

July 8, 2011

To: Heads of Council and Councillors:

The upcoming provincial election is an important time for Ontario municipalities and AMO. Key topics of concern have been summarized in AMO's Provincial Election Check List of **Top 12 Asks**. This "flashcard" outlines AMO's policy positions in priority areas and provides you with some of the messaging that the Association will be using this summer and throughout the election period. We would appreciate any assistance in helping us to 'get the word out' during your conversations with municipal colleagues, provincial candidates, the media, constituents and other municipal organizations or associations.

For example, AMO is seeking commitments to:

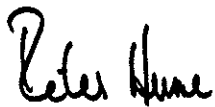
- Maintain (or accelerate) the 2008 Provincial Municipal Fiscal Service Delivery Review agreement to upload \$1.5 billion in social services and court security costs by 2018;
- Provide stable, predictable permanent infrastructure funding for roads and bridges;
- Permanently share Provincial Gas Tax revenue for municipal transit ;
- Make people and businesses more accountable for the waste management costs they create, so that property taxpayers are not saddled with them;
- Improve arbitration, to ensure that outcomes are more affordable, transparent and accountable; and
- Introduce insurance reforms that rationalize municipal liability and rein-in soaring insurance costs.

These are just a few of the priority municipal policies that need attention and support from all political parties.

This summer, AMO will launch 2011 Ontario Provincial Election pages on our website, [www.amo.on.ca](http://www.amo.on.ca). These pages will present AMO's Top 12 Asks against the commitments that each provincial party makes, along with analysis of party platforms from a municipal government lens. Municipal policy backgrounders, links to relevant election sites, and other election updates will also be posted.

We will continue to provide you with Breaking News bulletins when there are major announcements by the political parties on municipal government issues and provide other updates via AMO's weekly Watch File. For the first time during an election we will also be sharing our views via social media, so do not forget to follow us on twitter, [@AMOPolicy](https://twitter.com/AMOPolicy).

Yours truly,



Peter Hume  
President



**Jamie Cressman**

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**From:** communicate@amo.on.ca  
**Sent:** Monday, June 27, 2011 12:49 PM  
**To:** jamie.cressman@oliverpaipoonge.on.ca  
**Subject:** AMO Breaking News - Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)

**TO THE IMMEDIATE ATTENTION OF THE CLERK AND COUNCIL**

June 27, 2011

**Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)**

As there may be a number of waste diversion media stories in the near future, it was felt that it would be prudent for AMO to reaffirm its support for full Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) and to provide this information to AMO members.

**Background:**

On Friday June 24, 2011, the AMO Board reaffirmed its support for the principle and implementation of full EPR.

AMO supports the principle of polluter pay, which includes material and packaging in the municipal solid waste stream.

Management of waste material, whether that be waste electronics, municipal hazardous and special waste, used tires or packaging, must be borne by the stewards of these materials.

Costs associated with the management of any of these products and packaging must not result in municipal property taxpayers paying the costs for any component of the programs.

There is a danger that the costs of managing some or all of these programs may revert to municipalities through the property tax base.

Accordingly, AMO has released a news release re-stating our support of the Extended Producer Responsibility concept.

Link to AMO news release:

[http://www.amo.on.ca/AM/Template.cfm?Section=News\\_Releases&Template=/CM/HTMLDisplay.cfm&ContentID=162142](http://www.amo.on.ca/AM/Template.cfm?Section=News_Releases&Template=/CM/HTMLDisplay.cfm&ContentID=162142)

**AMO Contact:** Milena Avramovic, AMO Senior Policy Advisor at [milena@amo.on.ca](mailto:milena@amo.on.ca) or

416-971-9856 ext. 342.

## Ash Trees at Risk in Northwest Region

All ash trees in Northwestern Ontario are threatened if Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) makes its way here.

The emerald-coloured beetle, much smaller than a penny, attacks and kills healthy ash trees.

As of spring 2011, EAB has not been detected in Northwestern Ontario. However, it is as close as Sault Ste. Marie and St. Paul, Minnesota, and spreading. This invasive insect species, native to Asia, was first found in North America nine years ago.

The most common ash trees in Northwestern Ontario are green ash and black ash. All sizes and species of ash trees are susceptible to attack. However, mountain ash trees, with their white flowers in spring and orange-red berries in fall, are actually not true ash trees. They cannot be affected by EAB.

