

# LEVELER

## E-Newsletter from the Lake Ontario Riparian Alliance

Issue 29 June 13, 2014

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

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## International St. Lawrence River Board Of Control (ISLRBC) continues to admit lack of control

In another recent posting on the ISLRBC Facebook page, the Control Board continues to admit it has no control over Lake Ontario levels.

Excerpt from the International St. Lawrence River Board Of Control Facebook page:

A lovely notion, gents - but impossible. Take a look at the attached plot. It shows weekly NTS values along with daily outflows for 2014 so far. NTS is the net total amount of water into Lake Ontario each week. The outflow is the net amount of water leaving Lake Ontario each week. So to keep the lake perfectly flat, we would have to have these two lines one on top of another. Given we have absolutely NO control whatsoever on the net total supplies, and given the fact that the degree of control possible by regulating outflows is relatively miniscule (compared to the range in supplies we can receive), that's why. So when the black line exceeds the red one, the lake rises, and when the black line is below the red one, the lake falls. Considering that outflows this year have ranged from very low (for ice management needs) to quite high (to reduce the risk of flooding on Lake Ontario), hopefully you can see just how limited our range of "control" on the lake levels actually is. Natural inflows trump anthropogenic control measures. It's really that simple.



## What conclusions can we draw from the admissions of the Board of Control and its parent International Joint Commission?

1. The last 15 years and over \$20 million dollars in Federal funding (US and Canada combined) was a giant “make-work project” for Federal bureaucrats, along with their associated agencies who spent the funds on the “research”.
2. There is an Interest in the system that is using the conflict created between the homeowners, mainly along the south shore of Lake Ontario, and the environment to mask a great windfall in profits if the regulation plan for the lake and river is changed. This Interest is the hydropower companies of The New York Power Authority, Ontario Power Generation and Hydro-Quebec. According to IJC data, this interest will receive a minimum of 5.26 million more dollars per year than what is available with the current plan of operation.
3. How can there be any improvement on the wetlands with a new plan if the Board Of Control has no control, as they state, with the current plan?
4. Are there other forces outside of lake-level regulation that are affecting the system’s wetlands? What is the effect of upland fertilization, whether agricultural or suburban/urban, on the wetlands? This was never investigated.
5. It would seem to mean the premise for Plan 2014 (man has artificially changed levels to the detriment of the environment) is flawed. That would also seem to indicate that the expected/hoped-for positive benefits of Plan 2014 could not happen in any meaningful way.

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## CURRENT LAKE ONTARIO LEVELS VS. PLAN 2014 AND WHY PLAN 2014 TRIGGERS WILL NOT WORK.

We have learned and fear that, if **Plan 2014** was the current regulation operating plan for Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River, the Lake would now be at **247.5 feet**, compared to 246.7 as of May 29, 2014

The “Trigger Level” for Board of Control intervention, under Plan 2014, is **248.1 feet**. The Board Of Control could not start to act because the trigger would not have been surpassed. Just imagine the problems that would be possible with Plan 2014!

A further example that the “Trigger Levels” are ineffective is; if the lake was at the current level (246.7 feet) in early April (which we have seen in 1993 and 1997), the Trigger Level at this time of year would not have been surpassed but we could have water in our homes and streets and sewer systems due to spring storms!

The IJC and Environmental Interests have painted a picture of the 2014 compromise, i.e., triggers that would allow intervention by a future Board Of Control. This compromise was proposed quiet the south shore to supposedly protect us. As we have stated many times, the “Trigger Levels” are set too high to protect private and public property in the system!

The current Board Of Control says that, in reality, they can’t control anything, so how is there help for us when Trigger Levels are reached?

For some reason, they have chosen to mislead or even lie to us about Plan 2014.

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