



Citizens Concerned for Michipicoten Bay

NEWSLETTER

Caring for the Lake Superior Coastline

January 2007

From 2006.....

Great Lakes United approves resolution calling on Michigan to act on aggregate sources

January 8, 2007

Earlier in 2006, Great Lake United (www.glu.org) approved a resolution that calls on Michigan's Governor Jennifer Granholm to take action on where the State of Michigan sources its aggregate needs. Great Lakes United (GLU) is an international coalition dedicated to preserving and restoring the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River ecosystem and is made up of member organizations representing environmentalists, conservationists, hunters and anglers, labor unions, community groups, and citizens of the United States, Canada, and First Nations and Tribes. The resolution was approved at GLU's July 2006 executive meeting. The resolution was prompted by plans by John Carlo, Inc. of Clinton Township, Michigan, through its subsidiary Superior Aggregates Company, to develop a

quarry near the shore of Lake Superior at Michipicoten Bay.

The resolution asks that Great Lakes United recommend to Governor Granholm that Michigan enact policies to discourage the paving of Michigan highways with aggregate



sourced from environmentally sensitive and ecologically significant areas, such as the shores of Lake Superior.

The full text of the resolution can be viewed at: <http://www.glu.org/english/resolutions.htm>

Further action to bring this resolution to the Governor's attention will take place in early 2007.

Readers interested in writing to Governor Granholm in support of this resolution can forward their letters to the following address:

Governor Jennifer M. Granholm
State of Michigan
P.O. Box 30013
Lansing, MI 48909

Deadline for comments on SAC's latest application passes – agency comments expected soon

The public comment deadline on Superior Aggregates Company's (SAC) latest Aggregate License application, for a Category 1 and Category 2 license, was on November 27, 2006. The Category 1 and Category 2 license would permit the Company to excavate below the water table. The public had until this date to submit their concerns and objections regarding the application to SAC and MNR. CCMB and its team of experts cited a lengthy list of concerns, which were forwarded by the deadline. Concerns were

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raised regarding the environmental, social, and economic impacts the proposed operation may have on Michipicoten Bay and surrounding area. As noted with the Company's previous application, there remains serious lack of detail on some of the fundamental aspects of the operation. Most importantly, the new application remains limited to a small portion (31 hectares) of the Company's total land holdings of 385 hectares. Apparently, the aggregate expected to be processed from the 31 hectares is intended to provide a 5-year supply. The cumulative impacts of operating a quarry near the shore of Lake Superior over a 100 to 200 year period (as suggested by the Company officials in earlier media statements) are again not examined by this latest application.

A number of CCMB members, supporters, and concerned citizens also made the effort to submit their own letters to the Company, MNR, and other Provincial ministries. Many individuals previously unknown to CCMB sent copies of their objection letters to the group.

According to the posting related to this application on the Ontario Environmental Bill of Rights registry (<http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/envregistry/028704ei.htm>), a number of government agencies and others were also provided copies of the application. The list includes the Ministry of Environment, Township of Michipicoten, Michipicoten First Nation, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, and Brookfield Power. It is anticipated that comments from these agencies will be forwarded to the proponent in the near future.

CCMB “guest-speaks” on Great Lakes Town Hall

In November and December 2006, CCMB was invited as a guest speaker to the Great Lakes Town Hall (www.greatlaketownhall.org). The Great Lakes Town Hall is a program of the Biodiversity Project, a non-profit organization based in Madison, Wisconsin. Biodiversity Project serves as a strategic communications resource for environmental and conservation advocates, developing, testing and sharing innovative outreach strategies that foster sustainable individual behavior and public policy.

The Great Lakes Town Hall is funded by a grant from the Great Lakes Aquatic Habitat & Network Fund

(GLAHNF), a project of the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council. GLAHNF's programs are designed to increase the ability of grassroots groups and individuals to succeed in advocacy projects to protect rivers, lakes, and wetlands in the Great Lakes basin. (GLAHNF has also very generously supported CCMB's efforts with grants since 2004).

