

LEVELER

E-Newsletter from the Lake Ontario Riparian Alliance

Issue 75 May 22, 2017

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

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What was the difference between 2016 and 2017?

The end of March levels for 2016 and 2017 were nearly the same, at just under 1 foot above the long-term average. In both years, the Board of Control performed a "Risk Analysis", which is based upon statistical forecasting using the 100 years of supply records. That risk analysis indicated a low (<5%) chance of hitting high levels on the Lake (high being 247.3 feet in 2016 and the spring trigger levels under Plan 2014 in 2017).

Based upon that analysis, the Board kept a watchful eye on the levels through April-May 2016, with the ability to deviate from Plan 1958D outflows, if needed. In 2017, the Board was not allowed to consider deviating from Plan 2014 outflows until a specific high trigger level was exceeded, which occurred around April 24, 2017. By then, the downstream condition was critical and the Board could do little.

Was it the rainfall or Plan 2014 this spring? You be the judge.

The following charts were obtained from two independent sources. The Combined March – April Precipitation Chart came from Rochester Meteorologist Kevin Williams of Channel 10. The Rainfall Records Chart came from a retired NYSDEC employee. With the exception of 1973, when the Lake Ontario basin received almost 3.5 times this year's rainfall, none of the precipitation in the years from 1950 to 2016 produced flooding along the lakeshore.



Rainfall Records	
Year	Jan-April
2017	15.64 in.
2016	10.05 in.
2015	9.40 in.
2014	14.43 in.
2013	10.49 in.
2012	10.73 in.
2011	15.34 in.
2010	8.55 in.
1990	15.73 in.
1980	19.57 in.
1973	30.78 in.
1970	7.42 in.
1960	13.71 in.
1950	13.91 in.

As you can see from the two charts, many years had similar rainfall amounts. Is it the rainfall or Plan 14, and its restriction on the Board of Control to deviate from plan outflows until surpassing the extreme trigger levels of Plan, that caused the lakeshore flooding along the south and east coasts of the lake?

Letter from Former Town of Greece Supervisor

The following is a letter written by former Town of Greece supervisor Don Riley in response to an article written by David Andreatta and published in the Democrat & Chronicle in its May 10, 2017 edition. Mr. Riley's letter also appears in the May 21, 2017 edition of the Democrat & Chronicle.

Don't Blame God for the High Water....Please.

I do not want to be part of the blame game but it is time to set the record straight and separate fact from fiction. Recently a columnist from the D&C finished his column on the high water in the lake with this quote; "Lake Shore residents should take this opportunity to better prepare for high water. They chose to live on the lake. They have only themselves to blame for that."

He could not have been more wrong. I offer the following not as my "opinion" but as an expert eyewitness to the history of the Lake.

I offer the following as a former Town Supervisor of Greece who had to deal with the "Federal Disaster" of high water in 1973.

I offer the following as a person who has lived on the lake for 65 years.

I offer the following as a person and public official who has educated himself to this issue starting in 1972, when the Federal Government came to all the Towns on the South Shore of Lake Ontario in the fall and warned us of impending disaster in the spring of 1973. They called the program, "Operation Foresight."

They were right then, but this time in 2017, it was the residents and the public officials of the County and the Towns that warned the Federal Government of this looming disaster.

Lost in the “Fog of the Lake” is a simple fact, not my opinion, and that is, regardless of what “Plan” is being followed, if the authorities do not get the lake below 243 feet in the fall of each year, there is a very good chance that there will be disastrous flooding and property damage.

Last fall the lake was at 244 feet above sea level. They knew it and did nothing to get the lake down in time for spring rain and snow melt issues.

Lost in the “Fog of the Lake” is the fact that the authorities have years to predict the amount of water that comes all the way from Lake Superior into our lake.

Naturally, when all else fails, we blame God. How ridiculous that is. Why not blame God for creating the Glaciers that created the Lake that created Robert Moses, who built the dam.

God is not to blame; the regulators of the Lake are. They blew it.

Residents of the Lake did not build too close to the lake, the lake has come to them. This is “Arson by Water”. God is simply watching....

NYS Water Infrastructure Relief Act

At the current time, there is a legislative bill called the NYS Water Infrastructure Relief Act. It was recently passed by the NYS Senate and is now being considered in the NYS Assembly. This bill will provide \$2.5 billion dollars for municipalities to improve drinking water and sewage systems across the state.

Recently, it has been reported that Rochester-area representatives are trying to get provisions in the act to aid south shore municipalities in protecting these systems that are now being affected by the current high water levels of Lake Ontario. While the cost for such improvements are nebulous at this time, if the south-shore communities can tap into this fund for just 1% to cover their costs to upgrade to protect from Plan 2014’s excessive water levels, that equals \$25 million dollars, or about \$400,000 over the expected 60-year life of Plan 2014.

The reason that this is important is that during the Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River Study, the economic evaluation of different plans claimed that there would be **no economic cost** involved with changing the regulation plan for the lake. The true reason for this result was that the Study did not ask the question as to economic cost in these regards!

Request from Congressman Chris Collins Regarding High Water Costs.

LORA received a request this week from Congressman Chris Collins. He is asking for information regarding the costs that waterfront homeowners are experiencing with the current high-water conditions and the costs to repair the damages inflicted by Plan 2014.

If you have had expenses that you feel comfortable in reporting, please send your data to LORA at:

loranet@rochester.rr.com

LORA Demands an Investigation of the IJC

LORA is asking Congresspersons Katko, Collins and, Slaughter, Governor Cuomo, NY State Attorney General Schneiderman and Senators Schumer & Gillibrand for a full investigation of the IJC & Plan 2014. If you know anyone on any of their staffs, please share our video request with them. Please feel free also to share the video 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.

Current Lake Level

**The Lake is now at 248.88 feet.
The average for this time of year is 246.13 feet.
The lake is 33 inches above average
and 2.28 inches higher than last week.**

(As reported International Lake Ontario - St. Lawrence River Board Week ending 5/18/17)

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/>