Dear Mayor Ianni:

We know you share with us a great interest in and commitment to the health of Lake Ontario and its watershed.

Through the Canadian-Ontario Agreement (C.O.A.) on the Great Lakes basin, the government of Ontario, mainly through the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, undertakes many programs which are critical to the health and restoration of our Great Lakes.

We invite you to read the attached letter that we have written to Premier Dalton McGuinty, and ask that you write a similar letter to him. Furthermore, we trust you will agree that we must also encourage the federal government to increase its financial contributions to the C.O.A.

We will soon be writing to the Federal Minister of the Environment asking him to do just that, and hope that you will also.

Yours in Conservation,

Michael A. Reader  
Executive Director

MAR/jb  
Attach.
OFAH FILE: 450/525
January 23, 2006

Honourable Dalton McGuinty
Premier of Ontario
Room 281, Main Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1A4

Dear Premier McGuinty:

Subject: Canada-Ontario Agreement (C.O.A.) on the Great Lakes Basin

We wish to congratulate the Ontario government for its contributions to this provincial-federal agreement, which results in critically important improvements to the Great Lakes basin.

We also write to you at this time knowing that the process to renew the C.O.A. for its next five-year cycle should be initiated as soon as possible to ensure that the new agreement can promptly begin in 2008.

To our knowledge, Ontario significantly enhanced its contributions during the most recent past cycle with a commitment of $50 million, whereas the federal government of Canada did not fund C.O.A. beyond its base commitment to its Great Lakes Program ($40 million).

We will write to the government of Canada urging them to increase their contributions, and trust that Ontario will, at minimum, maintain its increased contributions in the next agreement.

Please let us know if we can be of any further assistance in your efforts to secure the best possible C.O.A. for the benefit of the millions of Ontario residents who live in the Great Lakes basin.

Yours in Conservation,

Michael A. Reader
Executive Director

MAR/jb

cc: Honourable Laurel Broten, Minister of the Environment
Honourable David Ramsay, Minister of Natural Resources
Peter Wallace, Deputy Minister, Office of the Premier
Gail Beggs, Deputy Minister of Natural Resources
John Wilkinson, P.A. to the Minister of the Environment
Ontario Great Lakes Mayors
O.F.A.H. Board of Directors
T. Quinn
G. Farrant

I give my pledge, as a Canadian, to save and faithfully defend from waste, the natural resources of my country – its soils and minerals, its air, water, forests, and wildlife.