



Media Release
For Immediate Release

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Cornwall to Host International Water Association Conference

Cornwall – The St. Lawrence River Institute of Environmental Sciences has announced that Cornwall has been selected as host city for the 7th International Water Association (IWA) conference. The event takes place from October 2 - 7 and the theme is *Speciality Symposium on Off-Flavours in the Aquatic Environment*. Over 100 delegates are expected to attend the conference which will pump close to \$90,000 into the local economy.

“Drinking water quality including taste and odour continues to be a major concern to public, industry and science,” reports Dr. Jeff Ridal, Executive Director and Chief Research Scientist at the River Institute. “Scientists specializing in this topic from 11 countries including researchers from Australia, Japan, Taiwan and Thailand will participate. The schedule includes more than 54 oral presentations and 23 poster presentations on taste and odour issues.”

As critical measures of safe drinking water, taste and odour have a major effect on human behaviour and can seriously undermine consumer confidence in public supplies. Taste and odour cause major problems for water suppliers which face rising treatment costs in order to deliver safe, acceptable drinking water. Despite considerable research, many taste and odour issues remain unresolved. Many of these problems arise from unwanted biological growth (e.g. bacteria, algae), but the causes can be difficult to trace, especially in complex, multi-use water bodies such as the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River ecosystem.

The IWA is a global network of water professionals, spanning research and practice and covering all facets of the water cycle. During the six day event, visiting scientists will gain a better understanding of how off-flavours in the aquatic environment are created and how to analyze, treat, and control.

St. Lawrence River Institute of Environmental Sciences has been chosen to host the event, last held in Barcelona, Spain. Established in 1994, the River Institute’s mandate is environmental research and education on large river systems with a focus on the Great Lakes, St. Lawrence River ecosystem.

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