

# LEVELER

**E-Newsletter from the Lake Ontario Riparian Alliance  
Issue 59          November 4, 2016**

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

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In this issue:

- **Letter to Shoreline Residents  
from Congresswoman Louise Slaughter regarding Plan 2014**
  - **Mark Assini’s Comments on Plan 2014**
  - **Letter from Former Town of Greece Supervisor Don Riley**
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## **Letter to Shoreline Residents from Congresswoman Louis Slaughter regarding Plan 2014**

Dan- thought this might be of some interest to you. I sent a letter to Louise saying if she wanted my vote, she needs to tell me where she stands on Plan 2014. Note she doesn't say she is either for it or against it in her response. Just like a politician!

Regards-  
Mark and Sheryl Phillips  
\*\*\*Edgemere

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Dear Mr. and Mrs. Phillips,

Thank you for contacting me, regarding the International Joint Commission’s (IJC) proposal for managing water levels and flows in the Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River system. I appreciate hearing from you on this important matter, as well as your patience awaiting my response.

On June 17, 2014, the IJC proposed a water management plan known as the Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River Plan 2014, or Plan 2014. Plan 2014 aims to restore the natural ebb and flow of the Lake Ontario St. Lawrence River Seaway.

While I believe that the current regulation plan is outdated and has been the cause of significant damage to our ecosystem, wetlands, beaches and shoreline, I have also heard from many of my constituents, like you, and I understand your concerns: an increased risk of flooding, a greater risk of erosion and a need for mitigation should homes and infrastructure be damaged. I too am concerned about the local ramifications of a new water management plan on residents, businesses and municipalities along the south shore.

I have called on officials from the IJC multiple times to convene the appropriate federal, state, and local bodies to work together to address the vital need for shoreline and property protections before any water management plan is finalized. Plan 2014 is currently undergoing a thorough interagency review led by the United States Department of State but does not require Congressional approval.

I pledge to continue to listen to constituents like you, the IJC, and the other stakeholders to work toward an outcome that accounts for all interests, including the environment, the economy, and homeowners.

Sincerely,



Louise M. Slaughter  
Member of Congress

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The resident's response to the Congresswoman's letter:

Thank You for getting back to me. In deciding my vote, I had hoped to get a response that indicated whether Congresswoman Slaughter was either for or against Plan 2014. Instead I got this wishy washy, play it safe, "political talk" form letter. TAKE A STAND one way or the other!

I've subsequently learned her opponent has come out firmly against Plan 2014, supporting homeowners, businesses and infrastructure that are threatened by the plan, over dubious environmental concerns like muskrats and cattails. Aren't our elected officials supposed to be looking out for their constituents? Based your letter- I'll be voting for him.

Sincerely-  
Mark and Sheryl Phillips

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**We, the Directors of LORA, asked Congresswoman Slaughter's opponent for the 25<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, Mark Assini, for a statement on his thoughts on Plan 2014.**

"I will be direct:" "Plan 2014 will cause millions of dollars of damage annually to south shore homes, businesses and county sewer systems. This is unacceptable and I will do all in my power to fight Plan 2014 to protect property owners on the Monroe County shoreline." Mark Assini

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## Letter from Former Town of Greece Supervisor Don Riley

Don & Reva Riley  
1234 Edgemere Drive  
Rochester, New York 14612

Dear Dan:

Thank you and all of the many shoreline residents that have devoted so many years to the effort to protect our homes.

As you know, when I was Town of Greece Supervisor, the south shore of Lake Ontario was ravaged by a Lake that was out of "control". Poor planning by the Corps of Engineers did not anticipate the flows that came from the upper Great Lakes and resulted in a devastating storm on March 17<sup>th</sup>, 1973.

I had to ask the Governor and the President to declare the Town of Greece a, "Federal Disaster Area", in order to qualify for relief funds. The Federal Government also created the bureaucratic nightmare known as "Federal Flood Insurance" that really does not offer much in the way of relief.

The bottom line is this; with this past performance by the Federal Government in the poor and dangerous operation of the level of Lake Ontario under the "current" plan it is insanity to propose authorizing by Treaty, the addition of more water being added to the upper level.

Hiding behind environmental groups, now we are told, "cattails" are more important than "homes." We have been called, "squatters" and worse. Yet the historical fact is that homes have not been put on top of the Lake, the Lake has eroded our barrier beaches and attacked the homes. These groups while well-meaning are being used as pawns by "Shipping and Power" companies.

Nature has been kinder to our shore as evidenced by homes that have been on the Lake for over 100 years before the 1958 Treaty.

I can go on and on, but my purpose in writing is to call on all of us to support next week those leaders that have pledged to support us in opposition to "Plan 2014".

Town of Gates Supervisor Mark Assini and NYS Assemblyman Peter Lawrence have publically demonstrated that they are with the thousands of home owners in jeopardy.

Voting for Mark Assini will insure that for the first time in thirty years we will have a strong and active and articulate voice in Congress for those of us who live along the South Shore of Lake Ontario.

Thanks again Dan for all your hard work and advocacy for fighting "higher" levels on Lake Ontario.

Best regards,

Don Riley, Former Supervisor Town of Greece

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**The decision is yours as to the person who will truly represent  
our concerns as shoreline property owners.**

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