

**Presentation, IJC Public Meeting re Plan 2007**

**June 25, 2008, Alexandria Bay, NY**

**My name is Bea Schermerhorn, I am a St. Lawrence River Riparian and have been involved in water levels issues since 1986, that is 22 years. Since we live in a sound bite society, I am going to use that method to share information this evening.**

**Bus Tour**

**Back in 1999 Congressman John Mc Hugh sponsored a bus tour of various water dependent business on the eastern end of Lake Ontario & the St. Lawrence River. The water was extremely low and he got a first hand look at what the present water control plan has done to the economy & the environment in NNY. Commissioner, Alice Chamberlain, was on that tour and at the conclusion she announced that the IJC wanted to do a study of the present plan if money was appropriated. Many of us lobbied for that money and the study became a reality. As you know it was 5 years in duration, \$20 million dollars was spent and 2 new plans were presented, a third plan was just a rerun of our present plan.**

**Trash**

**Commissioners, you chose to trash \$20 million, the 3 plans and 5 years of dedicated work of many people. Without public input, or public scrutiny you came up with plan 2007 because you feared that Plan B+ might cause a problem 3 to 4 times out of 101 years for the South Shore of Lake Ontario.**

### **Common Denominator**

In those 22 years, I have seen Commissioners come and go, but they all seemed to have one thing in common. It appears to me that when ever the South Shore of Lake Ontario throws a fit the IJC comes to their rescue.

### **PIAG**

When I was being considered for the Lake Ontario St. Lawrence River Study Public Interest Advisory Group, I ask what role the Board of Control would have in the study. I was told that they would not be part of the study and they would be held at arms length. Famous last words, because Dr. Frank Sciremammano a member of the Board of Control was appointed to the study board.

### **Board of Control**

At the time that the International St. Lawrence River Board of control was increased in size, many of us lobbied against Dr. Sciremammano's appointment because of his close ties to South Shore interests. The Commissioners at that time, as well as yourselves, avow that board members are not chosen to represent special areas or interests, I respectively disagree, Dr. Sciremammano has served the South Shore interests well, in my opinion.

### **Mitigation**

The NYS DEC has indicated they are willing to talk about mitigation but neither you, or the South Shore has defined "mitigation." But I can

**tell you that if you implement Plan 2007 there never will be any mitigation because once more the south shore will have won so who needs mitigation. However, if you implement plan B+ the South Shore will work diligently to see that mitigation does happen. Commissioners, the South Shore needs to be part of the solution because they caused the problem by building in flood prone areas to begin with and are still doing it. I know what I am talking about because I was born in Rochester and lived in and around the area until I was married.**

### **Right Decision**

**Commissioners, are you going to do what is right or is it going to be business as usual? Are you going to implement plan B+ which by your own admission is the better plan or are we on the St. Lawrence going to be held, once again, hostage to South Shore special interests. Our River is on the list of the ten most endangered rivers in the country and not because of pollution but rather because of failed water levels plans and your new plan 2007 which will do more harm than the present 1958DD. I ask you to not let a small minority call the shots. Please do what is right and implement Plan B+, put Lake Ontario & the St. Lawrence River back as close as possible to the way Mother Nature ran things. It is the right thing to do.**