

# Great Lakes Restoration Efforts Will Find Support in Obama Administration, Alliance Says

## Discusses Election's Impact on Top Regional Issue

By Ellen Paquin

People working for Great Lakes restoration with the Alliance for the Great Lakes say the election of Barack Obama as president will usher in a favorable era for protecting the lakes from toxic pollution, invasive species, and water diversion. The Alliance hosted a conference call on the topic November 6 from its Chicago headquarters, pointing out Mr. Obama's support of Great Lakes protection measures as a senator and his pre-election pledge to provide federal funding of \$5 billion to restoration efforts, among other proposals.

The conference call featured Alliance CEO and President Cameron Davis, who also served as a senior advisor to the Obama-Biden campaign in his personal

capacity, and Michael E. Kraft, professor of public and environmental affairs and political science chairman at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay.

"We are very excited at the Alliance because of the doors that I think have opened," said Mr. Davis, who was speaking on behalf of the nonpartisan agency, but not on behalf of his campaign work. About 130 supporters of Great Lakes issues from various environmental agencies, the public, elected officials, and the media took part in the discussion.

Moments before the call Thursday, it was announced that Rahm Emanuel would be the Obama administration's chief of staff, which Mr. Davis and Mr. Kraft considered more good news for the

Great Lakes.

"I've always considered Rahm Emanuel to be the godfather of Great Lakes legislation," said Mr. Davis, pointing out that Congressman Emanuel was the first to introduce a bill to consider the Great Lakes "in a holistic way....It is a very hopeful sign for us in so many ways."

Mr. Davis, who first met Mr. Obama 10 years ago at a Lake Michigan beach clean-up in Chicago, said the president-elect "has at every turn been supportive

of Great Lakes causes."

Five measures listed in the Obama-Biden administration's commitment are the following: pledging \$5 billion in new federal funds for restoration; coming up with a "zero toxics" plan for the Great Lakes to measure pollution, identify its sources, and reduce toxic deposits; appointing a Great Lakes coordinator within the Environmental Protection Agency to oversee efforts; taking a zero tolerance approach toward invasive species, which will include stopping the discharge of the species in ballast water of ships and federally

funding efforts to prevent Asian carp invasion; avoiding further diversions of water, through the Great Lakes Compact, which Mr. Obama co-sponsored.

Earlier this year, the other potential presidential candidates, Hillary Clinton and John McCain, also were asked to make pre-election commitments to Great Lakes issues, and did so.

As the new president comes in, three things that will be important to watch will be presidential appointments to key environmental posts, new policy initiatives, and limits imposed by the federal budget, Mr.

Kraft said.

In presidential appointments, the public may see a "striking difference" between the approach of the Obama administration and the Bush administration, Mr. Kraft said, pointing out that the current administration heavily favored putting people from industry and commerce in top posts, with "very few" appointments from the scientific fields, while the incoming administration may favor more appointments from science, environmental, and research fields.

The federal budget, particularly in the face of the recent financial upheaval, will be a constraint, he cautioned.

"The new president will be severely constrained, unfortunately, particularly to go above what Congress has approved."

In policy issues, Mr. Kraft foresees perhaps a more favorable U.S./Canadian relationship regard-

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## Shoebox Gift Drive Underway

Local volunteers are collecting simple shoe box gifts including toiletries, toothbrushes, school supplies, and candy. The items will be sent to needy children around the world to be delivered at Christmas time as part of Operation Christmas Child.

Organizers hope to fill 200 shoe boxes in St. Ignace from Monday, November 17, through Monday, November 24.

Maureen Brady at The Emporium on North State Street is among those gathering school supplies. Donations can be dropped off at The Emporium between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday and by appointment Sunday.

Local boxes will be combined with eight million gift-filled shoe boxes from across the county that will be sent to children in 90 coun-

tries that have experienced suffering from natural disaster, war, terrorism, disease, famine, and poverty.

Residents can help by enlisting families, churches, Scout troops, community groups, and businesses to take part in creating shoe box gifts for needy children worldwide. Step-by-step shoe box packing instructions are available at [www.samaritanspurse.org](http://www.samaritanspurse.org) and include filling shoe boxes with school supplies, toys, necessity items, candy, and a letter of encouragement. Those interested also can sign up to join Operation Christmas Child volunteers at collection sites in the Eastern Upper Peninsula.

Since 1993, Operation Christmas Child, a project of international Christian relief organization Samaritan's Purse, has delivered more than 61 million boxes to children in about 130 countries.

## Moran Township

### Poll Workers Get Raise; Board Acts To Rid US-2 Site of Trash

By John S. DeMott

Moran Township's four election workers received a pay raise of \$2, to \$10 an hour, retroactive to the November 4 general election day, the township board decided Wednesday, November 5.

The poll workers are Kathy Stephan, Mary Sue Kunze, Thora Shepard, and Christal Marshall. The election workers put in 14.5 hours on election day, during which 70.3% of the township's 908 registered voters participated.

In other matters, the board voted to make a firm \$2,500 offer for a 0.84-acre parcel owned by Carl Goudreau at Cheeseman Road and the Doc Holle Silver Mountain Ski Hill at US-2 upon which township traffic to a warming shed intrudes. The parcel's owner had indicated that he wanted \$5,500.

The board also approved writing a letter to the owner of an

abandoned house near KOA Campground on US-2, in front of which a pile of trash had built up. The letter will request that the owner, who lives in Grand Rapids, clean up the mess or be subject to a civil infraction.

The board agreed also to let Michigan Outdoor Advertising maintain an oversize Kewadin Casino sign on US-2, providing it agrees to changes to bring the display into conformity with township law by December 31, 2009. The sign is actually two signs that were connected to create one that is both illegal and nonconforming. The township will let the sign stand as is for a year. After that, it would have to be brought into conformity by being rebuilt as two signs.