“But, even if Emerald Ash Borer enters our region, early detection can help slow its spread and save the ash trees,” says Shelley Vescio, Forester with the City of Thunder Bay. “Government and agencies across Northwestern Ontario are now monitoring for the first signs of this invasive beetle in our region.”

Ontario Parks is helping to monitor for EAB infestation by installing “traps” in areas like Kakabeka Falls Provincial Park in Thunder Bay. Traps are set in urban centres and holiday destinations such as provincial parks, seasonal campgrounds and rest stops along major transportation corridors. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency is also installing devices in the northwest.

The devices are covered in a sticky gel to catch any EAB that are drawn in by the ash tree scent attractant. Devices are mounted high in ash trees and collected at the end of August to be evaluated for the presence of EAB.

Municipalities such the City of Thunder Bay are also proactively surveying municipal trees for EAB. Organizations such landscapers and hydro utilities who routinely remove and trim ash trees, are collecting and submitting ash tree branch samples for testing.

You can help to look for signs of EAB infestation in ash trees, a popular boulevard tree.

Look for a “D” shaped exit hole on the tree bark. Fully mature beetles will emerge through an exit hole chewed through the bark. These are distinctly D-shaped and measure 3.5—4.1 mm across.

“Sucker” shoots sprouting from the trunk of ash trees may be a sign of EAB.

Infested trees may also show thinning foliage at the tree’s crown. Foliage may wilt or turn yellow during the growing season.

In infected trees, often one-third to half of the branches die within one year of infestation and the entire tree dies the following year.

Emerald Ash Borer can spread in firewood moved from one place to another. To help prevent the introduction of EAB into our region, always obtain local firewood only, burn it on site and do not leave any behind.

For questions or to report finding EAB, contact the Canadian Food Inspection Agency's Emerald Ash Borer Hotline toll-free at **1-866-463-6017** or online at **[www.inspection.gc.ca/pests](http://www.inspection.gc.ca/pests)**.

**Media contact:**

**Shelley Vescio, City Forester, City of Thunder Bay Parks Division, 807-625-2473**

# ONTARIO GOOD ROADS ASSOCIATION

*board brief*



*Working for Municipalities*

JUNE 2011

[Click here for French version](#)

## HST RESOLUTION GAINING MOMENTUM

OGRA has received more than 150 municipal endorsements to date in support of CAA's call for the Ontario government to invest 50% of the HST Gas and Diesel revenue in infrastructure. OGRA staff will incorporate the objectives of the HST Resolution into the OGRA Election Strategy and begin to advance the issue with Provincial officials.

## FINANCIAL UPDATE

The Board received the financial statements as of April 30, 2011 detailing projected year-end results for the ROMA/OGRA Combined Conference and other training programs. Targets have been exceeded to date.

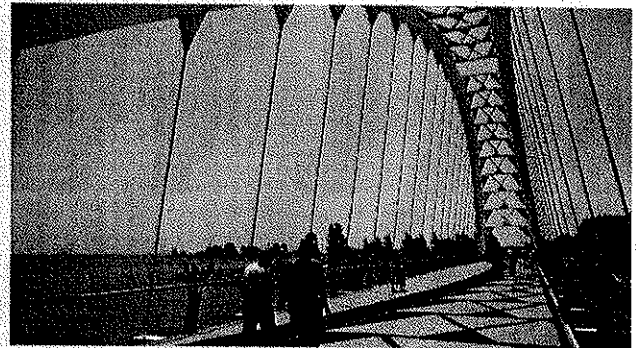
The additional \$300,000 in funding received by MTO for MDW bridge data collection has been depleted. The project has been a success with OGRA amassing data on over 15,000 bridges and culverts province wide.

## OGRA ELECTION STRATEGY IN THE WORKS

The Board endorsed the proposed strategy for the 2011 Ontario OGRA general election. Activities to include media blitz and a blog on the web site.

## CMATS v2.0 IN DEVELOPMENT

OGRA and the Ready Mixed Concrete Association of Ontario have received \$300,000 in funding from MTO to complete the development, testing and implementation of CMATS v2.0 (Construction Materials Testing System). The new CMAT system is scheduled for launch on June 30, 2011.



