

# LEVELER

E-Newsletter from the Lake Ontario Riparian Alliance

Issue 65      March 13, 2017

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

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## LORA is on Facebook

LORA has created a Facebook page. The page can be found at:

<https://www.facebook.com/LORANET.ORG/> Please document damages and post to our page.

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## LORA to Compile Damage Costs

Lake Ontario is now approximately **13** inches above its long-term average. LORA is getting reports of damages. Port Bay and Sodus Bay have reported breaches in its protective barrier sand spit. These bays will soon be part of Lake Ontario.

There is a strong nor'easter predicted to hit on the anniversary of the March 15, 1973 storm that caused over **\$87** million dollars in damages in today's dollars in just Monroe and Jefferson counties alone. Data on damages in other counties is not available at this time, but we believe it was in same magnitude since Federal Government declared Lake Ontario shoreline a disaster.

If you have experienced damage from the latest storm March 1-3, 2017 or experience damages with the approaching storm, please send photos and costs to repair the damage. No amount of damage is too small to report. Send your information to: [loranet@rochester.rr.com](mailto:loranet@rochester.rr.com) or <https://www.facebook.com/LORANET.ORG/>

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# Questions for our Elected Representatives

LORA would ask our elected representatives in the six counties along the south shore of Lake Ontario to please find answers to the following questions:

## Lake Ontario Shoreline Damage

- 1) What is the definition of shoreline damage due to water level fluctuations?
- 2) Who calculates the damage data?
- 3) What is the formula for calculating damage?
- 4) What variables are used in the Damage calculation?
- 5) How often are the variables updated?
- 6) How often is the damage calculated?
- 7) When was the last time damage calculations and variables were updated?
- 8) How does the public view the damage data?
- 9) Does the damage data and the method of calculating it compare to real riparian experience?
- 10) If damages are not claimed does that mean that none occur in the calculations?
- 11) If damage is not claimed does that mean there was financial loss in the calculations?
- 12) How does a shoreline property owner report damage?
- 13) To whom does a shoreline property owner report damage to?
- 14) What are considered damages?
- 15) Are effects outside of physical property damages considered? (Ie, assessment or property values, loss of use, boating and fishing)
- 16) Is the cost of permitting considered in damage calculations?

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## Letter from LORA Founder

3/7/2017

Dear Congressman Katko,

Having lived on Lake Ontario for 40 years and as the founder of the Lake Ontario Riparian Alliance (LORA) I am contacting you to make you aware of the dangerous current Lake Ontario water levels and the even more ominous water level predictions for the 2017 Spring and Summer season.

To start, storms during the first week of March 2017 (water levels app. 1 ft. over long term average) caused untold damages to the south shore that would far exceed the predictions the International Joint Commission used to push forward Plan 2014.

If there were any accurate method or serious interest in calculating shoreline damage data, I am sure that this 3/1-3/4 2017 storm would calculate in the "millions of dollars" of damages. It is unfortunate and inherently dishonest that the best interest of most parties is served when purposely low shore damage numbers are calculated by omitting the real life damages property owners must pay for. By providing no means of collecting and calculating damages, the IJC can claim, to their benefit, that there is no damage, or very little damage. In the eyes of the government agencies involved, un-claimed, un-tracked, un-reported damages, didn't happen.

I have attached a few photos of Sodus Point Village and private property that show the type of unaccounted, uncalculated and unclaimed damages that shoreline property owners

are "forced" to live with and pay for whether it be directly out of pocket or through tax dollars.

Since, as a contractor, I have performed over 200 shore protection projects I consider myself an expert at shore protection. I can tell you with confidence that, including a seriously time consuming and often adversarial permitting process, it would cost about \$80,000 to fix these seemingly small damages. These damages occurred in a 1000 ft. length of shoreline that is over 100 miles long.

When you look at the Army Corps predictions (also attached) you can see that the current water levels, which are nearly 1 foot over average right now, could end up 2.5 feet higher in the next months. Under the disastrous new water level Plan 2014, no attempt to lower water levels is allowed even at these extreme levels. In fact, the new plan would call levels an "additional" foot higher normal, and still not trigger any relief to shoreline property owners.

The south shore could be all but destroyed by Plan 2014 which was a last minute Obama cheap shot passed by his administration on the way out the door. We are most highly taxed properties in the entire country and to think that our devaluation (and possibly destruction) won't negatively affect schools, libraries, parks, youth programs and ultimately ALL tax payers is a head in the sand mentality. Loss of water related economies will be serious setbacks to many of the south shore counties.

THIS IS SERIOUS AND DAMAGE IS PROBABLE AND WILL BE SEVERE.

Please join with Chris Collins and approach President Trump to reverse the PLAN 2014 and/or defund the International Joint Commission. Please also review the promises of damage mitigation and seek regulatory relief, on our behalf, from the USACE, the NYSDEC and the NYSDOS that always stand in the way of us protecting our homes, even when we are paying out of pocket.

As shoreline property owners we are asking for your help to protect us from Plan 2014. We need help and we need it soon. I, like many others on the shore voted for you and expect your help.

Jack Steinkamp  
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**Congressman Chris Collins**  
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## **Senator Schumer speaks out about damages of Plan 2014**

The following is an article we previously published on June 9, 2016.  
We felt it was appropriate to republish the article again:

In the video, Senator Schumer, for the first time, admits that Plan 2014:

**“Will kill the Rochester area.”**

The links to view this video are:

<http://www.loranet.org/schumerplan2014.wmv>

<http://www.loranet.org/images//schumerplan2014.mov>

**Note: turn sound up and .mov may play sideways if not on an Apple device.**

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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>

<https://www.facebook.com/LORANET.ORG/>