

Center For Environmental Information Awarded \$37,566 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Grant To Support Protection Of Lake Ontario

The Center for Environmental Information (CEI) has been awarded a grant of \$37,566 from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to aid the effort to preserve and protect the aquatic resources of New York's North Coast, the Lake Ontario shoreline. This grant is in direct response to ideas generated at the New York's North Coast: A Troubled Coastline Conference held May 3, 2002. The North Coast stretches for 300 miles through seven counties on Lake Ontario's south shore, from the Niagara River in the west to the St. Lawrence River in the east.

This grant will enable CEI to initiate a community-based regional Network, intended to become a self-sustaining structure for development and implementation of a comprehensive program to protect and restore vulnerable wetlands and aquatic resources of New York's Lake Ontario coastal region. The project will provide tools and information to improve the capacity of the region's communities, agencies and citizens to work more cost-effectively with state, federal and international agencies, and each other.

With the aid of the North Coast Initiative Steering Committee and through community-based workshops in the Lake Ontario

shoreline counties, CEI will be responsible for the creation of:

1. A working Lake Ontario New York North Coast Initiative Network of governments, agencies, organizations and individuals.
2. Contact list of North Coast stakeholders: individuals, organizations, and agencies.
3. Database of information pertaining to the wetlands, coastal waters, embayments, and other pertinent information about the Lake Ontario Basin. It will include inventory of wetlands mapping, monitoring and mitigation, references to federal and state law, local ordinances and regulations; past and current research, funding sources, and current projects and priorities regarding protection, remediation and restoration.

CEI and the North Coast Initiative Steering Committee look forward to listening to and working with the shoreline communities, organizations, agencies and other stakeholders as we begin to tackle the difficult issues facing this vital resource.

For more information on this working group and our activities contact John Terninko, Program Coordinator, at the Center for Environmental Information at 585-262-2870 or via email at terninko@frontiernet.net.

The Center for Environmental Information Contemplates its Future

Two years ago we celebrated the 25th anniversary of the Center for Environmental Information. We took a long look back at CEI's accomplishments, the persons, groups and corporations that provided unwavering support to our efforts, and congratulated ourselves on the work we had done to ensure enlightened environmental decisions in this part of New York State.

Now, after a quarter-century of meeting the environmental information needs of

this Community, CEI's Board of Directors has decided that it is essential that we re-assess the environmental information needs of this Community to determine what the Center should be doing in the future.

It seems to us that there's more that needs to be done. Surely there are still environmental groups that arise with each new intrusion by "progress" into a wetland, wildlife habitat, or environmentally sensitive area.

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ARE WE LOSING OUR COASTAL WATERS?

Don't miss the annual Community Salute to the Environment with Speaker, Dr. Robert Howarth, one of the world's leading authorities on the *sources and consequences of human alteration of the global nitrogen cycle*.

October 29, 6:00 p.m., Hyatt Regency
Contact CEI at 585-262-2870 for ticket information

In Our Opinion Environmental Values And The County Budget

What is the value of the natural resources and environmental programs in our community, and how much are we willing to pay for them? These are questions Monroe County residents need to ask themselves in view of the proposed County budget cuts.

The County Administration has been very supportive of efforts to protect and enhance environmental resources. The current budget crisis will require extra effort from all of us, if we are to retain environmental programs and services which we often take for granted.

CEI is pleased that the Administration has found ways to restore some cuts originally proposed, including weekday closure of County parks. Now a bi-partisan Legislature must work with the County Administration to ensure that means are found to retain several significant environmental programs whose elimination would result in severe long term costs to taxpayers and the environment.

The Bureau of Environmental Quality in the County Health Department monitors the health of our streams, river, bays, and beaches, deals with environmental crises, e.g., West Nile virus and avian botulism, coordinates stormwater runoff control strategies, sponsors water quality education programs, and staffs the County Environmental Man-

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ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVISM

WOLVES COMING TO IRONDEQUOIT

Irondequoit High School Gymnasium will be the site of a program "Mission: Wolf Education vs. Extinction." Sponsored by the Helmer Nature Center, the program will take place on November 1 from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. Meet ambassador wolf, Rami, and wolf puppy, Luna. Contact the Nature Center at 585-336-3035 for information about tickets.