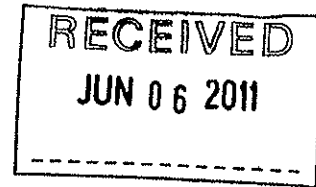
## OGRA BOARD SUPPORTS WORKPLACE VIOLENCE PREVENTION POLICY

The Board approved the Workplace Violence Prevention policy. Training will be provided to OGRA staff.



Environment  
Canada

Environnement  
Canada



Environment Canada  
4905 Dufferin St.  
Toronto Ontario Canada M3H 5T4

May 20, 2011

Dear Friend of the Great Lakes,

We are pleased to provide you with the attached 2011 Lakewide Management Annual Report(s).

Lakewide Management Plans (LaMPs) are developed and implemented by US and Canadian federal, state and Ontario provincial government agencies in consultation with many other partners. LaMPs support the restoration and protection of the chemical, physical and biological integrity of the Great Lakes as prescribed by the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. These plans provide the framework for binational environmental restoration and protection efforts, identify actions necessary; and co-ordinate the work of the numerous partners involved in the implementation of these actions. Lakewide Management Plans establish environmental goals and targets, assess the state of the ecosystem and develop strategies to implement actions addressing priority issues.

The annual management reports highlight progress over the past year, challenges for the lake, and outline planned activities including outreach, monitoring, protection and restoration actions.

These reports were developed cooperatively by Environment Canada and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and reflects the collaborative efforts of federal, state, tribal and provincial governments, as well as stakeholder organizations.

In addition to the printed version/s that we are sending you, the reports may also be found on Environment Canada's web site at <http://www.ec.gc.ca/greatlakes> and on the Binational.net web site at: [http://binational.net/home\\_e.html](http://binational.net/home_e.html)

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have comments or questions regarding these reports. Individual lake staff contacts are listed on each report or feel free to contact us at [greatlakes-grandslacs@ec.gc.ca](mailto:greatlakes-grandslacs@ec.gc.ca).

We appreciate and value your interest in the progress of Environment Canada's Great Lakes programs.

Sincerely,



Kevin Guerin

Acting Director, Great Lakes Division  
Environment Canada

### Stay Informed!

If you have recently moved, or if you wish to be added to our distribution list to receive LaMP annual reports as they become available, please send an email to [greatlakes-grandslacs@ec.gc.ca](mailto:greatlakes-grandslacs@ec.gc.ca) with the following information:

- Your name, company or organization and mailing address
- Your preference to receive documents in electronic or print format
- Your email address
- Anything else you may want to let us know or ask about the Great Lakes!

As always, your details will be treated as privileged information and will only be used to disseminate our Great Lakes information to you, our stakeholders. These distribution lists are never shared outside of Environment Canada.

Canada

[www.ec.gc.ca](http://www.ec.gc.ca)





# LAKE SUPERIOR LAKEWIDE MANAGEMENT PLAN

## Annual Report 2011

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### What is the LaMP?

The 1987 amendment to the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement required the development of Lakewide Management Plans (LaMPs) to “restore and maintain the chemical, physical and biological integrity of the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem”.

The Lake Superior LaMP is an adaptive management plan for restoring and protecting the Lake Superior ecosystem. It is coordinated by Canadian and U.S. federal, state, provincial and tribal/First Nations governments. Public participation is achieved through the involvement of a Binational Forum.

The Lake Superior Binational Program, under which the LaMP is implemented, is a collaborative effort between Canada and the United States that identifies, addresses, and monitors progress on environmental issues affecting Lake Superior. It includes the LaMP as well as the Zero Discharge Demonstration Program that aims to virtually eliminate nine critical chemical pollutants in the basin.

### Overview

Lake Superior is the deepest, the most northerly and the coldest of the five North American Great Lakes. The cold water of Lake Superior makes it unique – but also has profound effects on the ecology of the lake: fish grow more slowly; some contaminants remain available in the aquatic environment for longer periods of time; and, because of this, Lake Superior fish sometimes have higher levels of contaminants than similar fish from lakes with higher levels of contaminants. Lake Superior, however, remains overall the most pristine and unspoiled of all the Great Lakes.

