

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

**PARTNERSHIP** has been the hallmark of CEI's 2003 program year. From the Lake Ontario Coastal Initiative, to the Rochester Green Business Network, to Project Saving Energy, CEI's Board of Directors, staff and Partners have been proactively leading the way toward protection and sustainable use of our air, water and land resources.

Building upon the recommendations of our Long Range Planning Committee, CEI has undertaken programs and services that would otherwise be neglected, and that are vital to the ecological and economic health of the water-rich upstate New York region we call home.

The **Lake Ontario Coastal Initiative**, was spearheaded by CEI, based on research of SUNY Brockport's **Dr. Joseph Makarewicz**, will be supported by federal funds secured by **Congressman James T. Walsh**, and is being guided by a multi-organizational Steering Committee.

The **Rochester Green Business Network**, organized by board member **Lorna Midgelow**, attracted 50 companies, professional organizations and institutions as charter members.

**Saving Energy**, a project led by board member **Lee Loomis** to evaluate energy demand reduction strategies and

awareness in the Rochester metropolitan region, is involving over 70 community leaders, energy professionals and citizens.

These programs, along with CEI's on-going **free public information services**, are described in the following pages.

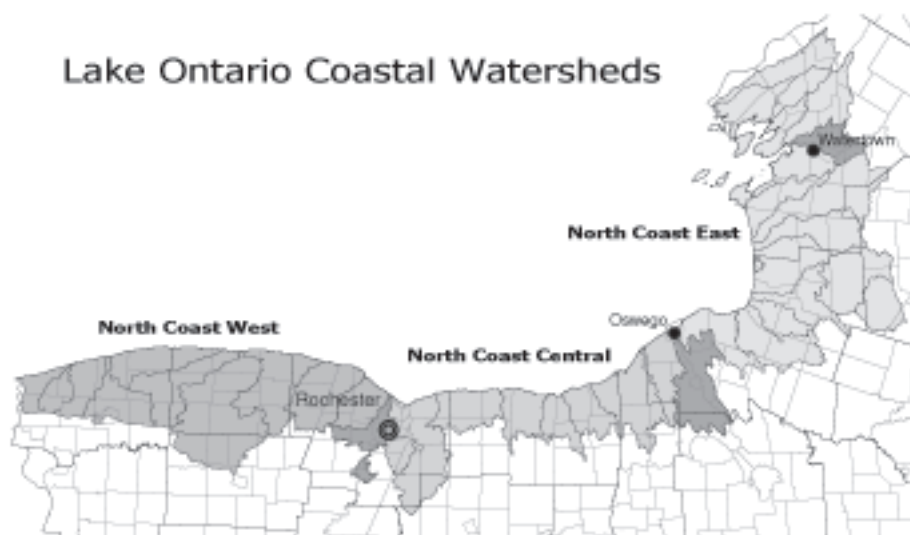
I am pleased to relate that CEI's Board of Directors welcomed four new members in 2003: **Diane Abbott**, assistant vice-president of HSBC Bank, USA; **Mark Gregor**, manager of the City of Rochester's Division of Environmental Quality; **Evan Lowenstein**, executive director of the

Common Good Planning Center; and **Dr. Joseph Makarewicz**, Distinguished Professor of Biological Sciences at SUNY Brockport.

This report highlights our programs and services and identifies the many individuals, organizations, businesses and agencies that have committed time or dollars to CEI in order to advance

public understanding of environmental issues. To all of you who have valued and supported the programs and services which CEI uniquely offers to the Rochester metropolitan area and beyond, our sincere thanks and appreciation.

S. Ram Shrivastava,  
Chairman, Board of Directors



## About the Center

The Center for Environmental Information (CEI) is a private, non-profit, educational organization, founded in Rochester, New York, in 1974. CEI provides information and communication services, publications, and educational programs in order to:

- advance public understanding of environmental issues;
- act as a communication link among scientists, educators, decision makers and the public;
- advocate informed action based on the free exchange of information and ideas.

Membership in CEI and the Rochester Green Business Network (RGBN) is open to individuals, organizations, agencies, and businesses.

