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International Joint Commission
Commission mixte internationale

September 23, 1994

The Honourable André Ouellet, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Department of Foreign Affairs
125 Sussex Drive
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0G2

Dear Mr. Ouellet:

The International Joint Commission has completed its review of the Stage 3 Remedial Action Plan (RAP) for the Collingwood Harbour Area of Concern and is pleased to inform you that it is the view of the Commission that Collingwood Harbour no longer has the attributes of an Area of Concern as described in the revised 1978 Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. The Commission congratulates all those involved in this important effort.

As is more fully described in the attached comments, an outstanding effort has been made by federal, provincial and municipal agencies in partnership with the community to restore beneficial uses in Collingwood Harbour. Monitoring has indicated that beneficial uses are no longer impaired as a result of local source activity. The Commission also expects that ongoing monitoring will help assure that other problems do not emerge in the future.


Collingwood Harbour is the first of the 43 Areas of Concern around the Great Lakes to reach the Stage 3 and to have cleaned the use impairments that were so apparent just a few years ago. To be 'first' is a matter of some international significance. Those involved deserve the highest commendation. The Harbour meets the test of being 'drinkable, fishable and swimmable', and accordingly we salute the people who made this important milestone possible.

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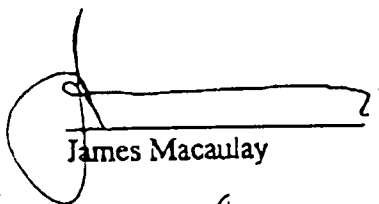
The Commission's review was carried out pursuant to Annex 2 of the revised 1978 Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. Consistent with its current policy, the Commission intends to release these comments to the public.

A similar letter is being sent to the United States Secretary of State.

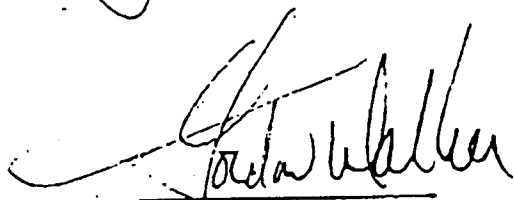
Sincerely,


Claude Lanthier, ing.


Thomas Baldini


James Macaulay


Susan Bayh


Gordon Walker


Alice Chamberlin

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