Township board members are Supervisor Jim Durm, Susan K. Dionne, Mark Spencer, LaVerne Heuer, and Kris Vallier.



Trash near this abandoned house on US-2 drew complaints to Moran Township Supervisor Jim Durm. He plans to write a letter to the owner in Grand Rapids to have the debris picked up.

## Roy Roach Released on Bond

Roy Roach of St. Ignace was released from Mackinac County Jail on a tether bond Wednesday, November 5, after Judge Beth Gibson reduced his bond from \$1 million to \$100,000 real property. Mr. Roach, 21, is being charged on three counts in the shooting death of Seth Tamlyn of St. Ignace October 28.

His preliminary examination has been rescheduled from

November 5 to Wednesday, November 26. The hearing will begin at 1:30 p.m. at 92nd District Court in St. Ignace.

As agreed by both the county prosecutor and Mr. Roach's attorney, he will be bound by an ankle tether, which allows him to remain at home, but he is not allowed to have alcohol, drugs, dangerous weapons, or firearms on the premises.

## Gros Cap Students Enjoy Wildlife Presentation



Jeff Dykehouse, curator of natural history for Mackinac State Historic Parks, shows Gros Cap School students in kindergarten through fourth grade what a porcupine is and how it lives and eats. It was part of a one-hour program Thursday, November 6, explaining Michigan's abundant fresh water and wildlife resources that Mr. Dykehouse repeats 30 times at as many schools during the fall and winter months in the U.P. and the Lower Peninsula. Gros Cap's fifth through eighth grade students enjoyed the show next.

## Mackinac Island Police To Charge for Breath Tests

By Ryan Schlehner

Individuals who are ordered by a court to take a preliminary breath test (PBT) at Mackinac Island Police Department will now be charged \$5. The money raised will help replace the Island's PBT units, which cost \$450 and are usually replaced each year, owing to frequent use.

Police Chief Jim Marks received permission from the Mackinac Island City Council Wednesday, November 5, to charge \$5 per test.

The tests measure breath alcohol content.

The Mackinaw City Police Department began charging \$5 per test May 22, but other departments in the Straits of Mackinac area, including the Michigan State Police and the Mackinac County Sheriff's Department, conduct PBTs free of charge.

Last year, 455 such tests were conducted on Mackinac Island, compared to fewer than 50 at the St. Ignace Police Department. The Mackinac County Sheriff's Department has the highest volume in the area, averaging five tests a day, or 1,825 a year.

Unlike at other police departments, officers on the Island are not equipped with portable PBT devices and must escort individuals back to the department for tests.

Tim Ahlborn, the chief corrections officer at the Sheriff's Department, said those tested are ordered by the court to come in daily, ordered by probation officers to receive tests monthly, or are brought in after being arrested.

The Sheriff's Department has at least three units at the county jail and all county law enforcement vehicles are equipped with portable testing devices.

Much of the tests on Mackinac Island, said Chief Marks, are given to summer workers who have been ordered by a court at the winter home to take scheduled tests.

### 10 Motor Vehicle Permits Approved

A temporary motor vehicle permit for a truck and a temporary trailer permit were approved by Council to Jack Barnwell of Barnwell Landscape and Garden Services to remove cut trees at a summer home near Washout Road below Stonecliffe, pending a purchase of a business license from Searles Tree Service Dump for use of a chipper machine.

Mr. Barnwell said the chipping machine would be too heavy for horses to haul.

"I understand we've [the city] slipped over the years" with enforcing a hard line on use of motor vehicles, "but we are catching up," said

Councilman Mike Hart. "I want it understood that this truck must be considered your last option, not

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## Salmon Gets a Helping Hand



This stuck salmon gets a helping human hand to make it upstream Thursday afternoon, November 5. Near death, like two other large fish that lay nearby, this approximately 28-inch long salmon was unable to power its way through about two inches of water, becoming lodged at the mouth of Hoban Creek where it flows into Lake Huron. Discovering the salmon's predicament, St. Ignace resident Donna Louwers carefully lifts the fish to deeper stream waters. The fish quickly recovered to continue its upstream journey. The fall salmon run in Michigan begins in October and ends in early November.

## Judge Charles Stark Recognized by County



Retiring Judge Charles Stark (second from left) of Munising is recognized for his five years of service to Mackinac County as 11th Circuit Court judge. County commissioners (from left) Larry Leveille, Dawn Nelson, and Calvin McPhee present him with a plaque Thursday, November 13, at a retirement celebration at the Village Inn Restaurant in St. Ignace. Judge Stark, states the plaque, "has demonstrated concerns, understanding, professionalism, along with integrity." Now, said Judge Stark, he is retraining himself for retirement, with a lot of books to read, a boat that needs attention, and he is looking forward to exploring many of the wooded roads around Munising. Judge William Carmody, also of Munising, will replace Judge Stark.

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As of now, all predictions point to a season at least as good as last year's in the Upper Peninsula, when 199,000 snowmobile trail permits were sold (at \$25 for one year) by the Michigan Secretary of

There are about 350,000 snowmobilers in Michigan, and 1.7 million nationwide.

What's encouraging this year is lower gasoline prices, said Jim Duke, president of the Michigan Snowmobilers Association.

In all, about \$1.2 billion is generated by snowmobiling in Michigan, and perhaps \$400 million of that goes to the Upper Peninsula, estimates Ed Klim of the International Snowmobile Manufacturers Association.

"The only tourist industry that's bigger than snowmobiling in Michigan," he said, "is golf."

A snowmobiling couple will spend at least \$500 on fuel, food, and lodging during a weekend. Snowmobilers are typically of above average income, ranking above recreational vehicle campers but below yachters.