Lake Superior's cold climate is essential to maintaining its unique habitats and populations of plants and animals. Recent research, however, has shown that water temperatures in Lake Superior are rising. This rise in water temperature could greatly affect the ecosystem: native fish species could have difficulty reproducing in warmer waters, warmer water could reduce the habitats of native coldwater species, and non-native species could establish a foothold in warmer, more hospitable Lake Superior waters.

The Lake Superior LaMP and Binational Program participants continue to work together to protect Lake Superior's unique coldwater ecosystem, and to address the stressors on the lake. This Annual Report summarizes some of the recent accomplishments, challenges and next steps. For more information, please visit [www.binational.net](http://www.binational.net) or use the contacts listed on the back page. ♦



Lake Superior's cold climate is home to many unique species, such as the Canada lynx.  
Photo: Natural Resources Research Institute, University of Minnesota Duluth.



### Accomplishments

#### ***Aquatic Invasive Species Plan Implementation Underway***

Members of the Lake Superior LaMP are finalizing the Lake Superior Aquatic Invasive Species Complete Prevention Plan (the AIS Plan). Completion of the AIS Plan will represent a significant accomplishment for the Lake Superior LaMP, and it will be an example of binational cooperation on a critical ecosystem issue. The AIS Plan will be the first binational and lakewide effort in the Great Lakes to identify and address vectors and pathways that invasive species use to enter and become established on a lakewide scale. The AIS Plan will build upon a number of existing federal, state and provincial aquatic invasive species prevention and control plans, as well as regulatory programs that apply to the Great Lakes region. The AIS Plan is expected to be finalized this year.

Efforts are now focused on implementation of recommended actions in both Canada and the United States, including education and outreach and early detection surveys.

#### **Education and Outreach**

Over the past year, a series of education programs were delivered by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (OMNR) and partners. These programs were delivered at over twenty recreation, boating and angling events. Participants represented lake associations, fishers, provincial parks, public schools and Lakehead University's Wildlife Management Program.

In addition, OMNR and the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters provided summer youth employment opportunities for Invasive Species interns. The interns provided aquatic invasive species education and outreach materials to the public tailored to local watershed concerns, including signage at boat launches.

#### **Early Detection Surveys - No New Species Detected!**

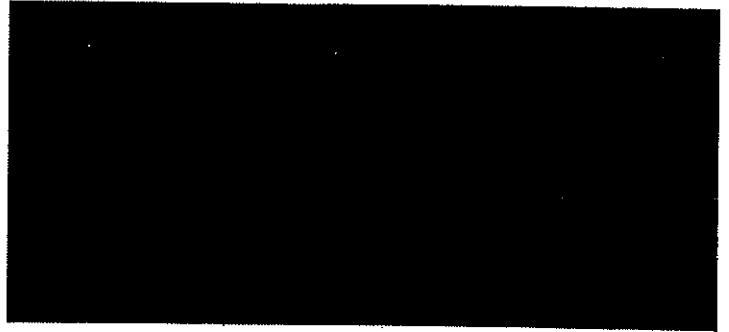
In 2010, the three busiest shipping ports on Lake Superior were surveyed to search for newly-introduced aquatic invasive species. U.S. and Canadian federal, state, tribal and provincial agencies participated in the surveys. Bottom trawls, electrofishing, and nets were used to sample over 70 locations in the ports of: Duluth-Superior Harbor (Minnesota/Wisconsin); Sault Ste. Marie (Michigan/Ontario); and Thunder Bay Harbour (Ontario). A total of 44 fish species were captured. Six-known aquatic invasive fish species were encountered, and while lab work continues for some samples, no new species have been detected thus far.

This survey establishes a baseline for the development of a binational, lake-by-lake aquatic invasive species monitoring effort for the Great Lakes region. This effort will begin in 2011 in Lake Superior, supported by the Lake Superior LaMP and the binational Coordinated Science and Monitoring Initiative.

The results will also help the Great Lakes Fishery Commission evaluate progress towards meeting several *Lake Superior Fish Community Objectives* for nuisance species.

To learn more about the AIS Plan, go to [www.ec.gc.ca/publications](http://www.ec.gc.ca/publications) and search for "Lake Superior invasive species".

#### ***LaMP Local Linkage: New Estuarine Research Reserve Created in Wisconsin***



Owned by The Nature Conservancy, Clough Island is the largest island in the St. Louis River estuary. Credit: Lower St. Louis River Habitat Plan Workgroup.

