

LEVELER

E-Newsletter from the Lake Ontario Riparian Alliance

Issue 12 August 30, 2012

**Grassroots Public Advocacy for the Protection, Restoration and Conservation
of Lake Ontario Beaches and Riparian Property**

In this issue:

1. Warning to Boaters
 2. Resolution and letters against BV7
 3. Online Petition
-

Warning to Boaters

**It's not the Environment but Hydropower and Commercial Navigation
behind BV7:**

To all recreational boaters on Lake Ontario and the Upper St. Lawrence River,

This year's dry weather has led to lower lake water levels. As of today, we are at 244.6 feet above sea level, which is approximately 10.5 inches below the long-term average. Under the proposed Plan BV7, Lake Ontario levels would be lower than with the current plan.

The level of Lake Ontario would currently be about 13 cm or 5 inches lower if BV7 were in place. The outflow from Lake Ontario would be slightly higher. The slight increase in flows would presumably result in some additional electricity being generated. Presumably the Port of Montreal would realize some benefit.

These levels could be even further reduced, such that in very dry (no precipitation) periods we could see mid-summer highs of 244 feet.

Remember 2011

Last year, under the current regulation plan, Lake Ontario water levels reached 247.3 feet. Many boat docks and fueling docks were not useable due to the high water. Under plan BV7, the levels would have been about 9 inches higher!

Resolutions and letters against BV7

The LORA Web Site has been updated to include a new page showing many of the resolutions and letters against BV7 sent to the IJC by our elected officials.

We have posted these on the web site in PDF format so that this newsletter would not be 50 pages long and would be easier to download. This new page will be updated as we receive word of other resolutions and letters.

The web page is found at:

<http://www.loranet.org/bv7resolutions.htm>

Online petition

LORA, along with the Save Our Sodus (SOS) organization, has created an online petition @

<http://www.STOPplanBV7.com> . Please sign our petition! Send it to your friends and ask them to sign.

As of this week, Governor Cuomo will also be receiving notification of anyone signing our petition. For those who already signed the petition, your effort has been sent to the Governor.

We, the undersigned, are opposed to Plan BV7 currently being promoted by the International Joint Commission for the following summary reasons:

As communicated by the IJC, the principal purpose for the proposed implementation of Plan BV7 is to restore / improve the quality of the wetlands. There has been no update of any data since the last reported data of the Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River (LOSLR) Study (2000-2006).

The IJC has stated that the damages and benefits for the proposed BV7 are based upon the results of the LOSLR Study, completed in 2006. However, the IJC has not addressed the significant and serious deficiencies in the analyses and conclusions of that Study.

Estimates of shoreline damage are substantially underestimated; nor are there any provisions for reparations. Economic impacts to businesses and homes in bay communities, like Sodus Bay, Port Bay, Sandy Ponds, etc., are not taken into consideration.

Impacts on public infrastructure, sewers and septic systems in particular, are not taken into consideration. During high water levels (247' and above), sewer systems from the Niagara River to Greece, through Sodus Point and up to Watertown, will be flooded and cease functioning - a health and environmental issue of major proportions.

Plan BV7 is apparently based on the LOSLR Study Plan B+, originally presented in 2006. However, Plan BV7 increases damages to Lake Ontario coastal communities, while decreasing them with respect to other interests, when compared to Plan B+.

Plan B+ was rejected by the IJC in 2007, due to the high damages that would have resulted from its implementation and the lack of resources for mitigation and compensation for these damages.

Plan BV7 will have a harmful effect on Lake Ontario boating. BV7 will cause an estimated annual damage of over \$1.3 million per year.

Plan BV7 will have an adverse effect on marine infrastructure built to the current regulation plan's operating range. During Plan BV7 high water periods, fuel docks and other fixed structures will be flooded. During low water periods, water access will be limited. Increased dredging will be necessary.

- 1) If you have multiple family members, have them sign the petition individually.
- 2) Please tell your friends and neighbors that this is not just a shoreline issue. Email them the link.
- 3) Ask your friends who are boaters, fishermen and marina owners to sign the petition.
- 4) Inform your friends who do not live near the Lake that their parks, beaches, and water, sewer and other utilities could be affected by BV7.

Do not miss our next issue of the LEVELER:

**"Understanding the Effects of BV7 On Various Interests...
You Might Be Surprised"**