GROUPS SEEK TO PROTECT SENECA PARK

Eight preservation, environmental and neighborhood groups and three individuals have filed a lawsuit asking the state Supreme Court to stop Monroe County's plan to expand parking for the Seneca Park Zoo. The groups allege that the county, by approving the plan, failed to protect Seneca Park for the benefit of the people of Monroe County. Seneca Park was originally designed by Frederick Law Olmstead, the landscape architect who designed Central Park and other well known natural areas. Joining in the lawsuit are the Landmark Society of Western New York, National Association for Olmstead Parks, the Preservation League of New York State, Friends and Neighbors of Seneca Park, Monroe County People for Parks, Group 14621 Neighborhood Association, the Maplewood Neighborhood Association and the Burroughs Audubon Center, along with 3 nearby residents.

LAND TRUST PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

The Genesee Land Trust is sponsoring a photography contest. Only photographs of nature taken within the Genesee region will be considered. Deadline for submission to the Spectrum Gallery is Friday, November 22. Juried Exhibition will occur from December 6 to January 4, with all proceeds benefiting the Land Trust.

TAX BREAK FOR HYBRID CARS

If you buy a hybrid car, you're eligible for a federal tax incentive. The IRS has declared that gasoline/electric hybrids are eligible for tax deductions as clean fuel vehicles under the Energy Policy Act of 1992. Deductions for each model are allowed up to \$2000. Congress is currently considering tax benefits for a range of passenger and commuter vehicles, including hybrids, battery electric vehicles, and buses and trucks powered by fuel cells and other alternative fuels. *Source: Union of Concerned Scientists*

NEW YORK STATE BUDGET NEWS

The state budget that was passed by the legislature this year used a compromise to resolve last year's stand-off when the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) appropriation was cut to zero. Usually \$125 million per year flows into the fund from dedicated revenue, and is appropriated for specific environmental programs. Highlights of the final deal: \$250 million was appropriated for two years; \$21 million of the \$250 million was diverted for general fund relief; \$235 million in cash was transferred out of the legally-dedicated Environmental Protection Fund for additional general fund relief.

In total, the state removed \$256 million of previously legally-dedicated Environmental Protection Fund monies for general fund relief, and appropriated \$229 million for Environmental Protection Fund Clean Water, Open Space, Parks and environmental projects. This "transfer out" leaves less than one dollar in the fund for every two dollars of outstanding appropriations and project commitments. State officials hope that funds in the account will be able to meet commitments as they come due. Some call the transfer a loan, but no repayments are scheduled. The budget did include \$76 million for two years of open space acquisitions and an additional \$29.5 million for farmland protection and stewardship. *Source: William Janeway, Director of Government Relations, Nature Conservancy of New York*

NEW YORK STATE ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY DOCUMENTATION PROJECT

The New York State Archives, through its Documentary Heritage Program has awarded a grant to the library at SUNY Albany to address the under-documentation of environmental issues. The project is attempting to identify groups and individuals active in environmental affairs, past or present, in New York State and survey groups that hold records which document any aspect of the history and activity of the environmental movement in New York State.

To obtain more information about the survey and the project contact Joan Seidman, Archival Consultant, jseidmal@nycap.rr.com or 518-437-3934.

MERCURY THERMOMETER DISPOSAL BILL

The U.S. Senate, with bi-partisan support, has passed a bill that would restrict the

sale of mercury thermometers and require a national plan for mercury stockpiling and disposal. The legislation would establish a grant program to help consumers nationwide exchange mercury thermometers for digital or other alternatives. The House is expected to pass a similar bill in the next session.

Source: BNA Environment Reporter

STRATOSPHERIC OZONE LAYER IS RECOVERING

According to new scientific evidence from the UN Environment Program and the World Meteorological Organization, the Earth's protective ozone layer is showing signs of recovery. Data reveal that levels of ozone depleting gases are now at or near their projected peak in the stratosphere (upper atmosphere) but have begun to decline in the troposphere (lower atmosphere). However, scientists predict that the ozone layer will remain particularly vulnerable during the next decade or so. The data seem to confirm the success of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer which mandated phaseout of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) beginning in 1987.