In October 2010, the U.S. National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) designated the St. Louis River Estuary as the 28th National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR). The St. Louis River NERR is the second freshwater estuary in the NERR system (the first freshwater NERR was Old Woman Creek, Ohio on Lake Erie). The mission of the NERR program is to promote long-term research, education and stewardship through a system of reserves that represent the various biogeographic regions of the United States. The St. Louis River NERR will also help to advance research, education and stewardship goals of the Lake Superior LaMP.

This designation was the successful result of a lengthy nomination process, led by LaMP participants: the University of Wisconsin Extension and NOAA. As part of the designation, a five-year management plan has been approved that describes how the NERR will be managed by the University of Wisconsin Extension in cooperation with other state partners. For more information, please go to [www.nerrs.noaa.gov](http://www.nerrs.noaa.gov).

#### ***Monitoring Water Quantity and Quality in Streams***

Streams, precipitation and groundwater all help to replenish water in Lake Superior. Streams receive run-off and groundwater from the landscape, and carry substances such as nitrates and sediments to the lake. Streams also provide breeding habitat for fish and other aquatic life. The maintenance of water quality and quantity that enters the lake from streams is of critical importance to the lake ecosystem health.



Many Lake Superior streams are already monitored for water quantity (flow). In some cases, water quality parameters such as dissolved oxygen, pH, water temperature, sediments and barriers to fish passage are also tracked. A binational dataset has been created that includes stream gauge information such as location, type of data collected, dams and other barriers to fish passage, current mines and land use in the watershed. The information has been mapped and will be used to select streams that are representative of the Lake Superior basin.

In 2011, LaMP participants will be evaluating trends in water quantity and quality in the selected streams to identify impacts of climate changes and land use. This information may lead to improved policies and management decisions related to groundwater extraction, surface water diversion or use, and land use within the Lake Superior watershed. ♦

### Making Progress in Areas of Concern

Under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, the governments of Canada and the United States committed to develop Remedial Action Plans (RAPs) to restore 43 Areas of Concern (AOCs) in the Great Lakes region. Progress is being made in all AOCs. Recently, two AOCs on Lake Superior have reached significant milestones: Jackfish Bay in Canada and the St. Louis River in the United States.

**Jackfish Bay AOC (Canada):** Jackfish Bay was designated as an AOC in 1987 due to the impacts from a local pulp and paper mill. In the 1990s, Canada and Ontario set new limits for pulp and paper wastewater, and as a result, the once severely impaired waters are no longer toxic to fish, and the health of the local fish population has improved. With the major concerns addressed, the parties involved in implementing the Remedial Action Plan have recognized Jackfish Bay as an Area in Recovery.

**St. Louis River AOC (U.S.):** Recent activities in the St. Louis River include sediment characterization (completed for about 3000 acres /1214 hectares in Superior and St. Louis Bays); making progress on the top two Remediation to Restoration (R2R) sites (by gathering baseline chemical, physical and biological data); and implementing restoration activities at Hog Island and Radio Tower Bay (a five-year, \$80M remediation and mitigation project was completed in association with the Superfund site at Stryker Bay and Tallas Island). Work with harbor partners is underway to initiate prioritizing activities aimed at removing beneficial use impairments.

For more information, please visit [www.epa.gov/glnpo/aoc](http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/aoc) and [www.ec.gc.ca/raps-pas](http://www.ec.gc.ca/raps-pas).

## Challenges

### *Reducing Persistent Toxic Substances*

Long-term monitoring shows that certain persistent toxic substances in Lake Superior and the other Great Lakes have decreased significantly since the 1970s. However, even though Lake Superior is sometimes labeled “pristine”, there are many contaminants within its waters. Some chemicals, especially mercury and PCBs, accumulate in fish to levels high enough to trigger fish consumption advisories. Recently-published studies even show that sometimes fish and birds living in and around Lake Superior are more contaminated than the same species in the lower Great Lakes. Contaminants continue to enter the Lake Superior food chain from the air, runoff, and direct releases from sources in the watershed. Progress has been made toward the goal of zero discharge and zero emissions, but challenges remain.

