

LEVELER

E-Newsletter from the Lake Ontario Riparian Alliance

Issue 71 May 2, 2017

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

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The Lake Hits a Trigger Level

Lake Ontario rose, on Friday, April 28, high enough to hit one of the trigger levels that are part of Plan 2014.

Now what happens? Well, nothing!

It appears that, although the lake hit a trigger level that we were told would allow the Lake Ontario St. Lawrence River Board to start over-discharging water to begin to lower the lake's level, there is still a bottleneck in the system.

During Plan 2014 development, representatives from the Province of Quebec lobbied hard to keep damages along its part of the St. Lawrence at or below those experienced with the old plan, 58DD.

Those representatives were able to get a stipulation into the Plan 2014 that keeps Lake St. Louis (near Montreal) at or below specific levels based on the levels of Lake Ontario. The graph below explains this circumstance.

- F limit – maximum flow to limit flooding on Lake St. Louis and nearby Montreal in consideration of Lake Ontario level.

Lake Ontario Level (m)	Lake Ontario Level (ft.)	Point Claire Level (m)	Point Claire Level (ft.)
<75.3	<247.04	22.1	72.50
≥75.3 and ≤75.37	≥247.04 and ≤247.27	22.2	72.83
≥75.37 and ≤75.5	≥247.27 and ≤247.70	22.33	73.26
≥75.5 and ≤75.6	≥247.70 and ≤247.02	22.4	73.48
≥75.6	≥248.02	22.45	73.65

In simple terms, until the lake gets to over 248.02 feet, the Board cannot release any more water that allows Lake St. Louis (Point Clare) to rise above the levels in the chart.

Two Videos to Share

The Lake Ontario Riparian Alliance (LORA) has put together two videos that we are asking everyone to watch and then share.

Video for Governor Andrew Cuomo:

<https://www.facebook.com/LORANET.ORG/videos/727183304131365/>

Video regarding comments made by the Rochester Branch of the Nature Conservancy:

<https://www.facebook.com/LORANET.ORG/videos/vb.697381337111562/724328607750168/?type=2&theater>

Comments from the Study's Wetland Scientist

The following comments were reported to LORA as being stated by Dr. Doug Wilcox, the lead environmental wetland scientist for the Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River Study. Dr. Wilcox has previously stated that the high water levels experienced with Plan 58DD were sufficient enough for the wetlands.

Yet Dr. Doug Wilcox, an environmental scientist at the College of Brockport strongly touts Plan 2014. "They should be marching in the street in favor of Plan 2014," he said. Wilcox has studied the impact of lake levels for decades. He has said that the new plan also calls for more frequent low levels and that, over time, such levels will end up building back beaches and dunes that can naturally protect property.

<https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/33191/20170110/lakeshore-owners-environmentalists-at-odds-over-plan-2014-for-ontario-st-lawrence-water-levels>

Wilcox says people built homes on the south shore during times of low water, even though they knew levels would eventually rise...

"They built their houses in the wrong place and they expect the government to subsidize them for doing so."

<https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/19819/20120514/st-lawrence-river-and-lake-ontario-communities-at-odds-over-water-levels>

Here is the source of the no-high-water-needed-over-current-levels comment....

http://www.ijc.org/en/_/osl/Submit_a_Comment?comments_page=11

Look for the comment reprinted by the IJC from Shirley Dittman: "Professor Doug Wilcox stated that improving wetlands required high water but no higher than seen under the current plan. Also, lower lows for longer durations of two years or more which no one seems to be focusing on (this would be lower than we are experiencing now and surely not approved by the Thousand Islands boating communities).

As a footnote: Dr. Doug Wilcox is a professor at SUNY @ Brockport who moved from Michigan, to benefit from grants to study the effects of Plan 2014 on the south shore.

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/>

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