



Dr. Colin Carrie MP Oshawa

Government of Canada invests in new Great Lakes clean-up projects in the
St. Clair River and Detroit River Areas of Concern

News Release

For Immediate Release

Sarnia, ON July 23, 2014 – On behalf of the Honourable Leona Aglukkaq, Minister of the Environment, Minister of the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency and Minister for the Arctic Council, Dr. Colin Carrie, Member of Parliament for Oshawa and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of the Environment, was in Sarnia, Ontario, today to announce new environmental clean-up projects in the Great Lakes.

The Government of Canada's Great Lakes Sustainability Fund is contributing \$1.5 million towards 27 new projects in the Canadian Great Lakes Areas of Concern including \$413,000 for four new projects for the St. Clair River and the Detroit River Areas of Concern. With additional funding from partners, the estimated total value of the St. Clair River and Detroit River projects is \$1.86 million.

Since 1989, the Fund has supported more than 900 partnered projects to help clean up Canadian Great Lakes Areas of Concern. This work aligns with the Government of Canada's National Conservation Plan to conserve and restore our lands and waters, and connect Canadian families to our natural spaces.

Quick Facts

- Great Lakes Areas of Concern are areas where the environment and water quality are severely degraded. Restoring them is a priority because they impact the health of the ecosystem locally and collectively across the basin.
- Projects supported by the Great Lakes Sustainability Fund typically focus on restoring fish and wildlife habitat and populations, cleaning up contaminated sediment, and controlling pollution from municipal wastewater, urban storm water and rural run-off.

Quotes

"Protecting and restoring the Great Lakes are huge undertakings that align with the Government of Canada's National Conservation Plan. Together with our partners, we are working to protect Canada's lands, waters and rich natural heritage."

– Dr. Colin Carrie, Member of Parliament for Oshawa and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of the Environment

“Our Government is committed to ensuring clean water for all Canadians. By supporting community-level projects that restore environmental quality in Canada’s Great Lakes Areas of Concern, we are helping to make the communities around the Lakes better places to live, work and play.”

– Patricia Davidson, Member of Parliament for Sarnia—Lambton

“Sarnia Council welcomes the contribution by the Federal Government to the Pump Station Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) System Project. It will continue our joint commitment to protect and renew the Great Lakes.”

– Mike Bradley, Mayor, City of Sarnia

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Associated Link

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Backgrounder

The Great Lakes Sustainability Fund

Through the Great Lakes Sustainability Fund (GLSF), the Government of Canada supports projects to clean up each of Canada's 14 remaining Areas of Concern or "degraded areas" within the Great Lakes Basin.

Since 1989, the GLSF has contributed approximately \$110 million to more than 900 partnered projects to improve water quality in these areas. In 2014-2015, the GLSF will provide \$1.5 million for 27 projects.

Areas of Concern have been designated by the Governments of Canada and the United States under the Canada-United States Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. Of the 17 Areas of Concern identified on the Canadian side of the Great Lakes, three have been restored. In a further two, we have completed remedial actions and are monitoring environmental recovery prior to removing these sites from the list. In all other Canadian Areas of Concern, actions to restore water quality and ecosystem health are well advanced.

Funded Projects in the St. Clair River Area of Concern

Project: Pump Station SCADA System

Proponent: The Corporation of City of Sarnia

GLSF Funding: \$75,000

Project Description: The Pump Station Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system project will allow real-time monitoring of the flows in and out of all 56 of Sarnia's pumping stations. This is expected to significantly reduce the volume of wastewater overflows and bypasses into the St. Clair River, as well as dramatically reduce beach closures.

Project: St. Clair River Stewardship and Habitat Restoration Coordination Project

Proponent: Rural Lambton Stewardship Network

GLSF Funding: \$90,000

Project Description: The St. Clair River Stewardship and Habitat Restoration Coordination Project will focus primarily on implementing the 2012 "Riparian Habitat Implementation Plan". It is expected to create between 4-10 kilometres of shoreline buffers and restore 40 acres of coastal wetland in priority areas of the St. Clair River Area of Concern.

Project: St. Clair River Shoreline Restoration Project

Proponent: St. Clair Region Conservation Authority

GLSF Funding: \$110,000

Project Description: The St. Clair River Shoreline Restoration Project will allow 100 metres of a failing sheetpile wall in Cathcart Park to be replaced with natural stone and habitat pods where feasible. This will help to rehabilitate areas of public shoreline. This project will also provide Geographic Information Systems (GIS) support to the Canadian Remedial Action Plan Implementation Committee, to effectively track and report on progress related to the degradation of fish and wildlife habitat.

Funded Project in the Detroit River Area of Concern

Project: Detroit River Water Quality and Habitat Restoration Program

Proponent: Essex Region Conservation Authority

GLSF funding: \$138,000

Project Description: The goal of this project is to improve water quality conditions for fish and wildlife habitat within the priority watersheds of the Detroit River Area of Concern. Habitat projects such as riparian buffers, soil erosion prevention structures and rain gardens will be selected for the Turkey Creek, Little River and Canard River watersheds.