### *Responding to Changing Temperatures*

Water temperatures in Lake Superior are rising faster than scientists had once predicted. Lake Superior fish, wildlife and water quality are to a great extent temperature dependent. For example, the water temperature influences types and growth of fish in the waters. The LaMP partners are working across scientific disciplines to better understand what is most vulnerable to climate change and to incorporate climate change knowledge in environmental restoration and protection actions in the Lake Superior basin. ♦

## Next Steps

Future activities for the Lake Superior LaMP include the following:

- Preparation of the **2011 Critical Chemical Milestones Report and Factsheet**. These documents will report on 15 years of effort to virtually eliminate sources of nine persistent bioaccumulative pollutants to the Lake Superior basin.
- Canadian and U.S. partners will conduct intensive scientific research focused on Lake Superior in 2011, as part of the binational **Great Lakes Coordinated Science and Monitoring Initiative**. Planned activities include: studying bacteria, plankton and invertebrates; monitoring chemical contaminants in the water; and monitoring for arrivals of new aquatic invasive species. Results will be available in 2013 and will be reported in the 2014 LaMP Report.
- Implementation of the **Aquatic Invasive Species Complete Prevention Plan**.
- Preparation of **watershed factsheets** to educate communities about their ecosystem assets and services, and the value they provide at the local and lakewide environments.
- LaMP partners will continue to monitor **mining** activities within the basin, and to seek new opportunities to work with the mining sector on actions that promote the sustainable restoration and protection of the Lake Superior ecosystem. ♦



# LAKE SUPERIOR LAKEWIDE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Annual Report 2011

## Special Events

### 20th Anniversary of the Binational Program

2011 is the 20th anniversary of the Lake Superior Binational Program. Keep an eye on [www.superiorforum.info](http://www.superiorforum.info) for more information and events.

### International Association of Great Lakes Research Conference

**Duluth, MN - May 30-June 3, 2011**

In recognition of the 20th anniversary of the Lake Superior Binational Program, a special session looking at lake research will be held. For more information, go to: [www.iaglr.org/conference](http://www.iaglr.org/conference).



### Get Ready for Lake Superior Day!

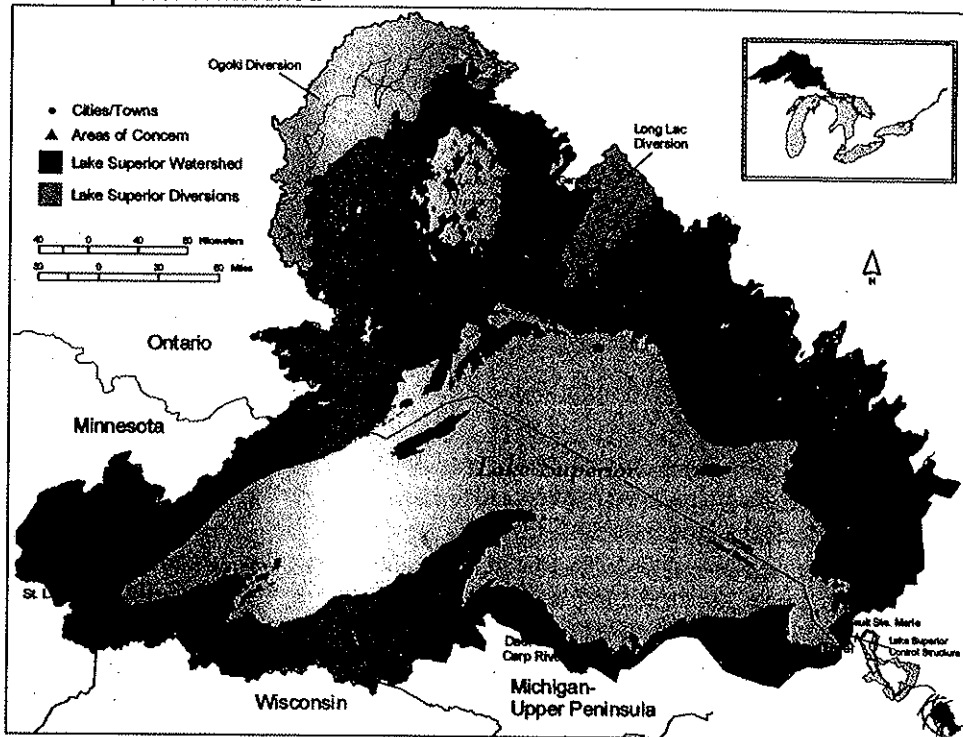
On Sunday July 17, 2011, the Lake Superior Binational Forum will celebrate the eighth annual Lake Superior Day, a special day established for people to connect to and enjoy the world's largest freshwater lake.

