



This event is part of the Niagara 2009
Year of our Shared Waters see
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GREAT LAKES CONNECTING CHANNELS: Governance, Ecosystem Science and Management

Friday, June 12, 2009

Screening Room, Center for the Arts, University at Buffalo
North Campus, Buffalo, New York

held in collaboration with
Great Lakes United's Conference on Toxic Hotspots: Organizing the Cleanup
See joint web site and register at <http://www.glu.org/sharedwaters>

The Great Lakes connecting channels - the rivers and straits that link up the five Great Lakes and make them a single hydrological and ecological system - create some of the most difficult challenges for environmental science and for management institutions. Like choke points on a highway system, the connecting channels are the places where things come together: nations, people, pollutants and problems. As a result, many of them are among the most degraded areas in the region. To a greater degree than other Great Lakes Areas of Concern, the connecting channels require strong binational cooperation and a basinwide ecosystem perspective for their restoration and protection. In practice, however, those conditions have only rarely been achieved, and proposed changes in the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement may impede rather than improve management of connecting channels.

This conference will use the connecting channels as a focal point for considering the scientific knowledge, institutions, laws, and strategies used to manage the boundary waters.

PROGRAM

8:00 - 8:30 Registration, coffee, tea, juice, and muffins

8:30 - 9:30 **Welcome and Connecting Channels Overview:**
Barry Boyer, Professor of Law, University at Buffalo Law School, SUNY

Rt. Hon. Herb Gray, Canadian Chair, International Joint Commission
and **Commissioner Al Olson**, International Joint Commission

Don Zelazny, Great Lakes Program Coordinator, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

Part I: The State of the Science

Helen Domske, Moderator: Sr. Extension Specialist, New York Sea Grant; Assoc. Director, Great Lakes Program, University at Buffalo, SUNY

9:30 - 10:00 **Niagara River Overview**
Brad Hill, Environmental Scientist, Science & Technology Branch, Environment Canada

10:00 - 10:20 Break

10:20 - 10:50 **Detroit River Overview**
Lynda D. Corkum, Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Windsor

10:50 - 11:20 **St. Lawrence River Overview**
Michael R. Twiss, Great Rivers Center; Assoc. Professor, Department of Biology, Clarkson University

11:20 - 12:00 **General Discussion: Challenges, Opportunities and Needs in Connecting Channels Science**

Luncheon Address

12:00 - 1:30 **Wag the Dog - Using Science to Govern the American and African Great Lakes**
Dr. Zafar Adeel, Director, United Nations University,
International Network on Water, Environment and Health (UNU - INWEH)

Part II: Governing the Connecting Channels

1:30 - 2:20 **(a) Citizens Organizing in Binational RAPs: To Be or Not To Be Binational**

Panel convened by Great Lakes United

John Jackson, Moderator, Program Director, Great Lakes United

Elaine Kennedy, St. Lawrence River Restoration Council and former Chair of Public Advisory Committee for St. Lawrence (Cornwall) RAP

Janice Littlefield, U.S. Co-Chair, St. Clair River Binational Public Advisory Committee

2:20 - 4:00 **(b) Reflections on the Theory and Practice of Governing Across and Around the Connecting Channels**

Errol Meidinger, Moderator, Professor, University at Buffalo Law School, SUNY

Mark Sproule-Jones, Professor, Department of Political Science, McMaster University

Break

John Hartig, Refuge Manager, Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge

John Gannon, Secretary, Water Quality Board, International Joint Commission

4:00 - 4:45 **General Discussion: How Do the Connecting Channels Fit Into the Changing Process of Great Lakes Environmental Management?**

Lynda Schneekloth, Moderator, Professor, University at Buffalo School of Architecture & Planning, SUNY

4:45 - 5:00 **Hon. Michael Wilson**, Canadian Ambassador to the United States

Introduced by **Stephen Dunnett**, University at Buffalo Vice Provost for International Education

5:00 - 5:45 Wine and Cheese Reception

REGISTRATION: Online registration at www.glu.org/en/sharedwaters or contact conference administrator Anita Mazurek, at AMazurek@buffalo.edu or (716) 645-2071. There is a \$25 fee, includes breakfast, breaks, and lunch. Free admission with registration for all students, UB faculty and staff. Registration waivers at 645-2071.

DRIVING DIRECTIONS & PARKING: Directions to the Screening Room, Center for the Arts, UB North Campus, Buffalo, NY 14260-1100 available at: www.ubcfa.org/page/17/directions.aspx. Free conference parking in parking lots Slee A and Slee B.

QUESTIONS: Address questions about the substance of the conference to Professor Barry Boyer at boyer@buffalo.edu. Direct questions about attendance and logistics to Anita Mazurek at AMazurek@buffalo.edu or call (716) 645-2071.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: Held in collaboration with Great Lakes United's Remedial Action Planning Conference. **Sponsors:** Canadian Consulate General, Buffalo; Canadian Embassy, Washington D.C.; and the University at Buffalo's Great Lakes Program, Baldy Center for Law & Social Policy, Canadian American Studies Committee, and Environment & Society Institute.

Contributing organizations: We thank the Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper and the New York Sea Grant Program, as well as the following units of the University at Buffalo for providing support for this conference: Regional Institute, College of Arts and Sciences, and the Schools of Architecture and Planning, Law, and Engineering and Applied Sciences.

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 ERIE Ecosystem Restoration through
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Un siècle de
collaboration à
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