

To: Friend of Sodus Bay

From: Ann Hayslip, SOS president

RE: Update on Lake Ontario water level proposals

Date: January 2006

NOTE: It is part of the mission of SOS to keep its members informed about issues that impact the Bay we work so hard to protect. With that in mind, I am writing to inform you of upcoming decisions that could have far ranging implications. It is not my intention to take a position on behalf of SOS or to speak for you, but to share my concerns with you. As you will see, my bias is apparent. I urge you to consider your position on these issues and take action.

The Issues:

The Lake level study results presented to Sodus Bay area residents at a meeting at Cutter's on July 20, 2005 has been submitted to the IJC for deliberation and approval. To our great disappointment, the final report recommended Plans A, B and D which, despite our input, were not modified to avoid or minimize potential damage to the south shore communities.

As you recall, all three plans allow the water levels to fluctuate well above and below the current levels. In essence, the criteria put in place in 1958 would be eliminated in favor of a plan which would allow higher highs and lower lows. Specifically, the highs could top 249 and the lows could dip to 242. We are currently at a level of approximately 246, so you can imagine the impact if the water were 3 feet higher or 4 feet lower. Such high water would result in serious shoreline erosion to high lying properties and flood damage to homes and businesses in the village of Sodus Point and other south shore communities. Very low water would do substantial economic damage to marina businesses and seriously impact recreational boating.

Comments from numerous public officials at all of the meetings held along the south shore last summer pointed out the serious economic impact to towns, villages and counties due to a loss in property values and the subsequent loss of property tax revenues.

I have learned from Dr. Frank Sciremammano that the IJC commissioners will be discussing the three recommended plans over the next 2 months. They plan to make a decision in 2006.

If you are as concerned as I am, ***now is the time to act.***

Call or write your Congressional representative now:

Rep. Jim Walsh, Rep. Tom Reynolds, or Rep. Louise Slaughter.

Urge them to do their utmost to voice our concerns to the IJC commissioners.

A decision could be made that would impact us for years to come.

Contact information:

Honorable James T. Walsh
US House of Representatives
2369 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-3225

Or

1180 Canandaigua Road
Palmyra, NY 14522
rep.james.walsh@mail.house.gov

Honorable Thomas M. Reynolds
US House of Representatives
332 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-3225

Or

1577 West Ridge Road
Rochester, NY 14615
www.house.gov/writerep/

Honorable Louise Slaughter
US House of Representatives
2469 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-3228

Or

3120 Federal Building
100 State Street
Rochester, NY 14614-1350

www.slaughter.house.gov/HOR/Louise

For more information about the process that led to the recommendations, contact

www.losl.org