For information about the Lake Superior Binational Forum, upcoming events, an annual environmental stewardship awards program, and news and information about the Lake Superior ecosystem visit [www.superiorforum.info](http://www.superiorforum.info), or look for them on Facebook and Twitter!

## Watershed Map

Lake Superior and its drainage basin span over 209,000 square kilometres (81,000 square miles), and includes portions of the province of Ontario and the states of Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan.

### Lake Superior Watershed



### Lake Superior Facts

- Lake Superior's maximum depth (406 metres/1 332 feet) is almost equal to the height of the Sears Tower in Chicago, Illinois.
- With a volume of 12 100 cubic metres/2 900 cubic miles, Lake Superior can hold as much water as the other four Great Lakes combined, plus three more Lake Eries.
- Lake Superior is the largest freshwater lake in the world, by surface area.
- The length of the Lake Superior shoreline including islands (4385 km/2726 miles) is approximately equal to the driving distance from Quebec City, Quebec to Vancouver, British Columbia; or from Los Angeles California, to Miami, Florida.

Sources: *The Great Lakes: An Environmental Atlas and Resource Book, Factsheet #1*; *Google Maps*; and *Minnesota Sea Grant*.

### For More Information:

Visit one of the Lake Superior Lakewide Management Plan web sites [www.binational.net](http://www.binational.net) or [www.epa.gov/glupo](http://www.epa.gov/glupo) or contact:

#### Canada:

Pamela Finlayson  
Environment Canada  
4905 Dufferin St.  
Toronto, ON CAN M3H 5T4  
[greatlakes-grandslacs@ec.gc.ca](mailto:greatlakes-grandslacs@ec.gc.ca)

#### United States:

E. Marie Wines  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
77 West Jackson Blvd., G-17J  
Chicago, IL USA 60604-3511  
[wines.e-marie@epa.gov](mailto:wines.e-marie@epa.gov)

**Ministry of  
the Environment**

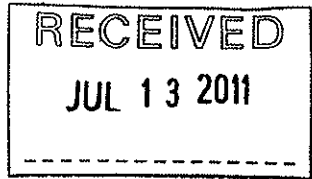
Drinking Water Management  
Division

14<sup>th</sup> floor  
135 St. Clair Avenue West  
Toronto ON M4V 1P5

**Ministère de  
l'Environnement**

Division de la gestion de la qualité de  
l'eau potable

14<sup>e</sup> étage  
135, avenue St. Clair Ouest  
Toronto (Ontario) M4V 1P5



July 5, 2011

Jamie Cressman, CAO  
Municipality of Oliver Paipoonge  
4569 Oliver Road, Box 10  
Murillo, ON P0T 2G0

On behalf of the Ministry of the Environment, I would like to congratulate you on receiving your Municipal Drinking Water Licence, Drinking Water Works Permit and Accreditation of your operating authority. Your successful efforts to implement a Quality Management System within your drinking water system are an important element of Ontario's drinking water safety net.

The Drinking Water Quality Management Standard (DWQMS) is a tool for owners and operators to help ensure that consistent processes and procedures are in place to manage the production and delivery of high quality drinking water. The DWQMS supports a proactive and preventative approach, which requires adoption of best practices and continuous improvement. These requirements help owners and operating authorities continually improve the performance of their drinking water system through management oversight of their policies, processes and procedures. These requirements also provide municipal officials with the tools necessary to continuously assess their systems to ensure that Standard of Care provisions, which come into effect in 2013, are met. It is an investment in the future and an important part of the licensing process.

Ontario is the first jurisdiction in North America to mandate a Quality Management System for municipal residential drinking water systems, and the introduction of the Municipal Drinking Water Licensing Program is one example of the measures put in place to keep Ontario's drinking water among the most protected in the world. Safeguarding Ontario's drinking water would not be possible without the commitment shown by you and your staff, and I would like to extend my congratulations for your accomplishments.

