

August 1, 1997 meeting of the Presidents of LCRC Institutions at the Lake Champlain Basin Science Center:

All Presidents were invited to the August 1 meeting, some were unable to attend and sent administrative representatives. UVM, St. Michael's, Trinity, Middlebury, and SUNY-Plattsburgh were represented. Tom Manley (LCRC Executive Director) outlined a vision of where the LCRC would like to go, and offered some ideas and how we might get there. This vision included increasing student outreach in the form of research grants, actively seeking state and federal dollars to promote research within the basin, and broadening the scope of LCRC research to include areas such as political, social, cultural, and economic research. Tom also discussed plans for a fall meeting (Oct 31 -Nov 1) to discuss a research agenda for the future and a meeting in late May of 1998 to listen to presentations of summaries of research over the last 6 years. The Proceedings of this May meeting will be published. After Tom's introductory comments, the group also heard from Sarah Muyskens of the Science Center on their plans for the future and how LCRC might play a role. The group then boarded the *Melosira* for a brief cruise to discuss current and future research opportunities, and then returned to the Science Center for reception hosted by Marc and Dana vanderHeyden (of St. Michael's College).

Tom Manley's opening comments of the meeting requested prompt consideration of several issues so that we can proceed with appropriate planning. These included (1) a request for an increase in dues; (2) a commitment of institutional support for the Executive Director in the future; (3) approval and funding for a May 1998 meeting to summarize recent research in the Basin and produce a published Proceedings; and (4) approval to begin planning a cooperative LCRC summer program.

(1) A dues increase from the current \$300 per year is certainly needed if we are to be able to accomplish much, such as providing small grants for student research and holding professional meetings to discuss research. Tom suggested an increase to \$3000 per year, with the understanding that \$1000 would be go back to the institution in the form of grants to support student research related to basin issues. In addition, if an institution gets research dollars from the LCRC, the annual dues would be credited toward the LCRC indirect costs on that grant.

(2) In order to have an active and productive LCRC, we need good leadership. Until this year the Executive Director has taken on great additional responsibilities with little or no support from her/his home institution. We went without an Executive Director from spring 1995 through spring 1997 because no one could take on the responsibility given their already heavy research and teaching loads. Administrative and secretarial support as well as some form of compensation, such as a stipend or release time, would make the task manageable. (Thank you to Middlebury College for agreeing to support Tom this year with a stipend!)

(3) The May 1998 meeting is intended to bring together research from the last several years and completely update the state of knowledge about Lake Champlain and the surrounding basin. Tom already has lined up significant support for the meeting and for the publication of a peer reviewed Proceedings sponsored by the American Geophysical Union as a special monograph. It is hoped that this monograph will serve as a new reference for research and education on the Lake. But, as Tom mentioned, we are still about \$9000 to \$19000 short of our goal, depending on what other organizations are willing to contribute.

(4) In 1993-1994, several of us began discussions about the possibility of developing an LCRC summer program that could draw students into the region for a variety of courses focusing on the Lake and the basin. We nearly began a pilot program in 1995, but fell short for various reasons. As we currently stand, several of our independent attempts to offer good summer field courses have been canceled due to inadequate enrollment. A well-organized and publicized summer program could bring additional students to the area, raise the visibility of our institutions in the northeast, and offer our own students more educational opportunities. This will, however, take a considerable degree of organization and administrative cooperation among our institutions.