Center for Environmental Information  
55 St. Paul Street  
Rochester, New York 14604  
Phone (716) 262-2870  
email: ceiroch@frontiernet.net

Fax: (716) 262-4156  
www.ceinfo.org

# Services and Programs

## **Free Public Information Services**

CEI is the only organization in the region that responds to environmental information queries from all who need to know—teachers, students, local officials, local governments, businesses and citizens. Our free reference and referral services—based on comprehensive, not selective, resources—are relied upon for accuracy and credibility. These services are supported solely by our members.

A sampling of the questions to which CEI staff responded include: *How can I tell if products I am buying are “green” products, produced so as to minimize environmental impacts?* Can you send me information on impacts of pharmaceutical wastes on organisms that I am studying for a science fair project? *What is the status of the federal government proposal to allow drilling for natural gas in the Finger Lakes National Forest?* Will mercury emissions of a given plant decrease in proportion to the decrease in sulfur dioxide or nitrogen oxides using today’s technology? *How does New York State take into account the effect of erosion, sedimentation and runoff when the owner of a parcel logs the land before submitting plans for subdivision?* How do I reach the Rochester Environmental Commission? *My class raised money to buy two acres of rain forest; how come they are still cutting the forests down when we bought them?* Will we have health problems from exposed asbestos from an oil furnace that is being replaced? *Where can I find a guest speaker for a program on invasive species such as the toxic plant, Giant Hogweed?* Can you direct us to attorneys in your area who represent citizens in land use and environmental cases? *Where can I find a directory of companies in western New York that are developing or distributing alternative energy products and services?* Whom do I notify that someone is dumping waste into the Genesee River at the Stutson St. bridge? *Can you put us in touch with organizations in New York State that could help protect land in Herkimer County?* How do I find out if the land behind my house is a protected wetland?

## **Lake Ontario Coastal Initiative**

Lake Ontario, a resource of global significance, is part of the largest system of surface freshwater on the Earth. The health of the coastal zone, where most people live, work, recreate and visit, is critically important to the environmental quality and economic vitality of upstate New York.

With a grant from U.S. EPA Region 2, CEI spearheaded the Lake Ontario Coastal

Initiative. Working with our partners on the Lake Ontario Coastal Initiative Steering Committee, SUNY Brockport Department of Environmental, and the Finger Lakes–Lake Ontario Water Protection Alliance we began formation of a community-based regional network to develop and implement a comprehensive program to remediate and restore the Lake Ontario Coastal region. Known as New York’s North Coast, the 300 mile long coastal region extends from the Niagara River to the St. Lawrence River.

Over 1000 concerned individuals and organizations in seven counties were identified and a networking data base was created. A portion of CEI’s website was designed to serve as a growing information resource for coastal zone stakeholders.

With additional funding from the Rochester Area Community Foundation, three coastal community workshops were held to insure broad public participation in addressing coastal issues.

The highlight of this work in progress was the news that **Congressman James T. Walsh (25<sup>th</sup> Dist. NY)** secured a \$250,000 grant for CEI to lead preparation of a strategic plan to guide short term and long term research, restoration, remediation and outreach that will result in protection and sustainable use of the North Coast for future generations. SUNY Brockport and the Finger Lakes–Lake Ontario Water Protection Alliance will be our principal partners for this effort to be undertaken as part of an EPA program.

## **Rochester Green Business Network**

Economic vitality and environmental quality are inextricably linked. The RGBN was launched with a March seminar, keynoted by **NYS Environmental Conservation Commissioner Erin Crotty**, in order to disseminate best practices in energy and environmental management and to demonstrate that what is good for the environment is also good for a business ‘bottom line.’ Some 50 like-minded businesses, institutions and environmental professionals, who share a mutual concern for the state of our environment, became charter members of this new program in 2003.

The Network scheduled seminars and field trips to such sites as Harbec Plastics (renewable and alternative energy), Eastman Kodak paper making plant (energy and water efficiency) Monroe County Hazardous Waste Facility (disposal for small businesses). Networking links with other environmental and business associations were established, and EPA Region 2 invited the

fledgling program to become a regional partner for their Performance Track Members Roundtable in New York City.