Each week, The Great Lakes Town Hall

The Great Lakes Town Hall
Your Voice, Your Great Lakes

solicits thoughtful contributions from Great Lakes writers, scientists, business owners, politicians, agency staff, environmentalists, artists, concerned citizens and more.

Guest speakers contribute content on a Great Lakes topic of their choice for five days. While there are basic rules of conduct, guest speakers are unedited and diverse views are encouraged. The format is akin to the blogspots that is now prevalent on the internet.

CCMB had the honour of being invited to contribute to the Town Hall discussion in November and December. This gave the group the opportunity to convey its history, experience, successes, disappointments, and issues before a wide audience.

You can view CCMB's “blog entries” by searching out the archives at the Great Lakes Town Hall website. The URL is:

<http://www.greatlaketownhall.org/opinion/guestall.php?forumid=3>

(Note: be sure to scroll down the page – CCMB's blog entries were split up into three sessions)

While there, check out the other very informative articles that cover a host of topics related to the Great Lakes.

CCMB coordinates shoreline cleanup at Michipicoten Bay

CCMB coordinated their 2nd annual shoreline cleanup of Michipicoten Bay on September 24, 2006. This cleanup is actually part of the The Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup, which was founded 12 years ago by TD Friends of the Environment Foundation. Partners and sponsors have now grown to include, The Oceans Conservancy, World Wildlife Fund Canada, Canadian



Association of Zoos and Aquariums, Vancouver Aquarium (this year's co-coordinator), The Ontario Trillium Foundation, Waste Management Inc., Dow Chemical and the Environment and

Plastics Industry Council.

Approximately 17 volunteer individuals participated in the cleanup of four of the beaches that partially encircle Michipicoten Bay: Sandy, Driftwood, Government and Long Beaches. Teeshirts, gloves, and garbage bags were provided to participants. Tops on the list of refuse items collected on the beaches were cigarette butts, balloons, and ribbons that are attached to the balloons. Also frequently picked up was litter associated with fishing boats (e.g., fishing line, styrofoam, etc.).

Michipicoten Bay beaches look relatively clean mainly due to the fact that many of the regular hikers and beach lovers pickup litter while out on their walks. Now they are even cleaner thanks to the efforts of the volunteers in this year's cleanup. Thank you.

Planning for next year's event has already started and promises to be an even better event.

More information about The Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup can be found at www.vanaqua.org/cleanup

Environmental Commissioner holds Great Lakes Roundtable discussions – CCMB participates in Thunder Bay

CCMB members participated in Roundtable discussions regarding the future of the Great Lakes that were co-hosted by Pollution Probe and the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario.

Five sessions were held across the Province. CCMB participated in the session held in Thunder Bay on December 7, where the interest naturally focused on Lake Superior.

Each day was divided into two sessions: 1) a Stakeholder Roundtable on the Future of the Great Lakes; and 2) an evening forum open to the public to discuss the Future of the Great Lakes. Originally,

CCMB had planned to attend only the evening public session, but member Joel Cooper took the initiative and asked if he could attend the Stakeholder Roundtable discussion as well. The ECO's office granted his request.

The purpose of the Stakeholder Roundtables was to engage stakeholders and experts to explore a shared vision of the future of the Great Lakes Basin and to develop A Great Lakes Action Plan for the Next Decade. This stakeholders' dialogue will build on the findings of previous consultations, including the bi-national Vision of the Great Lakes Futures Roundtable, convened by Pollution Probe, the International Joint Commission's consultations on the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, MNR's consultations on the Great Lakes Charter Annex, and the US Regional Collaboration on the Great Lakes. Local experts were invited to participate in each roundtable, from business, academia, local government, Conservation Authorities, First Nations, environmental NGOs, committee members of the Remedial Action Plans and Lakewide area management plans, and community activists.

