

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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Unaccounted Costs of the Lake Ontario - St. Lawrence River Study

Over the last few years, LORA has reported that the Lake Ontario – St. Lawrence River Study relied on inaccurate and underestimated values in its evaluation of different regulation plans. One area that was totally neglected was the costs of damage to public lands such as parks and infrastructure. The only cost evaluated by the study was for shore protection maintenance with respect to private properties.

With the current high-water levels on Lake Ontario, it is becoming obvious that the damages will be much, much greater than the \$2 million to \$3 million dollars per year as stated in Plan 2014 documents. The manpower alone to protect the properties and other lands will be in the millions of dollars.

Below are a few samples of the damages that are occurring on the lake at the current time.

OLCOTT—High waters and rains have undermined the ground at two popular Niagara County parks, forcing officials to restrict public access to portions of both until further notice.



In Olcott, New York, a bank slide along Lake Ontario has forced the County Parks Department to seal off access to a stretch of lakeside land with snow-fence barriers, Commissioner of Public Works Garret A. Meal has said.

Meal also has posted signs barring access to a popular hiking trail at the Royalton Ravine County Park after soil erosion caused a staircase there to fail. The signage is posted at the trailhead.



This is a photo taken May 4, 2017. The Monroe County Highway Department is shoring up eroded areas along a county road bordering Long Pond, which connects with the lake in Greece, New York. There are multiple areas of erosion due to the high waters of Plan 2014. The other lakeside ponds are experiencing similar erosion.

From May 7, 2017, Suburban News

Yanty Marsh in need of help

One of the selling points for Plan 2014 for regulating the level of Lake Ontario was that the wider range of water levels it called for would help to "re-establish wetlands." But what if the plan completely obliterates wetlands while it is in the process of "re-establishing" them?

The eastern half of Yanty Marsh, a pristine 90 acre wetland in Hamlin Beach State Park, is being invaded by the lake. The Plan 2014 that is supposed to be helping it to re-establish itself is threatening to do to the wetland just what it is doing to many of the houses on the southern shore of Lake Ontario!

In 1998, the western half of Yanty Marsh was in danger of being completely washed away by high lake levels. Two Army Corps engineers predicted that in ten years the lake would completely gobble it up.

Public opinion prevailed and in 1999 the western half of the marsh was "hardened" with rock and a few years later the same two Army Corps engineers declared that it was the most successful "habitat protection" project they had ever been a part of. They also said that the other half of the marsh was better suited to survive on its own for a little while but that was 17 years ago. The eastern half of Yanty Marsh now needs help but that help is not going to be provided by Plan 2014.

**Ed Evans
Hamlin**

Following the high water period of 1997 - 1998, the Yanty Marsh bird sanctuary was threatened by an artificial increase in the elevation of Lake Ontario due to power supply requirements. A breach would also have eventually threatened the integrity of the Lake Ontario State Parkway. To protect both public resources, environmental agencies asked if NYSDOT could construct a 615-meter (2020') stone revetment structure. The cost at that time for the structure was \$800,000.00.

It looks like Plan 2014 is now making Yanty Marsh a part of the lake just as is happening at Sodus Bay, Port Bay and East Bay.

For more pictures and stories about the crisis on Lake Ontario, click on the link below:

http://www.newyorkupstate.com/western-ny/2017/05/lake_ontario_flooding_reader_photos_show_the_rising_waters.html

Current Lake Level

The Lake is now at 248.69 feet.

The average for this time of year is 246.03 feet.

**The lake is 31.92 inches above average
and 8.64 inches higher than last week.**

(As reported International Lake Ontario - St. Lawrence River Board Week ending 5/10/17)

LORA Demands an Investigation of the IJC

LORA is asking Congress Members Katko, Collins and Slaughter, Governor Cuomo, NY State Attorney General Schneiderman and Senators Schumer and Gillibrand for a full investigation of the IJC and Plan 2014. If you know anybody on any of their staffs, please share our video request with them. Please feel free to share with anyone you think might help stop the destruction of our communities, homes and shoreline.

You can view the video at:

<https://www.facebook.com/LORANET.ORG/videos/737855923064103/>

or

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

After viewing the video, please share it with your friends.

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/>