

Canadian Section
Secretary
September 9, 2006
International Joint Commission
234 Laurier Avenue West, 22nd. Floor
Ottawa, ON K1P 6K6 fax 613 993-5583

IJC / CMI OTTAWA
ACTION: <i>McSuley</i>
INFO: <i>M. Clamen / FB/MV</i>
SEP 12 2006
FILE / DOSSIER
<i>3-1-4-9</i>

Dear Secretary,

As a member of Save the River (STR), and the owner of one of the Canadian Thousand Islands, *Raleigh Island*, I am writing in support of **Plan A+ as the most balanced, environmentally advantageous and foresighted** of the three main plans proposed by the International Lake Ontario – St. Lawrence River Study Board.

As the author of three books of photography on the Thousand Islands, **I am above all a lover of nature and environmental conservation.** Here are major reasons that Plan A+ is clearly better than the other two:

1. Most Balanced:

Plan A+ is the **most balanced** in maintaining stability of water levels over low-water and high-water years. This **enables both wildlife and humans to best plan and cope** with environmental changes, and avoid uncertain swings, and needless, damaging hardships that lack any real benefit.

2. Most Environmentally Advantageous:

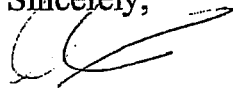
Plan A+ is **most likely to stabilize the ecological balance** of Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River. The wild swings permitted by Plan B+ will only add to the ecological imbalances with which our ecosystem is already struggling, as it integrates some five-dozen invasive species.

3. Most Foresighted: The Need to Conserve Water:

Plan A+ is the most foresighted of the three plans in its management of water during low-level swings. The many predictions of climate change and long-term forecasts of the lowering of Great Lake levels create **new uncertainties during low-water years**. No one can be sure, at these times, whether the low water is temporary or part of a long-term change. The safest policy, then, is to **conserve as much water as possible**. To gamble at such times may lead to untold hardships for all living things. Only Plan A+ embodies the **wisdom of conserving water**.

I believe, as surely you do, too, that the decision of which plan to follow should be made on the basis not of a few narrow considerations, but in light of broader concerns than those favoring Plan B+. I would appreciate your sharing my letter with the IJC as it seeks to make a decision that is really best for the environment overall.

Sincerely,



Ian Cristine

Summer:

Mallorytown, ON

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Winter:

Hudson Heights, QC