



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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IJC Great Lakes Water Levels Study Welcomes New Public Member from Georgian Bay

[Burlington, ONTARIO] – The International Upper Great Lakes Study (IUGLS) announced today that Christopher Baines is joining its Public Interest Advisory Group (PIAG). Baines was recommended by the Georgian Bay Association (GBA) and was appointed recently by the International Joint Commission of the U.S. and Canada. PIAG is a 20-member binational group with representation from a wide range of interest groups throughout the upper Great Lakes that provides advice to the Study Board in order to facilitate communication to and input from the public. IUGLS is currently examining whether the regulation plan governing outflows from Lake Superior at Sault Ste. Marie might be modified to take into consideration changing interests and changing climate.

“Our public advisors play a critical role in helping the Study inform residents about their findings and in receiving input that will help in the development of actions related to water levels,” said Jim Bruce, Canadian co-chair of PIAG and member of the IUGLS Board.

“Christopher Baines brings the perfect mix of professional expertise and dedicated volunteer commitment to involving the public in critical decisions regarding the Great Lakes.”

“We believe that Chris’ background knowledge of water-related issues on Georgian Bay combined with his professional skills as a mediator and communicator will make him an asset to PIAG,” noted the letter from the GBA nominating Baines to the post.

Baines is a former president of the GBA, an umbrella group of more than 20 cottage associations, representing more than 4,000 families along the eastern and northern shores of Georgian Bay. He is currently a member of the group’s Water Committee and is also a past chair of the Ontario Land Trust Alliance. Beyond these volunteer commitments, Baines is a professional mediator in private practice in the Toronto area and formerly served as director of The Centre for the Great Lakes, among other experiences in both the public and private sector.

Baines replaces Mary Muter, whose appointment expired. Visit www.iugls.org for more information about the Study and PIAG.

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