

6/10/08

## **IJC Hearing on Lake Level Ontario Levels, Olcott, NY**

As a home owner and resident on the shore of Lake Ontario for 41 years, I have seen the water level rise and fall often. High water is very damaging to lake shore residents. This spring the water has been nearly as high and destructive as I have ever seen. I am here to speak against any plan to purposely cause the level of water in Lake Ontario to be high at any time.

The adverse results to lake shore residents from high water is well known and recognized. Over 35 years ago government agencies even provided funds to lake shore residents to repair and protect our properties which were damaged by high lake levels. Keeping the water level low enough to reduce its damaging effect on the shoreline has long been a mission of the International Joint Commission.

We are now confronted with a new dangerous element : The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. Make no mistake! The DEC is not only unfriendly to Lake Ontario shore residents, they are our enemy.

The DEC enforcement officer has taken as a cause to use her position to prevent lake shore residents from protecting our property. This officer refuses to issue permits to install or repair protective devices. Some of these are installations which were originally built under grants from various government agencies. She has demanded that the repair of these installations be done only under permits which she is slow or reluctant to issue. This DEC officer has been quoted as saying, "Lake shore residents live too close to the lake and should move away. I will force them to do so." She considers all the waterfront to be public land. She wants to remove its occupants. She considers lake shore residents as her enemies to be displaced by any means.

The DEC has given lake shore owners no relief when complaints about this officer's actions, attitudes, and behavior have been made.

I do not lightly make my the statement that the DEC is the enemy of lake shore owners. Their actions and words, especially, of this particular officer show them as such. They want to take away our homes, our property, and the life style we have chosen.

I plead with the International Joint Commission to reject any plans which include high water level in Lake Ontario. Insist that any plan which is submitted include a complete accounting of all the damage it will cause, as well as a detailed list of the supposed specific benefits it will provide. Allow public scrutiny of all claimed benefits and evaluation of costs including damage to private land. Do not allow the DEC to use high water as a tool to dislodge lake shore residents or deprive us of the use of our property.

Peter Diachun

Youngstown, NY