

STAFF REPORT: Office of The Chief Administrative Officer



REPORT TO: Council
MEETING DATE: November 9, 2009
REPORT NO.: CAO.09.11
SUBJECT: Building a Business Case for Great Lakes Investment
PREPARED BY: Paul Graham,
Chief Administrative Officer

A. Recommendation

THAT Council approve \$5,000 as the Town of The Blue Mountains' contribution to the development of a Building a Business Case for Great Lakes Investment Study and;

THAT the Chief Administrative Officer designates the appropriate staff to participate in the discussions related to this matter.

B. Background

During the spring of 2009, The Blue Mountains participated in the discussion to develop an Action Plan to assist in the protection of the Great Lakes. On May 5, 2009, several Ontario Mayors including our Mayor Ellen Anderson presented a Five Point Collaborative Action Plan to the Ontario Government, at the first ever Great Lakes Summit in Toronto, hosted by the Great Lakes & St. Lawrence Cities Initiative and the Government of Ontario.

At that time, the Mayors' proposed Five Areas of Collaboration:

1. Create a Municipal, Provincial, Federal Great Lakes table
2. Improve and promote beaches and natural shoreline
3. Attack nuisance and toxic algae
4. Reduce untreated sewage and storm water discharges to the Great Lakes
5. Build a Business Case and measure results of Great Lakes investments

At the present time, the Great Lakes & St. Lawrence Cities Initiative is working with the Ontario Government through MOE and MNR on an analytical study on the benefits of the Great Lakes and the value of investing in the Great Lakes. This work will lead to the creation of a document entitled, "Building a Business Case for Great Lakes Investment".

The Great Lakes & St. Lawrence Cities Initiative and the Ontario Government are now inviting the nine municipalities that were present at the Great Lakes Summit, on May 5, to support this initiative by making a contribution of \$5,000. The nine municipalities include Chatham-Kent, Goderich, St. Catharines, Niagara Region, Halton Region, Thunder Bay, Toronto, Kingston and The Blue Mountains. To date, Goderich and Niagara Region have made their commitment and we are now recommending that The Blue Mountains make a similar commitment. In talking to the Deputy Director of the Great Lakes & St. Lawrence Cities Initiative, they will be following up with the other municipalities in the near future.

Town staff will be involved in the discussions around the development of this Report. We will bring forward our perspective of how important the Great Lakes are to a quality of life and economic development in the Region.

C. The Blue Mountains' Strategic Plan

The Town's Strategic Plan confirms a commitment to environmental and sustainable action. It also emphasizes the importance of developing an Economic Development Strategy. This work of identifying the benefits of the Great Lakes and the value of investing in them will make a significant contribution to future planning of our community.

D. Environmental Impact

None at the present time!

E. Budget Impact

This expenditure of \$5,000 is unbudgeted. We recommend that this cost be funded from the Working Capital Reserve, which has a current balance of \$2.58 million dollars.

F. Attached

None

Respectfully submitted,

J.P. (Paul) Graham, P. Eng
Chief Administrative Officer
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