisheries in the country.

The project also was made possible with the help of grants from Richard King Mellon Foundation and DCNR. The Conservation Fund provided bridge funding for the acquisition through its Great Lakes Revolving Loan Fund.

Schweiger added the acquisition goes beyond accomplishing a conservation goal. "I believe we're also aiding Erie's economic goals with this purchase. Economists verify that quality of life issues are increasingly important to where young American workers choose to live. The economic value

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Updates Continued



PROTECTING THE BASIN



spent to clean up the Chesapeake Bay, \$8 billion to save the Everglades and \$2 billion to restore San Francisco Bay," Reynolds recently told the Great Lakes Commission in Washington, "the Great Lakes deserve that same level of commitment."

The proposed restoration funding would, of course, address many other pressing problems in the Basin, such as controlling invasive species and developing sustainable energy programs. Addressing AOCs and protecting wetlands may be the two poster child catalysts for addressing the long list of Great Lakes Basin environmental tasks, and leadership by New York could prove pivotal in this effort in the 2004 legislative season.

LARGEST REMAINING PARCEL



of this open space may very well be in its ability to help retain and attract young people to the region," he said.

The unique archaeological sites on this land could provide expanded partnerships with local and distant universities - some of which already are a part of the Research Consortium at the Tom Ridge Center - for university study and educational programming.

Dr. William P. Garvey, president of Mercyhurst College in Erie, said the site is one of the richest ancient history sites in Erie County. "Our preliminary investigations indicate this was an important stopping-off point for the Erie Indians and their predecessors for thousands of years. Our archaeology department will be studying the site and hopes to find remnants of the Erie civilization and that of their ancestors."

For more information on the property, contact Presque Isle State Park at (814) 833-7424 or e-mail us at jlalo@paconserve.org.

A DUMPING GROUND



disposal or filling in Maumee Bay with more CDF's. The OEC would like to see a long-term local planning process and a national study to determine what to do with the sediments without filling in Maumee Bay or open lake disposal of dredged materials. This process should include input from local residents, local municipalities, grassroots organizations, local businesses, academia, and OEPA. Importantly, any alternatives chosen should protect the environment, public health, and address the concerns of local residents.

The OEC also would like to see more sediment reduction programs funded to help farmers prevent sediment from getting washed into the river when it rains. These programs are good for farmers and good for Lake Erie. Additionally, the OEC would like to see more opportunities for sediment recycling to be explored. These opportunities provide for beneficial reuse of dredged sediments.

Ohio Governor Bob Taft has said of the Great Lakes, "we hold a great treasure in trust for our children and grandchildren. To the extent that it has been damaged, we must restore it. Where it retains its original value, we must preserve it. We can enjoy this precious resource today, even while acting in concert to safeguard the ecosystem for future generations." Will Governor Taft be a leader on this issue and take the necessary steps to protect Lake Erie from the degradation posed by open lake disposal of dredged materials? The OEC and others in Ohio hope so and have respectfully requested that Governor Taft ban the open lake disposal of dredged materials in Lake Erie.

Visit the Great Lakes Directory

(greatlakesdirectory.org)

for issue information, grassroots success stories, funding, information, jobs, and more.