

Reasons to implement "Plan 2007" over Plan B+

July 10, 2008

- The 2007 Plan with a cap of 247.5 is the prudent plan, a valid compromise between all water uses; balancing boating, environmental, hydro-power, shipping, and coastal protection.
- Do not let one group dominate Lake Level Management at the expense of every other group.
- Plan B+ with its 7 foot extreme water levels, and possibilities of 248 ft high water mark is, by all appearances, going to be devastating to shoreline.
- Boating communities would need restrictions lifted on dredging channels to obtain Lake access during periods of low water levels proposed in plan B+.
- Shoreline mitigation, as many plan B+ proponents expound, is not possible. Do not be fooled: there is no mitigation for floods for the average property owner !
- Plan B+ will have incidents of water levels over and above the 248' cap resulting from wind induced seiche, or storm surge, and severe wave action during storms.
- Many thousands of homes were built according to the guidelines of the 1958D water level plan. How can you abandon them now ?
- The environmental benefits of severely fluctuating levels proposed in B+ are just guesses, and may be based on poor science as reflected in the IJC minority report. What will you say to afflicted property owners if the Black Tern population still does not rebound?
- The amount of damage to shoreline and property owners is gravely underestimated in the IJC report.
- The amount of damage to homes is also gravely underestimated. The IJC report indicates a cost of 2.75 Million annually for B+. However, one possible scenario involving 1300 homes (see below) would cost over \$100 million dollars. Does this risk fall solely on the homeowner ?
- Some costs are not even considered, such as tax losses due to grieved assessments as property damage increases.
- Plan B+ may trigger a series of litigation that will be in the courts for years.

- The camp road where I live will flood at 248.5 and will affect 19 homes. This road is typical of many dozens in the Sandy Pond area, Eastern Shore of Lake Ontario. The 247.2 feet observed this spring was high enough.
- This area experienced severe erosion during the high water levels in early 1970's, it has seen what devastation storms can do during high water; property damaged, homes damaged, and sand dunes eroded.
- There are so many more serious problems to address; water pollution, salt water ballast dumping from shipping, introduction of non-native invasive species, municipal pollution, agricultural pollution. These may be more responsible for the narrowing of biodiversity than water levels.
- Other studies indicate the flooding potential is very real

In fact the LOSL Study on Lake Ontario high water risk by

Technical Workgroup: Coastal TWG

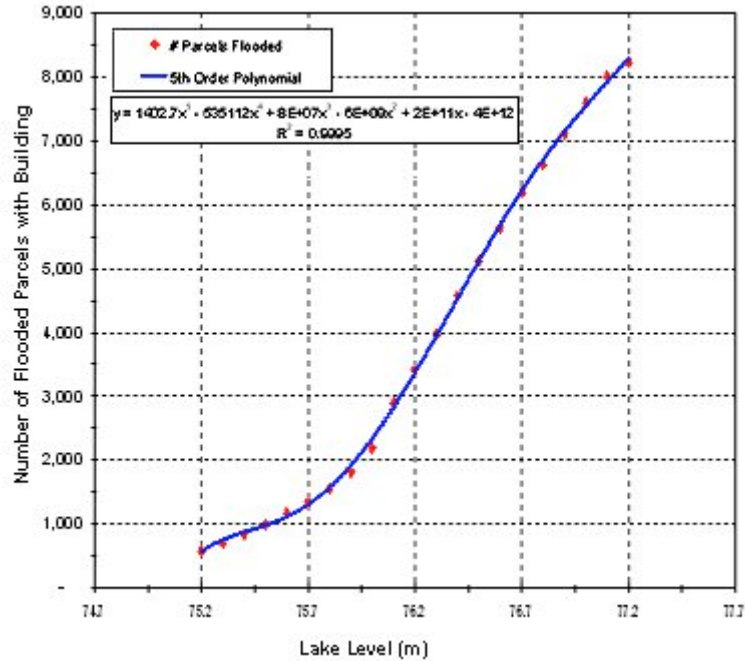
Research by: Baird & Associates

http://www.losl.org/twg/pi/pi_flooding-e.html

“For example, if the lake reaches 75.7 m (248.3 ft), water may reach the foundation of 1,300 homes across the lake.”

“The parcel database in the FEPS indicates that there are approximately 25,000 riparian properties on Lake Ontario and the Upper St. Lawrence River susceptible to coastal hazards. Of these, 7,905 have land elevations at the building foundation less than 77.2 m (253.3 ft), which was established as the upper limit of flood damages for this study. Further, almost 800 of these parcels have land elevations at or below the current upper limit for the operating range of Lake Ontario 75.37 m (247.3 ft). In summary, flooding is a very real and dangerous coastal hazard for many communities on Lake Ontario and the Upper St. Lawrence River.”

**Number of parcels with Foundation Flooded by Direct Inundation
Combined Canadian and USA Data for Lake Ontario (open lake and embayments)**



Even the IJC minority report has the following conclusion:

“Based upon our involvement with the Study over the past five years, the content of the Final Study Report, and the recommendations contained therein, we have reached the following three conclusions:

(1) The Study was conducted and reported in a manner biased against residents and businesses located on the shoreline and embayments of Lake Ontario;

(2) The Study lacks the scientific data, analysis and justification to reach the stated conclusions and recommendations;

(3) Even if the above two factors are discounted, the Study recommendations represent poor public policy, ignoring essential social and economic considerations that should be factored into decisions regarding the operation of the system. “

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