## **Project Saving Energy**

Global warming, caused by overuse of fossil fuels, is the cumulative impact of countless local decisions about energy use. Supported by a grant from the NYS Energy Research and Development Authority, CEI began the process of evaluating public awareness of existing resources for energy demand reduction strategies and technologies for commercial and residential consumers in the Rochester metropolitan region. Over 70 community leaders, energy professionals and citizens are involved in the study. Recommendations for how and where to accelerate outreach and marketing in the region, will assist the Authority in its evaluation of the Systems Benefit Charge program which provides funds for projects that contribute to energy efficient products and services and an expanded renewable energy market.

## **Other Programs and Publications**

“**Acid Rain: Are the Problems Solved?**”, edited by CEI Board member **Dr. James C. White**, was published by the American Fisheries Society with the cooperation of the Ecological Society of America. This volume contains the papers given at the May 2001 conference in Washington, D.C. sponsored by CEI.

Four quarterly issues of the **CEI SPHERE** Members’ Newsletter were produced, as well as the **2002 Annual Report**.

**Dr. Richard H. Moss**, Director of the U.S. Climate Change Science Program Office was the featured speaker at the Annual Community Salute to the Environment in October. Dr. Moss spoke on the role of science in addressing critical issues of society. Proceeds from this event support CEI’s free public information services.

An Environmental Law Update was held in October, addressing **New Superfund and Brownfields Development Law**. Environmental attorneys from area firms served as faculty for the presentations which attracted business owners, contractors, consultants and citizens.

**Chris Fredette**, long time (and only) editor of CEI’s **Directory of Environmental Organizations and Agencies in the Rochester-Genesee-Finger Lakes Region**, began the update of this frequently referenced publication which will be available on CEI’s web-site in 2004.

# 2003 Sources of Financial Support

*We extend our thanks to all members and supporters of CEI and our grateful appreciation to the following donors who have contributed \$50 or more this year.*

*CEI is funded by contributions, grants, memberships, program fees, and contracts for specific services or programs. CEI is incorporated as a nonprofit educational organization under Section 501 c (3) of the In-*

*ternal Revenue Code. All contributions are fully tax-deductible.*

*Contributions to the Center for Environmental Information Fund endowment at the Rochester Area Community Foundation help support CEI's free public information services. Donations should be sent in care of the Fund, to the Rochester Area Community Foundation, 500 East Avenue, Rochester, New York 14607 (585 271 4100; www.racf.org).*

## Grants, Contracts, Rochester Green Buisness Network Members

### **\$1000 and above**

#### **GOVERNMENT AGENCIES**

New York State Energy Research and Development Authority  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

#### **FOUNDATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS,**

#### **CORPORATE**

Arch Chemical  
Bausch & Lomb  
Eastman Kodak Company  
HSBC Bank  
Rochester Area Community Foundation  
Siemens Building Technologies, Inc.  
University of Rochester

### **\$100-999 and RGBN Affiliates**

Bergman & Associates  
Boylan, Brown, Code, Vigdor & Wilson LLP  
Burleigh Instruments Inc.

City of Rochester  
Clark Patterson Associates  
Daily Record  
Ecology & Environment  
Energy & Environmental Research Associates  
ENSR International  
Environmental Research Management Co.  
ENVIRON  
Erdman & Anthony Associates  
Farash Corporation  
Foodlink  
Haley & Aldrich  
Harbec Plastics  
Jaেকে, Fleischmann & Mugel  
Karpus Investment Management Inc.  
Knauf Shaw LLP  
Larsen Engineers  
LC Properties  
LeCesse Construction Corporation  
Lori's Natural Foods Center  
Marcor

