

# **LEVELER**

## ***E-Newsletter from the Lake Ontario Riparian Alliance***

**Issue 9      May 11, 2012**

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

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### **A History Lesson For The International Joint Commission**

**“Those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it” - George Santayana**

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***Article from Syracuse Post Standard, March 20, 1973***

#### ***Flood Toll May Hit \$1.5 Million***

**By BOB STROM WATERTOWN -**

Damage from flooding and erosion along the Jefferson County shoreline over the weekend will exceed \$1.5 million, according to figures released Monday afternoon by the Jefferson County Department of Civil Defense.

Mrs. Carolyn Barton, deputy civil defense director, said the damage figure is only an estimate, since many shoreline properties still were not accessible by land.

60 per cent of the damage was attributed to erosion, while the remainder was caused directly by flooding, civil defense personnel estimated.

The damage figure was compiled in response to a request from the State Office of Natural Disaster and Civil Defense, which also wanted to know how much local money had been spent in preparation for the flood emergency.

Mrs. Barton said that \$15,000 has been expended locally to prepare for the flooding. This does not include the cost of materials, such as sandbags, provided by the Army Corps of Engineers under "Operation Foresight," but is for items such as hauling and filling sandbags and for work performed by county and town highway departments.

The hardest hit sections of the counties were the Towns of Lyme and Cape Vincent where shorelines were exposed to the high southwest winds. While most of the damage consisted of flooded basements, washed out roads and submerged docks and piers, many cottages built close to the shoreline felt the fury of 10 to 15 foot waves, pushed on by 20 to 35 miles an hour winds.

Among the roads closed by the storm Sunday were the Three Mile Bay Road, Point Peninsula Road, Sullens Bay Road, and roads leading to the Tibbetts lighthouse at Cape Vincent and to Pillar Point.

Most roads were passable Monday, according to the Sheriff's Department.

The weekend storm dumped a total of 1.57 inches of rain and six inches of snow on the Watertown area, as the mercury plunged from 59 degrees Saturday to 26 degrees early Sunday morning, and spent the rest of the weekend and into Monday hovering around 30 degrees.

The precipitation resulted in an increase in the flow of the Black River over the weekend from 11,500 cubic feet per second Saturday to 16,450 cubic feet per second Monday morning, or well above floodstage.

The Lewis County Sheriff's office said that Route 26-A between Dadville and the Ellingsworth Bridge, and the East Martinsburg Road were closed due to flooding conditions.

Several roads around Carthage were also either flooded or softened by the precipitation to the point where travel was almost impossible.

Officials of Carthage Central Schools said Monday there was a possibility that schools in the district would be closed Tuesday because buses were unable to pick up pupils in some areas.

Pupils were late arriving home Monday afternoon, as two buses became stuck in mud on dirt roads, and others had to detour around impassable sections of road.

While most roads in the Carthage School District are paved, the few that are not were "a muddy mess" Monday. The efforts of county residents either to prevent damage to shoreline property or to clean up the damage were not helped by an announcement from the National Weather Service that more of the 10 to 15 foot waves could be expected this spring.

Mrs. Barton said there was a "pretty limited" response Monday to plans of stationing engineers from the Corps of Engineers in the Town of Brownville. However, this was attributed to the fact that many town residents were not aware that the engineers were there for assistance.

The engineers will remain available in Brownville Tuesday, but Wednesday will journey to St. Lawrence County to inspect two areas which have requested assistance. Thursday, the engineers will be in the Cape Vincent Town Building, James Street, beginning at 9 a.m.

## NOTE:

**The lake level at the time of the storm in March, 1973 was 247.14 feet. The lake peaked in June, 1973 at 248.4 feet.**

**The damages just to this little part of Lake Ontario were estimated at least \$1.5 million in 1973. When inflation is factored into this, the damage from this same ferocity of storm would now be \$7.75 million in today's dollars.**

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# Prejudgment??

