

July 10, 2008

Clayton, New York USA

Brockville, Ontario, Canada

Irene Brooks, American Chair

Herb Gray, Canadian Chair

International Joint Commission

International Joint Commission

Washington, D.C.

Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

Dear Commissioners Brooks and Gray:

I was born in Montreal in 1931, graduated from McGill University and have resided in Montreal, Ottawa and Brockville since that time. I have boated all my life on the Ottawa, the St. Lawrence, the Trent, Richelieu, the Rideau, St. Lawrence River and the New York State canals.

My wife and I currently own waterfront property in Clayton, New York and water view property in Brockville, Ontario – both on the St. Lawrence River – and are members of the Brockville, Hudson, Que. and Clayton Yacht Clubs.

While serving on the Public Information Advisory Committee (PIAG) of the IJC Study Board, and as Vice-President, President and now director of the International Water Levels Coalition, I have heard many varied and controversial discussions regarding water levels and the control of them. In all cases, whatever plan is put into effect, the water passing the dam at Massena-Cornwall is lost forever to our areas and any use is gone forever to alleviate the lack of water below the dam.

With the current construction of the Seaway Project, there is no way to satisfy all entities. Nor, is there any way to conserve this priceless resource – fresh water.

I propose 2 or 3 water control structures in the St. Lawrence River at locations in the Lachine Rapids and lower end of Lake St. Peter. The first of these structures would provide adequate water levels and storage on St. Louis, augmenting water for tourists, recreation and riparian interests on that lake as well a pool of water to supply Montreal Harbour.

The second structure would be at the lower end of Lake St. Peter and would control the level of the water in Lake St. Peter and the River up to Montreal for environmental reasons. These structures would

be built with fish ladders, adequate control for flooding, and a 2-way lock system to enter Lake St. Peter for ocean-going ships. This would provide another benefit by adding of a point where ships coming from the ocean could be inspected for cargo and for invasive species in their ballast water.

A third, smaller control structure could be built at St. Anne de Bellevue to create and maintain a pool from the Ottawa River to control flow and potential damage to Montreal Harbour as well as create yet a third pool to be used during times of lower waters to aid commercial navigation and to guarantee adequate water supplies for Montreal domestic and sanitary needs.

Funding and maintenance costs would come from lock revenues and hydro production at these structures. Additionally, construction would provide employment in the Montreal area for a considerable length of time.

Many of the environmental and engineering studies have already been made. If the Commission is interested, I am open and available for further discussion and I would be happy to offer my engineering background as well as my experience in dealing with governmental agencies, the marina business and the public, in an effort to get this worthwhile project moving ahead.

The main theme behind this idea is that in any future planning, most important priority must be the conservation and intelligent management of water in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Basin which is the largest fresh water basin on the continent .

I Thank you for your attention to this recommendation and I trust that you will give it your very serious consideration.

Yours truly,

Paul A. Webb