For more information on the Municipal Drinking Water Licensing Program, please visit our website at [www.ontario.ca/drinkingwater](http://www.ontario.ca/drinkingwater), or contact us directly at [mdwlp@ontario.ca](mailto:mdwlp@ontario.ca) or at 1-877-955-5455.

Sincerely,

John Stager  
Chief Drinking Water Inspector/Assistant Deputy Minister  
Drinking Water Management Division

**TOWNSHIP OF GILLIES** RR#1, 1092 Hwy. 595, Kakabeka Falls, Ontario P0T 1W0

Tel: (807) 475-3185 . Fax: (807) 473-0767 . E-Mail: [gillies@tbaytel.net](mailto:gillies@tbaytel.net) . [www.gilliestownship.ca](http://www.gilliestownship.ca)

Reeve:  
Rick Kieri

Councillors:  
Rudy Buitenhuis  
William Groenheide  
Henry Jantunen  
Linda Turk

Clerk/Treasurer:  
Karen Caren

June 28, 2011

Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association  
P.O. Box 10308  
Thunder Bay ON P7B 6T8

Dear NOMA Executive:

**RE: IMPACT OF FARM AND FOREST REBATES ON MUNICIPAL TAXATION**

On behalf of the Council for the Township of Gillies, I would like to express disappointment in how NOMA dealt with a resolution originating from the Township of Gillies respecting the "Impact of Farm and Forest Rebates on Municipal Taxation Revenue" that was supported by the Thunder Bay District Municipal League and subsequently forwarded to NOMA's Resolution Committee for consideration at the 2011 NOMA AGM.

It was noted that the resolution did not appear on the agenda for consideration at the AGM held in April 2011. It was not until initiation and investigation by the Township of Gillies that it was discovered that NOMA's Resolution Committee did not approve the resolution to be voted on by the membership as it satisfied itself that the issue raised was already sufficiently addressed by a similar resolution approved by the NOMA membership in 2009. This 2009 resolution submitted by the Rainy River District Municipal Association was supported two years ago and the issue of the impact of the farm and forest rebates on municipal taxation issue is still present, with no response from the Province, and apparently no further advocacy by NOMA. Upon seeing that this issue was raised again by a member municipality in 2011 and approved by the Thunder Bay District Municipal League, the Resolution Committee should have at least made a recommendation to the Executive that the issue should again be brought to the Province's attention. It is NOMA's mission to provide leadership in advocating regional interests with a goal to advocate for local government in Northwestern Ontario. This is why municipalities are members of NOMA; to have one common voice for our concerns with the upper levels of government. Each resolution that is sent to NOMA by its member municipalities deserves equal attention, especially for issues that affect a number of the members.

According to information gathered by the United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry, in 2008 farm and forest rebates cost Ontario taxpayers an additional \$207 million dollars in that year alone. The attached schedule illustrates the effect of the farm and forest land tax incentives on the tax revenue of Northwestern Ontario's municipalities in 2008. Specifically for the Township of Gillies, each year residential taxpayers subsidize the farm

and forest tax rebates by paying an additional 6%; for 2011 this results in an additional \$78.00 for each \$100,000 assessment.

There is a push in Southern Ontario on this issue and there should also be a push from the Northwest, until the Province acknowledges that it needs to fund its own land tax incentive policies. The Township of Gillies fully supports and wants to maintain the current practice of billing farms and managed woodlots for only 25% of what they would otherwise pay in property tax, but the Province needs to fully reimburse the 75% shortfall to affected municipalities either through the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF) or other funding mechanism.

I trust that NOMA will undertake to advocate on behalf of its member municipalities, to stop the unfair funding practice of the residential taxpayer in rural municipalities subsidizing the Province's land tax incentive policies.

Sincerely,



Rick Kieri  
Reeve

cc Thunder Bay District Municipal League  
Rainy River District Municipal Association  
Township of Chapple  
Township of Dawson  
Township of Dorion  
Township of Emo  
Township of La Vallee  
Township of Morley  
Municipality of Oliver Paipoonge  
Bill Mauro, MPP, Thunder Bay-Atikokan  
Michael Gravelle, MPP, Thunder Bay-Superior North  
Howard Hampton, MPP, Kenora-Rainy River

