

Resolution in support of the right of citizens to walk freely along the shore of the Great Lakes

Whereas Great Lakes United is an organization that relies on the interests, concerns, and awareness of the public regarding the state of the Great Lakes to further its goals of education, promotion, and protection; and,

Whereas the ability of the public to access the shorelines of the Great Lakes is being compromised on a daily basis by way of individuals erecting fences which extend into the Great Lakes to prevent the passage of the public along the shoreline; and,

Whereas the State of Michigan has enacted a law, upheld by its Supreme Court in 2005, declaring that all Michigan shoreline in contact with the Great Lakes is public domain from the water's edge to the high water mark; and,

Whereas a private member's bill – Bill 43, Great Lakes Shoreline Right of Passage Act – has been presented to the Ontario Legislature by MPP Kim Craitor of Niagara, modeled after the Michigan legislation; and,

Whereas this legislation acknowledges and affirms that the shoreline has traditionally and should continue to be maintained in the public domain; and,

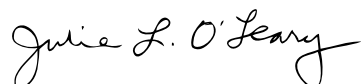
Whereas public sentiment, including that of many waterfront property owners, is in favour of the public's ability to walk the shorelines; and,

Whereas it is recognized that the more opportunities there are for the public to enjoy and interact with the beauty and uniqueness of the Great Lakes, the more people there will be who recognize and maintain an interest in the need to restore and strengthen them.

Therefore be it resolved that Great Lakes United affirm its support of the right of all citizens to walk along the shores of the Great Lakes.

Therefore be it further resolved that Great Lakes United draft a letter supporting the right of all citizens to walk along the shores of the Great Lakes and to pursue the endorsement of affiliated organizations and send this letter to applicable federal, state and provincial agencies and legislators, including Ontario MPPs on Bill 43.

I hereby certify that this is a true copy of a resolution adopted at the twenty-seventh annual meeting of Great Lakes United on May 20, 2009.



Julie O'Leary, President