

LEVELER

E-Newsletter from the Lake Ontario Riparian Alliance

Issue 39 October 16, 2014

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

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Greece Chamber Voices Opposition to “Plan 2014”: Too Costly for Property Owners & Taxpayers

Greece, NY, October 7, 2014 –The Greece Chamber of Commerce today announced their opposition on “Plan 2014” and is calling for a moratorium on the development of any future proposals by the International Joint Commission (IJC) until a thorough, objective and all inclusive analysis of the potential economic damages to tourism, recreation, business, and homes along the south shore of Lake Ontario, can be undertaken. The Chamber emphasizes that a plan such as “Plan 2014” will have a dramatic negative economic impact on our residents along the lake and ponds, the people and businesses of the Town of Greece and eventually will affect all of Monroe County.

“Plan 2014” will change the current regulations controlling the level of Lake Ontario. It will be a departure from the Lake’s current 4-foot regulatory range, which has been in effect for over 50 years, and instead allow for a greater variation that could lead to significant public and private property damage. All representatives at all levels of government of the six counties have expressed concerns about “Plan 2014. An example is Town of Ontario Supervisor John Smith says management of the Ginna nuclear power plant in his town had concerns about ice clogging intake ports for the water used to cool the reactors. Allowing water levels of Lake Ontario to consistently fluctuate outside of the current parameters will cause loss of shoreline, damage to infrastructure built based on the current plan of operation, erosion damage to property, and flooding in lakefront areas of the six south shore counties (Niagara, Orleans, Monroe, Wayne, Cayuga, and Oswego).

Most of the time, the damages will not be dramatic or sudden but they will take place never-the-less. The damage is a silent, hidden and constant grinding away of public and private property until the time when entire parcels are devalued or taken off the tax rolls. Other times, man-made extreme high levels will mean that the damages will be catastrophic, with millions of dollars in damage occurring in a single day. This plan would cause significant flooding every six years, rather than every 20—years that we experience now. The cost for damages that will result from “Plan 2014” will be borne at the expense of property owners and local, state and federal taxpayers.

The six counties on the south shore have 10,025 private and public parcels, with a total assessed value of \$3.7+ billion dollars. The average 4% school tax rate generates \$148 million assists in supporting local taxing entities economies. Homeowners spend a minimum of 1% of the property value for maintenance resulting in an additional \$37 million into the local economy. If just 10% of properties are damaged due to “Plan 2014, this will create damages accounting to \$370 million.

“Plan 2014” was recommended to the U.S. and Canadian governments in June 2014. The Greece Chamber strongly urges them to oppose any action on the IJC’s Lake Ontario – St. Lawrence River Plan 2014, until measures are taken to protect the properties of those who have homes and businesses along the Lake Ontario shoreline. The result in tax revenue loss from such a plan will be very costly and affect everyone in Monroe County as well as the other five counties along the south shore.

We are republishing the following articles from earlier LEVELERs.

We have learned recently that we have new readers from the U.S. State Department and new media contacts who have not seen these resolutions.

Also, we are including these items to countering the misinformation (aka. untruths, distortions, lies, etc.) being put forth by environmental interests.



Press Release

For Immediate Release
July 2, 2014

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Niagara USA Chamber opposes Lake Ontario Water Plan (Plan 2014)

The Niagara USA Chamber, Niagara County's leading business advocacy organization, opposes the International Joint Commission's (IJC) adoption of Plan 2014, which would regulate water levels on Lake Ontario.

The negative effect to the tourism industry, commercial fishing, boaters and residents within the impacted communities comes at a time when these communities are trying to recover from the economic depression felt throughout the country in recent years.

The IJC itself acknowledged the impacts of Plan 2014, noting at least a 13 percent rise in the costs felt by property owners, municipalities and businesses along the shoreline for such things as erosion damage and maintenance or replacement of structures such as seawalls and breakwaters.

"This plan strikes at the heart of these communities and the IJC has offered no solutions to offset the negative economic impact," stated Deanna Alterio Brennen, President and CEO of the Niagara USA Chamber.

Also at issue is the science behind this decision. Both the National Research Council and the Royal Society of Canada have stated that the study used by the IJC to reach their decision is inadequate for use as basis for reaching their conclusion. While the IJC has responded that these issues have been addressed, including the recommendation that an adaptive management strategy be developed to address future uncertainties, questions still remain.

"The Federal Government must recognize the immediate and long term negative effects this plan will have. If there are still uncertainties or questions regarding this plan then it should not be enacted," stated Brennen. "While we need to respect the need for good environmental policies, this is not one of them."

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19 counties endorse resolution-rejecting change in Lake Ontario's water level

By [Susan Chiappone](#) | Chautauqua Correspondent

On August 16, 2013 - 8:09 PM

CHAUTAUQUA – Representatives from the 19 counties in the Western New York region endorsed a resolution presented by the Wayne County Board of Supervisors, opposing a proposition by the International Joint Commission to lower the water level of Lake Ontario.

The resolution states that the lower water level would have an adverse effect on the shoreline communities of the lake and would contribute to erosion and loss of revenues from recreational fishing and water sports.

The resolution was unanimously supported by the Inter-County Association of Western New York which includes the following counties: Allegany, Cattaraugus, Cayuga, Chautauqua, Chemung, Erie, Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Niagara, Ontario, Orleans, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tompkins, Wayne, Wyoming and Yates.

The Greater Rochester Association of REALTORS Board of Directors passed the following resolution:

The Greater Rochester Association of REALTORS would like the NYS Association of REALTORS® Legislative Steering Committee to coordinate an effort among the Associations on the south shore of Lake Ontario to oppose Plan 2014 and to request more research on the negative impacts of new lake water levels.