Martino Flynn  
M/E Engineering  
Mott's Incorporated  
Navalis Company  
Nixon Peabody LLP  
Paradigm Environmental Services  
Parrone Engineering  
Passero Associates  
Pathfinder Engineers LLP  
RJ Taylor Construction  
Rochester Business Alliance  
Rochester Garden Club  
Rochester Gas & Electric Corporation  
Save Our Sodus  
Sear Brown  
Solara Concepts  
Southco  
SWBR Architects  
Underberg & Kessler  
Wegmans Food Markets  
Woods, Oviatt, Gilman, Sturman & Clark  
Xerox Corporation

## Individual Membership Support

### **Life Members \***

James and Joan Atwater  
Gail F. Burke  
Mr. & Mrs. William Burwell  
Dwight R. Chamberlain  
Colby Chandler  
Mr. & Mrs. Edward P. Curtis, Jr.  
James Foley  
Martha M. Gates  
Georgia P. Gosnell  
Frank M. Hutchins  
Ann Wilcox Jones  
Carolyn Marsh  
Mary Soons McCarty  
Paul A. Miller  
Juliana Potter  
Mr. & Mrs. Walt Scott  
Edward & Elizabeth Thorndike  
Mr. & Mrs. Sterling Weaver  
Henry W. Williams, Jr.

### **\$2000 and above**

Anonymous

### **\$200-999**

Peter and Beverly French  
Frances S. Gotcsik  
Elizabeth Thorndike  
James C. White

### **\$100-199**

Edwin Atwood  
R. Hays Bell  
Beatrice Bibby  
Harlan Brumsted  
Peter Bush  
Dr. & Mrs. Albert Craig  
Dr. Andrew Doniger  
Elizabeth Essley  
Kevin Flynn  
Donald Forsyth  
Dr. & Mrs. Robert Gulick  
William Hallahan  
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas F. Judson, Jr.  
Salvatore LaBella  
Haines B. Lockhart, Jr.  
Lee Loomis  
Joseph Makarewicz  
Lorna Midgelow  
Elizabeth Pixley  
Georgiana Prince  
Frank R. Shumway, Jr.  
Sterling Weaver

### **\$50-99**

Mr. & Mrs. Alan Bernstein  
Ronald Brand  
F.E. Browning  
Sonya L. Burgher  
Don Burton  
Mr. & Mrs. Wilmot Castle  
Dr. Elise DePapp  
Marshall Henry  
Carol & Kenneth Jackman  
Mrs. A.D. Kaiser, Jr.  
Alan Knauf  
Douglas LaBudde  
Dr. & Mrs. John Leddy  
Evan Lowenstein  
Michael Mercier  
Kerry Mitchell  
Dr. & Mrs. John H. Morton  
Dr. & Mrs. Franklin Peale  
Terry M. Richman  
June Rogoff  
Judy Selig  
Melvin J. Wentland  
James Winebrake

## In-kind contributions

Cohber Press  
Daily Record  
Martino Flynn

## Group Affiliates

Genesee West Audubon Society  
Greece Environmental Board  
Helmer Nature Center  
7<sup>th</sup> District Federated Garden Clubs of NY

\* Life members are donors who have contributed \$1000 or more in one year.

## HUGH E. CUMMING ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY AWARD

This award is presented to an individual or organization that has made a significant contribution to environmental protection, improvement, or education in the Rochester-Genesee-Finger Lakes region.

2003 RECIPIENT: **Bob Bechtold**, president of Harbec Plastics in Ontario, New York, a manufacturer of customized plastic parts for industrial clients, has made his personal commitment to environmental protection into an economically feasible, steadily growing green enterprise. A wind turbine produces 25% of the company's electrical needs while eliminating the annual addition of 375 tons of carbon dioxide emissions into the atmosphere. Eighty percent of the vehicle fleet is electric, hybrid, or alternate fuel powered. A recently built

"green warehouse" follows national standards for sustainable building and architecture. Scrap plastic materials are re-used or re-processed into plastic lumber and other products which benefit the environment. Harbec Plastics applies co-generation (combined heat and power) to further reduce energy costs by use of compressed natural gas to run micro-turbine generators to produce electricity. The engine exhaust provides heat and air conditioning. Perhaps most important, Bechtold works hard to educate others about the eco-economic advantages of clean energy. His business is a model of sustainable development in practice, demonstrating that good environmental management makes good economic sense.