Source: BNA Environment Reporter

AGENCY PREDICTS BIG RISE IN CARBON DIOXIDE EMISSIONS IN NEXT 30 YEARS.

The International Energy Agency in Paris has said that a rapid increase in energy use for the coming 30 years will result in carbon emissions rising to about 38 billion tons by 2030, representing 16 billion tons more carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, or about 70 percent above today's level. Fossil fuels will remain the dominant source of energy, filling more than 90 percent of new demand and leading to ongoing global environmental degradation. The lion's share of new emissions will come from developing countries, with China alone expected to add 3.6 billion tons of new emissions by 2030.

Source: BNA Environment Reporter; full report available at www.iea.org.

REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE

The assistance of the Daily Record in printing this issue is greatly appreciated.

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Who's there to assist these people who want to protect the last of Nature's treasures. When the infamous "they" don't seem to want to listen, who is it that will provide a forum for reasoned discourse, a path back from the next environmental summit? Still further, there might be other purposes to which we can apply CEI's reputation for clear, concise, balanced perspective on environmental issues.

Last year we began a process that drew in maximum input from our membership, past Boards of Directors, the current Board. We also needed the view of "outsiders" who are also stakeholders in the future of a quality environment in this Region and State. The process we chose began with a series of focus groups that tried to draw out as many perceptions of CEI, its past, present and future. With this, we have developed a survey document that assembles the ideas from the focus groups into reaction-type questions. This questionnaire will allow us to quantify responses from as many environmentally conscious participants, as possible. Out of this, we'll develop recommendations for the future of CEI for the Board to accept, modify or reject.

The most important element of this process is participation, by the members and friends of CEI. Without a broad range of participants, our decision will be under-informed, and at best, a guess that might only embarrass us, in the years to come.

Please take a few quiet moments to respond to the questionnaire when you receive it. Right now, this is the most important "support" you can give to our effort.

Thank you.

Lee Loomis
Chair, Long Range Planning Committee

CEI Sphere

published by the
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Rochester, NY 14604-1314
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Printed on recycled paper.

RESOURCES

FINGER LAKES ENERGY \$SMART COMMUNITIES: PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES WITHIN THE REGION

By Phillip J. Landrigan, Herbert L. Needleman and Mary Landrigan, St. Martin's Press

Communities in the Finger Lakes region now have resources available to reduce their energy costs. Finger Lakes Energy \$smart Communities was launched to assist with energy-related community projects aimed at creating environmental, economic, and social benefits for the region. The program is one of seven local partnerships, under the umbrella of the New York Energy \$smart Communities program developed by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA). In the Finger Lakes Region, the program is managed by the Genesee/ Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council.

Will Poppe, Finger Lakes Energy \$smart Coordinator, oversees community-based projects, engages local partners who contribute to projects, and helps match projects with State and local resources. NYSERDA supports the program by offering assistance for

energy-efficiency improvements and renewable energy. For example, NYSERDA offers low-interest loans, technical assistance, and cash incentives to help residents or businesses with anything from purchasing an Energy Star® refrigerator to building a "green" office building.

To learn more about Finger Lakes Energy \$smart Communities, please contact Will Poppe, Finger Lakes Energy \$smart Coordinator at 585-454-0190 x 21 or wpoppe@gflrpc.org.

RAISING HEALTHY CHILDREN IN A TOXIC WORLD: 101 SMART SOLUTIONS FOR EVERY FAMILY

This publication discusses many environmental dangers that parents and their children face and provides strategies for avoiding those dangers. Topics include allergens, asbestos, contaminated water, heavy metals, herbicides, household chemicals, pesticides, phthalates, pressure-treated wood, radon, solvents, and unsafe foods. The authors are some of the nation's leading experts on pediatric health and toxics.

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agement Council, the advisory body to county government on environmental matters.