Joel reported that he was one of 20 attendees at the Thunder Bay Stakeholder Roundtable, consisting of a cross-section of interests primarily from the Thunder Bay area, including industry, government, academia, environmental, and First Nation participation. The evening public session had over 50 people in attendance with many questions and views presented. Apparently there was considerable interest in this topic, as questions had to be cutoff due to the ECO's travel schedule.

Prior to the start of these series of sessions, the ECO prepared a background information booklet for distribution to attendees.

Interestingly, the ECO's backgrounder document includes a sidebar in which he questions the Provincial government's implementation of its Great Lakes Heritage Coast Initiative (an issue CCMB has always pointed out). The sidebar is reprinted below:

What Happened to the Great Lakes Heritage Coast?

In 1999, the Government of Ontario proposed creating the Great Lakes Heritage Coast as part of its Ontario's Living Legacy Initiative. It was to cover all

Crown lands, waters, lakebeds, Crown islands, and intervening coastal areas along the Great Lakes shoreline from Port Severn in Georgian Bay, through the North Channel of Lake Huron, to the international border south of Thunder Bay on Lake Superior. It spanned approximately 2,900km of shoreline and covered one million hectares of land. The intent of the Great Lakes Heritage Coast was to identify this area for special planning and management consideration, in a comprehensive fashion that prioritized its protection and enjoyment. It also would have sought to ensure that only development that was compatible with these parts of the Great Lakes was allowed. Unfortunately, this initiative went largely unimplemented and no explicit planning requirements guide Crown land management along the borders of the Great Lakes.

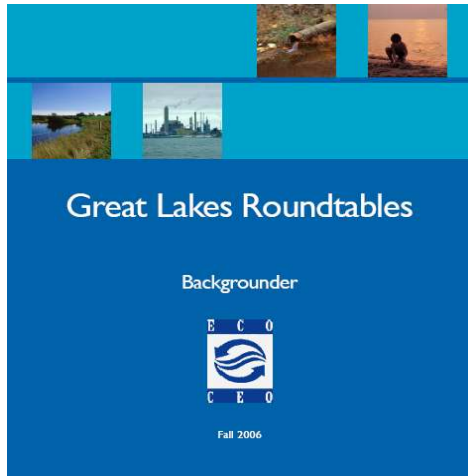
The ECO's office plans to publish the proceedings from the Roadtables sometime in February. Preliminary indications are that good input was received during the proceedings - public involvement in decision making and the need to provide a better mechanism for public information on Great Lakes issues and strategies emerged loud and clear.

Thanking our supporters!

We probably don't say it enough, but the support that has been directed toward CCMB has been incredible! Our message has seemed to galvanized those who have experienced the truly unique qualities of Lake Superior and developed their own special connection to its magnificent waters, expansive beaches, rugged coastline, and spacious shoreline forests.

Over the past year, CCMB has received particularly generous support from the following organizations:

- Great Lakes Aquatic Habitat Network Fund (GLAHNF)



- Mountain Equipment Co-op
- The McLean Foundation
- The EJLB Foundation

Thanks to all of you who contributed in one way or another – by donating your money, time, and talents. Every contribution – large and small – is truly appreciated!

Who we are.....

The Citizens Concerned for Michipicoten Bay (CCMB) are a group of inhabitants on Michipicoten Bay; residents in the Wawa/northeastern Lake Superior area; and supporters across Ontario, Canada, the United States of America and elsewhere throughout the world.



We care about what happens to the coastline of northeastern Lake Superior.

We know Lake Superior. Our members have paddled around the whole lake; paddled and boated along the shore and amongst the islands of northeastern Lake Superior; surveyed and researched the natural features and human history of the area.

The current threat to our area is a proposed traprock quarry at the west end of Michipicoten Bay. We are concerned with the future of the Michipicoten Bay. We are also concerned with northeastern Lake Superior (from Pukaskwa National Park south through to Lake Superior Provincial Park), the longest stretch of wilderness shoreline of all the Great Lakes.



Please visit our website at www.ccmb.ca