

LEVELER

E-Newsletter from the Lake Ontario Riparian Alliance

Issue 45 August 28, 2015

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

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Call for Action Meeting

**Fort Niagara will be endangered with Plan 2014
Tuesday, September 15, 2015
9:00 am**

The Niagara USA Chamber of Commerce will be hosting a rally at the Nationally Registered Historic Fort Niagara located in the Fort Niagara State Park.

All are invited to come hear from representatives of the Fort, along with Congressman Chris Collins and elected representatives from Niagara, Orleans and other south shore Counties, Towns and Villages.

The Fort is experiencing damages now under the current plan and surely will experience much more damage if Plan 2014 is implemented. The cost for damages has not been accounted for in the Lake Ontario St. Lawrence River Study.



The following letter was received in response to the July 17, 2015 storm. Of particular note, if this storm had been a 3-day Nor'easter and had occurred in the spring under Plan 2014, the damages would have been much greater.

Good Morning,

After seeing the picture, in your email that you sent people of the flooding on the street, we thought we would give you some feedback on our property on Lake Ontario. We are located off of Route 259 from the Parkway - right on the lake. We call it Hilton Beach. It has been in our family for several generations so we have seen the lake's power. We have taken as much precautions with our property from learning many years ago of what the wave action can do. We have also written letters to people who might have the power or influence to help with this situation using the information from the newsletters.

Our families have owned on this lake for over 75 years with this one property still owned by us. They all used to be cottages, but have been made into year round homes. We went through the 1973 storm where we bagged sandbags to protect and we then built a cement seawall. We have battled the normal storms; however, this last one was one of the worst we have seen in 20 years. You couple a storm of this magnitude with high water and we will see the damage it took. The property values have to go down. People spend 1000's to protect and property will still go down. Who would want to live on a big lake after hearing story after story of the damage on the lake? As an example, the people next door want to move to a smaller lake. Just on our beach alone, 3 PWC were lost, docks were torn apart, stairs were ripped off, flooding in the yards, seaweed and small stones in the grass, flowers damaged, and others minor happenings. Even if minor damage, things need to be repaired and money spent to fix them for the next time or for just to be able to use the lake when a nice day comes along. We, personally, brought our PWC in onto the front deck off of the hoist; however, it was covered with tons of junk. Our 50 feet of cement deck, probably 40 feet back, had 5 inches of seaweed on it. Under the seaweed, there was 1 1/2 inch of solid sand. It took me three days to clean up as my husband just had eye surgery that day and he could not lift or push anything. Neighbors helped some; however, they had their own issues to deal with in their own personal homes. We also had 1 1/2 feet of water filled up into our boat and it was listing to one side on the davit. It still is not dried out in the well and on the rugs. The force of the waves moved our heavy iron double bench half way up our long cement dock from the force of the waves. What would have happened if the water was higher? Water hit our second floor leaving sand and seaweed. The force from the north and north east winds are unbelievable in this area. I am sure there were other repairs that I do not need to pass on, however, I thought that you would like to hear from the Babcock's and our feedback from this July 17th, 2015 storm.

As a sideline: When the ferry was in operation crossing from Rochester to Toronto years ago, the wake of the ferry caused damage and safety issues in our area. Even though the ferry was 4 miles out by the time it came by our beach, 8 minutes later, the wake waves were 4-8 feet literally attacking our shoreline. I called the president of the company and invited him to have a glass of wine on our deck at the very same time the waves were arriving in shore. The lake was flat calm on that day. He visually saw the waves splash up onto the deck - back 8 feet from the edge of the seawall - and knock over an unsuspected child in the water from the delayed waves -- from the wake of the ferry. He then called the captain of the ferry right then and the ferry from that day on went out 3 miles further. We had solved a safety issue. Why I am telling you this?..... Has someone, in the decision making process, seen the actual visual damage a storm from high water can do? If this has been done, please disregard. Something just isn't right!

You have done so much to keep people informed. Thank you for that. What else can people do? What else can we do? Yes, we are lucky to be here on the lake and to own property here.....when it is nice..... however, one needs to feel safe in their own home. Damage does not make one feel safe. If you wish to contact us, please feel free either by email or telephone number. We realize that you must be extremely busy, so you may take this information about this issue and tuck it away as there are many people here on Hilton Beach (and West Beach Drive) who also had problems with this last storm. Again, thank you for reading this note.

Annie Babcock

Hilton, New York

Additionally, as always, the LORA website has all past newsletters posted at:
<http://www.loranet.org/> and <http://www.loranet.org/levelerarchive/pastissues.htm>