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Wednesday, November 20, 2002

# Lakes protection group unveils goals

By DEANNA WENIGER

Times Herald

Unfazed by federal opposition to Lake St. Clair becoming the sixth Great Lake, champions of the waterway continued Tuesday to work to get it noticed in Congress.

Members of the Lake St. Clair/St. Clair River Management Plan Advisory Committee met in the Thomas Edison Inn in Port Huron to review a draft of goals for the waterways. The plan should be in the hands of federal lawmakers for review after September.

"We're trying to elevate Lake St. Clair and give it the attention it needs," said Mike Donahue, president of the Great Lakes Commission. "This will provide Congress with a sense of what the unmet needs are."

The management plan was authorized by Congress through Rep. David Bonior, D-Mount Clemens, in 1999 and paid for with a \$400,000 grant.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Great Lakes Commission are working to get governments, environmental groups and the general public in Canada and the United States to collaborate their efforts into one all-inclusive plan.

Members of these groups were present Tuesday as the commission unveiled its 11 goals for the waterways and sought comment.

Several made it clear they did not want the effort to end with the plan.

"(Groups) should know that they've been identified to



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DEDICATED ANGLER: Frank Burns of Kimball Township pulls in his catch, a rainbow trout, while fishing Tuesday in the St. Clair River in Port Huron.

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### MORE INFORMATION

- For details on the Lake St. Clair/St. Clair River Management Plan, go online to [www.glc.org/stclair](http://www.glc.org/stclair)

### GOALS LAKE/RIVER PROTECTION

- Land use, recreation and economic activities support a healthy ecosystem.
- Public access provides for recreation, enjoyment and cultural activities.
- A safe, adequate and affordable water supply is available at all times.

take the lead so we don't have recommendations going nowhere," said Gerry Murphy, supervisor of planning with Chatham/Kent in Ontario.

Donahue assured them the plan eventually would be put to work.

The committee agreed the plan set some lofty goals, such as Goal 4: "Water is safe for body contact at all times."

"You see these ships coming into Chemical Valley from all parts of the world, and heaven help us if we have a spill," said Frank Schoonver, a member of the St. Clair County Water Quality Board.

The chapters broke down the vision into attainable goals, such as installing real-time monitoring stations to assure rapid detection of spills.

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- Water is safe for body contact at all times.
- No restrictions on human consumption of fish and wildlife for health reasons.
- All biological communities and habitats are healthy and naturally diverse.
- Unauthorized introductions of invasive species are prevented.
- Point sources do not impair water quality.
- Nonpoint-source pollution is minimized.
- Monitoring is sufficient to track progress toward achieving plan goals.
- Public is informed and has knowledge and commitment to restore and protect.

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