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Links of Interest

[Friends of the St. Clair River](#)

Official website of the St. Clair River Bi-national Public Advisory Council

[International Joint Commission](#)

Canada and the United States created the International Joint Commission because they recognized that each country is affected by the other's actions in lake and river systems along the border. Read the quarterly news publication, FOCUS, now available in full English and French versions.

[Great Lakes Information Network](#)

The Great Lakes Information Network (GLIN) is a partnership that provides one place online for people to find information relating to the bi-national Great Lakes-St. Lawrence region of North America.

[Great Lakes United](#)

Great Lakes United is an international coalition dedicated to preserving and restoring the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River ecosystem. Great Lakes United 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.

St. Clair BPAC Launches E-Newsletter

Our new e-mail newsletter is a great way to stay in touch with our members and stakeholders. We want to keep you informed about clean up efforts and what people are doing to help further our program goal of de-listing the St. Clair River as an Area of Concern (AOC) in the Great Lakes.



As well, we want this new communications tool to strengthen our relationship with you and pique the interest of potential new supporters.

We plan to issue this e-mail newsletter six times per year and report on key BPAC activities from both sides of the River. We will try to provide you with up-to-date reports from the four government agencies, the BPAC implementation committees and our community involvement groups *Friends of the St. Clair River (Canada)* and *Friends of the St. Clair Watershed (U.S.)*.

Your comments and story ideas are always welcome; and please let us know what you think of this new communications vehicle. We look forward to hearing from you.

Best Wishes for the Summer,

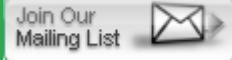
Stewart Thornley
RAP Specialist
Ontario Ministry of the Environment

MOE Sediment Studies Update

Contact Us

Stew Thornley, RAP Specialist

Ken Hall, FOSCR Webmaster



Join the St. Clair River BPAC mailing list to stay up-to-date about St. Clair River news and events.

To remove your name from our distribution list Please respond to FOSCR Webmaster.



Zones 2 and 3 of the St. Clair River

In 2007, the Canadian Remedial Action Plan (RAP) Implementation Committee (CRIC) asked the St. Clair River Sediment Technical Committee to assess the sediment contamination in Zones 2 and 3 of the river. The initial risk assessment on the sediments is now completed and has helped to identify priority areas in Zones 2 and 3. The next step is to develop options for managing the contaminated sediments.

Together with Ontario and in conjunction with local stakeholders and residents, Canada will develop a sediment management strategy. The clean-up project is expected to begin 2011 and be completed by 2014.

The St Clair River (SCR) Technical Sediment Committee has determined that the following further work is required in order to develop sediment management options for review:

- Sediment stability work is to be done by Environment Canada
- Sediment trap data, and young fish collection will be done by the Ministry of the Environment
- Sediment cores will be collected behind industrial properties along the rivers edge.

All of the above sampling initiatives will be carried out during the summer months and early fall of this year. The SCR Technical Committee will hire a consultant to develop the management options. The request for proposal will be released by early 2010.

Once management options have been developed a preferred option will be selected and the public given an opportunity to provide input. If the preferred option requires a detailed engineering plan, the plan will be developed and remediation will start in 2011.



Rain Barrels Can Save You Money

Installing one or more rain barrels will help you conserve water and prevent at least some run-off from your roof from entering the storm water system. This is a perfect project if you like to garden.

Rain barrels allow you to capture rainwater and reuse it for lawn and garden watering. During the

summer when water use is at its peak, a rain barrel can cut your water consumption by up to 40%! Simply connect your rooftop downspout to your rain barrel. Fill your watering can or attach a soaker hose and your work is done. And why not, it's a free water source!

Sheri Faust at the St. Clair County Health Department in Port Huron, MI is planning a large order of 55-gallon rain barrels expected to cost around \$50, which is a great deal.

You can send Sheri an email at stormwater@stclaircounty.org to order one.

River RAP Puts the Rhythm in Recovery



Friends of the St. Clair River (FOSCR) continue to find innovative ways to raise public awareness of the goals and challenges we face in our efforts to clean up the St. Clair River.

In May 2009, FOSCR announced one of its most innovative projects yet – the production of a RAP music video that denotes the issues facing the river in a style that young people and students can relate to.

The video project is a partnership with the St. Clair Regional Conservation Authority and is being led by Jan Dawes. FOSCR has allocated \$4,000 to the cost of the production which is estimated at \$6,000. The finished product will be distributed to all Lambton and Chatham/Kent schools and sent to coordinators in other Areas of Concern (AOCs). The video will be completed for the Fall return to school.

“We recognize that involving young people in the clean up efforts will mean we have to get their attention,” said FOSCR President Darrell Randell. “We think we have developed an approach that local youth can relate to and appreciate and hopefully that appreciation can be extended to include care of the River for this generation and the next.”

For more information contact [Darrell Randell](#).

FOSCR Supports Lagoon Habitat Project

Approximately 30 acres of farmed land was retired from farming on a parcel of land owned by St Clair Township and will be remediated as a wildlife habitat area.

The property, located near the Port Lambton sewage lagoons was set aside by the Township, and the Rural Lambton Stewardship Network (RLSN) will complete the work this summer which includes tree plantings and a large area of native prairie grasses. This property straddles Marshy Creek so that by doing both shores a full mile of riparian habitat will be enhanced.

The project is being realized thanks to funding support from several sources including Friends of the St. Clair River.



environmental organizations and private citizens that work collectively in helping to improve the health of the St. Clair River. Our key goal is to implement the Canadian Remedial Action Plan (RAP) in order to restore the beneficial uses and remove the River from the list of Great Lakes Areas of Concern.

This E-Newsletter is produced thanks to funding from the Ontario Ministry of the Environment