## REGINALD W. HARTWELL VOLUNTEER AWARD

This award is given in recognition of exemplary volunteer service to CEI.

2003 RECIPIENT: **Lorna Middelow**, a member of the CEI Board of Directors, conceived, initiated and implemented the Rochester Green Business Network (RGNB), CEI's newest program to pro-

mote good environmental management in businesses throughout the Greater Rochester region. In just seven months the program attracted over 60 businesses to its seminars, field trips and networking opportunities.

## LAKE ONTARIO COASTAL INITIATIVE STEERING COMMITTEE

### Arleen Kreusch

International Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River Study Board

### Betsy Landre

Finger Lakes-Lake Ontario Watershed Protection Alliance

### Lee Loomis

Center for Environmental Information

### Dr. Joseph Makarewicz

SUNY Brockport, Department of Biological Sciences

### Dr. Jack Manno

Great Lakes Research Consortium

### Dixon Rollins

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, Region 8

### Dr. Frank Sciremammamo

Rochester Institute of Technology, Department of Mechanical Engineering

### Edward Wheeler

Save Our Sodas, Inc.

### Robert Williams

Wayne County Soil and Water Conservation District

### Molly Thompson

New York Sea Grant

### Dr. Elizabeth Thorndike

Center for Environmental Information



## SPEAKERS AT CEI PROGRAMS

### Bob Bechtold

President, Harbec Plastics

### Kevin Bricke

U.S. EPA, Region 2

### Commissioner Erin Crotty

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

### Paul DeCottis

NYS Energy Research and Development Authority

### Jack DiEnna

Geothermal Heat Pump Consortium

### Jim Gilbert

Empire State Development

### Newton Green

Rochester Institute of Technology

### Steve Green

Nucor Steel

### Alan J. Knauf, Esq.

Knauf Shaw LLP

### Assemblyman David Koon

NYS Assembly

### Richard H. Moss, Ph.D.

Director, U.S. Climate Change Science Program Office

### Nabil Nasr

Rochester Institute of Technology

### Mike Scott

ENVIRON

### Linda R. Shaw, Esq.

Knauf Shaw LLP

### John Smigelski

Community Energy, Inc.

### Peter Smith

Sear Brown

### Paul Sylvestri, Esq.

Harter, Secrest & Emery

### Thomas Walsh, Esq.

Jaeckle, Fleischmann & Mugel

## STAFF, CONSULTANTS, INTERNS

### Katie Belodoff

Intern

### Beth Herz

Intern

### Vera B. Doyle

Library Assistant

### S. Christine Fredette

Directory Editor

### Robert L. Fredette

Computer Consultant

### Shirley G. Sherman

Office Manager

### John Terninko

Program Director

### Elizabeth Thorndike

Acting Executive Director

### James C. White

Scientific Consultant

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Diane Abbott

### Kevin Flynn

Martino Flynn LLC

### Mark Gregor

City of Rochester

### Frances S. Gotcsik, Secretary

Friends of the Genesee Valley Greenway

### Dan Hall

Editorial Page Editor, Daily Messenger Post Newspapers

### William Hallahan

Nazareth College

### Lee M. Loomis

Rochester Gas & Electric Corp., retired

### Evan M. Lowenstein

Common Good Planning Center

### Joseph Makarewicz, Ph.D.

SUNY Brockport

### Lorna Middelow

ENVIRON International Corporation

### Hugh Mitchell

Rochester Regional Group Sierra Club

### S. Ram Shrivastava, PE, Chair

Larsen Engineers

### Joseph J. Stulb, Vice Chair-Programs

Xerox Corporation

### Elizabeth Thorndike, Ph.D.

Center for Environmental Information

### JoAnn VanDegriff, Vice Chair-Finance and Treasurer

Karpus Investment Management

### Thomas F. Walsh, Esq.

Jaeckle, Fleischmann & Mugel LLP

### Bernard Weiss, Ph.D.

University of Rochester

### James C. White, Ph.D.

Professor Emeritus Cornell University