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July 2018 - Quarterly Update

Environmental News Related to Eastern Georgian Bay

Quarterly Climate Impacts and Outlook

June 2018

Several strong low pressure systems in March and April brought with them near-to-record-breaking cold temperatures as well as late season winter precipitation events. By contrast, May saw above-normal conditions for the majority of the basin.

Read more: <https://mrcc.illinois.edu/pubs/pubsGreatLakes.jsp>

Many Canadians are recycling wrong, and it's costing us millions

April 6, 2018

Canadians are throwing too much garbage into their blue bins, sometimes out of laziness or ignorance, but sometimes with the best of intentions. And it's costing recycling programs millions of dollars a year.

Even a few spoonfuls of peanut butter left in a jar can contaminate a tonne of paper and make it unmarketable — destined for the dump. Same for that glob of yogurt left in the bottom of the container. [Read more here.](#)

2017 Lake Huron Lakewide Action and Management Plan Available for Public Review

In accordance with the 2012 Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, a draft 2017 Lakewide Action and Management Plan (LAMP) has been prepared for Lake Huron and the St. Marys River, and is currently available for review and comment.

The LAMP was developed by the Lake Huron Partnership, a collaborative team of natural resource managers led by the governments of the U.S. and Canada, in cooperation and consultation with state and provincial governments, Tribal governments, First Nations, municipal governments, and watershed management agencies. The LAMP for Lake Huron identifies key priorities for the lake, and guides the coordination of binational environmental protection and restoration activities aimed at preserving and protecting Lake Huron's water quality and ecosystem health.

Read more: <https://binational.net/2017/07/21/lhlamp-pddplh/>

About the Anishinabek Nation

The Anishinabek Nation incorporated the Union of Ontario Indians (UOI) as its secretariat in 1949. The UOI is a political advocate for 40 member First Nations across Ontario. The Union of Ontario Indians is the oldest political organization in Ontario and can trace its roots back to the Confederacy of Three Fires, which existed long before European contact. Read more: <http://www.anishinabek.ca/about-us/>



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International Association for Great Lakes Research - Conference on Great Lakes Research

<http://iaglr.org/iaglr2018/program/speakers/>

Plenary speakers' talks:

- Water Security and the Science Agenda by HOWARD WHEATER, Canada Excellence Research Chair in Water Security; Founding Director of the Global Institute for Water Security, University of Saskatchewan
- A Growing Problem: Addressing Algae Blooms in the Great Lakes by DIANNE SAXE, Environmental Commissioner of Ontario
- Valuing and Managing Aquatic Ecosystem Services by ROBERT COSTANZA, Vice Chancellor's Chair in Public Policy, Crawford School of Public Policy, Australian National University
- The Carbon Footprint of Lakes: From Transformation Processes to Large-Scale Patterns by YVES PRAIRIE, Professor of Biology, Université du Québec à Montréal

IJC Great Lakes Water Quality Board's Second Binational Great Lakes Basin Poll

The International Joint Commission's Great Lakes Water Quality Board will release results of its Second Binational Great Lakes Basin Poll on Tuesday, July 10, 2018, which surveyed 4,250 Great Lakes basin residents of all ages on issues such as:

- What do you feel are key threats to the lakes?
- How important is it to protect the health and water quality of the great lakes watershed?
- How valuable are binational water protection efforts to achieve a healthy great lakes system?
- Are there too many regulations or not enough?
- How do you use and enjoy the great lakes?
- Where do you get information about the lakes?
- What role can citizens play to protect the lakes?

The 2018 poll also made a concerted effort to oversample Indigenous persons to obtain an appropriate representation of these communities and gain insights on their unique perspectives. Join Water Quality Board members Kelsey Leonard and Mark Mattson in a webinar briefing at 1:30 pm EST on Tuesday, July 10 to hear all the results. [Register here to participate in the webinar briefing.](#)

Midland painted turtle considered to be at-risk

May 3, 2018

More than a quarter of Canada's at-risk species live in southwestern Ontario — and it looks like the official list may get longer. The Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) met in Windsor last week to discuss the status of 44 Canadian animals.



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"It's really the culmination of two years of work, where we prioritize species that might be at-risk, commission status reports and discuss the status and come to a final decision at this meeting," explained Eric Taylor, a professor at the University of British Columbia and chair of COSEWIC.

One of the animals added to the committee's list was the midland painted turtle, a reptile described by the committee as being "a familiar sight along Ontario lakeshores and ponds." Read more: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/windsor/midland-painted-turtle-considered-to-be-at-risk-1.4647496>

Tree Pollen in the Water

During spring and early summer, trees such as pine and birch release pollen in large quantities. Pollen grains are very small, and are easily carried with the wind to water surfaces. This surface cover is yellowish in colour, and may appear like a paint slick or algae bloom from a distance. It can also appear as clumps, and may collect in coves, or stain rocks as water levels drop later in the summer. On the water surface, the pollen grains become waterlogged, and sink to the bottom. In fact, it is this annual release and settling of pollen that allows scientists to determine past climate conditions using lake sediment cores by determining what tree species the pollen originated from, and in what quantities it is present. Read more: <https://www.severnsound.ca/Pages/Pollen.aspx>