

LEVELER

E-Newsletter from the Lake Ontario Riparian Alliance

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

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Collins Right to Oppose Plan for Lake Ontario

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Shortened for publication

Recently, the Buffalo News took Congressman Collins to task for his efforts to stop Plan 2014 from implementation by the International Joint Commission (IJC). By the IJC's own admission, this plan will cause \$2 million - \$3 million in annual damages to the six counties along the south shore of Lake Ontario and the recreational boating industry. At the same time, this plan will provide millions of dollars of benefits to the hydropower and commercial navigation entities.

As members of the Lake Ontario Riparian Alliance (LORA) as well as former members of the IJC's Lake Ontario- St. Lawrence River Study (LOSL), we thank Congressman Collins for his help. We have special insight regarding this damaging plan. While mitigation of any damages prior to plan adoption was a guideline for the study, the IJC has avoided this tenet by "spinning" the plan as providing a "loss of benefits".

The IJC cites that this plan will improve the wetland environment. The IJC believes that the only way this can be achieved is through changing water levels. There are many sources which refute the study's findings including a peer review done under the auspices of the study by the prestigious National Research Council.

The Congressman understands that the damages that will occur will be bore by not only the shoreline residents but by all county residents. With the exception of Monroe County, the six remaining counties have a significant portion of their tax base and therefore tax receipts located along the shore. The loss of this tax base will affect all of the counties functions and all the residents' taxes.

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