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Monroe County provides environmental information to consumers, youth, horticulturalists, farmers and agribusinesses.

Monroe County Soil and Water Conservation District, the Humane Society and the fish hatchery in Powder Mill Park, and the Rochester Museum and Science Center's Cumming Nature Center provide important services not duplicated by any other agency.

Funding reductions for these programs would especially impact water resources of the County. This is ironic because our water resources, including Lake Ontario, Irondequoit Bay, the Genesee River and Erie Canal, are the very essence of what makes Monroe County a special place for people to live, work, and visit.

Recognizing the fiscal constraints facing the County due to state mandates, the CEI Board of Directors makes the following recommendations to our **County elected officials of both parties:**

- Postpone those cuts that would result in irreversible loss of environmental staff, programs, facilities, and leveraged funds.

- Find alternative funding for threatened programs; e.g., user fees, adopt-a-park, a surcharge on water bills or pure waters assessments.
- Determine the extent of community support for environmental programs and clarify their short term and long term costs and benefits.

Our natural resources belong to all of us and a healthy environment, hand in hand with a healthy economy, is fundamental to our well-being. Public input and understanding are the essential links between citizens and government when important public decisions that affect us are made.

CEI stands ready to work with the County as facilitator, educator and communicator to insure that both the short term effects and the long term costs of environmental program reductions are understood and addressed by our whole community.

Board of Directors, CEI

CEI, as a local nonprofit organization, is dedicated to promoting public understanding, providing balanced information, and offering a forum for the exchange of views about the environment.

Law Course Participants Represent Broad Range Of Interests

The 23rd Survey Course in Environmental Law has attracted interested citizens, as well as persons affiliated with a broad range of area wide organizations and local governments.

Participants are affiliated with Haley & Aldrich of New York; Broccolo Tree & Lawn Care; Monroe County Health Department; Corneles Engineering; Town of Sweden, Irondequoit Planning Board, Monroe County Department of Planning and Development; RIT Campus Safety; McQuaid Jesuit High School; Citizens Campaign for the Environment; Seneca Lake Pure Water Association; City of Rochester; Victor Conservation Board; Town of Victor; Chili Zoning Board; and Chili Conservation Board.

Faculty for the four session course includes attorneys with Nixon Peabody, Jaekle Fleischmann & Mugel, Woods Oviatt Gilman; Underberg & Kessler; Bansbach, Zoghlin, Wicks & Wahl; Knauf Shaw, Eastman Kodak; Harter Secrest & Emery; and the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation.

The course was organized by Alan Knauf and Peter Bush.

Nominees for Hugh Cumming Award to be Recognized at Community Salute to the Environment

A stellar group of nominees for the 2002 Hugh Cumming Environmental Quality Award will be recognized on October 29 at the Annual Community Salute to the Environment.

Individuals who have been nominated for this year's award by members of the community are Ken Pike, Katherine Snyder, Patricia Dann, Florence Muller, and Susanne Quarterman .

Organizations nominated for the award are The Nature Conservancy; Otetiana Council, Boy Scouts of America; Canandaigua Lake Watershed Council; Monroe County Department of Health, Bureau of Environmental Quality; Finger Lakes-Lake Ontario Water

Protection Alliance; and Finger Lakes Land Trust.

Hugh Cumming, for whom the award is named, was a civic leader and President and CEO of Curtice-Burns (now Agri-Link). Cumming was a long time CEI Board member, serving as treasurer and vice-president. He initiated the plans to give an annual award to an individual or organization that had made significant contributions to the environmental quality of the Rochester-Genesee-Finger Lakes region.

ERROR—CEI's 2001 Annual Report inadvertently left out the name of Passero Associates, a long time supporter of CEI, among the list of Members. Our sincere apologies. Passero Associates and its CEO Gary Passero typify our region's community spirit and we are proud to have them as CEI members.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Fall is the time to renew your membership in CEI. We try to minimize the expense of contacting each and every one of you with too many reminders. Please respond when you receive your renewal notice. You are CEI's most important natural resource and we need your support to continue our free public information services and programs. Thank you so much for your contribution to insure an environmentally informed community.



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