**You be the Judge!**



Hilton Beach, 1973

Recent events have been occurring that lead us at LORA to question whether the current IJC process is just a show to project the image that the IJC and the IJC Working Group are listening with an unbiased ear. It now has been now seven months since the IJC Working Group presented the proposed plan BV7 to members of our group at a meeting held at the Greece, New York Town Hall. At that time, we were assured that members of the IJC Working Group would return to visit the south shore of Lake Ontario to view the areas that we now know will be adversely affected, to the tune of an average \$4.5 million dollars in damages assessed to Lake Ontario riparians and recreational boaters. We believe what IJC and the IJC Working Group are proposing is an illegal taking of public and private property without just compensation.

We learned last week, on short notice, that the environmentalists who were the only stakeholders at the Plan BV7 development table had been given a platform last week to spew their bias again. At no time have the homeowners and recreational boaters been given the same opportunity to make their case through the auspices of the IJC.



Hilton Beach, 1993



Hilton Beach, March 1993

## Online petition

LORA along with the Save Our Sodus (SOS) organization has created an online petition @

<http://www.STOPplanBV7.com> . Please sign our petition! Send it to your friends ask them to sign.

- 1) If you have multiple family members have them sign the petition individually.
- 2) Please tell your friends and neighbors this is not just a shoreline issue. Email them the link.
- 3) Tell your friends that are boaters, fishermen and marina owners to sign the petition.
- 4) Let your friends who do not live near the Lake that their parks, beaches, and water, sewer and other utilities could be affected by BV7.

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## Letter to the Honorable Congresswoman Buerkle

The following is an email to the Honorable Ann Marie Buerkle from one of the LORA Directors summarizing our thoughts:

Please cut the funding to the IJC. They are no longer objective or impartial when it comes to regulating the level of Lake Ontario. On May 3rd, at 10AM, the IJC sponsored a webinar for the environmentalists to preach their belief that higher levels BV7 will aid the environment. The other interests that will be damaged (by IJC's own calculations) are not getting the same opportunity. This whole BV7 issue has become a "closed door" issue pushed by NY State regulators like the DEC, DOS etc... They are unelected, unaccountable and seemly untouchable as they proceed to cause over \$4,000,000.00 in annual damages to riparian and recreational boater interests. This is a totally unfair and lopsided issue. Please do what you can to stop the IJC from wasting taxpayer dollars and now destroying public and private property with their poor and biased decisions.

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## Upcoming Public Information Meetings by IJC Working Group

At the public information sessions, presentations by IJC staff and technical experts will be followed by questions and comments from the audience. Participants are asked to limit prepared comments to two minutes so as many as possible have an opportunity to speak. Written comments and other documents may be submitted at the sessions or [online](#). Thank you!

<p>Tuesday, May 29, 2012 <b>Massena, New York</b> 7:00 PM Louisville Volunteer Fire Department 14818 State Highway 37</p>	<p>Wednesday, May 30, 2012 <b>Clayton, New York</b> 7:00 PM Clayton Opera House 405 Riverside Drive</p>	<p>Thursday, May 31, 2012 <b>Oswego, New York</b> 7:00 PM Campus Center Auditorium SUNY Oswego, 7060 Route 104</p>
<p>Tuesday, June 5, 2012 <b>Olcott, New York</b> 7:00 PM Olcott Fire Company 1691 Lockport-Olcott Road</p>	<p>Wednesday, June 6, 2012 <b>Hilton, New York</b> 7:00 PM Quest Elementary School Auditorium 225 West Avenue</p>	<p>Thursday, June 7, 2012 <b>Williamson, New York</b> 7:00 PM Williamson High School Auditorium 5891 Route 21</p>

## IJC Public Hearings

Before making a decision, the IJC will hold formal public hearings on a proposal that will include a revised order of approval, regulation plan, adaptive management plan and a governance structure. Comments received by June 15, 2012, will be considered in developing the proposal. The schedule for this round of public hearings has not been set.

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