

Comments to IJC
Public Meeting June 11, 2008

Common Sense and Equity

It is encouraging that the IJC has not abandoned the people and businesses of south shore and has clarified the commitments made to the shoreline communities by the Government as part of the Moses-Saunders project. Plan 2007 looks on paper to be the best at accommodating all interests fairly. It improves the environment and helps recreational boating while protecting riparians and the other interests protected by the treaty.

That being said I still have a number of concerns that need to be expressed:

Concerning deviations- at beginning of LOSL study, one of main reasons for study was to limit the number of discretionary deviations. Any new plan will still allow deviations on the river for Ice formation, boat haul-out and other types of short-term deviations, which accounted for the majority of the deviations by the present board of control. While I agree that these may still be needed, the Commission, however, has now placed extra levels of compliance to get deviations for emergencies on the Lake. You will require the new board to submit reports on the affects of any Lake deviations, which will take precious time away from preventing any catastrophe.

Since it is the objective to have any new plan operate without as much influence as there is now and basically run it by computers, why not allow emergency lake deviations to occur automatically when the three month forecast shows that the exceedence of the less than 1% level will occur as was suggested at the last meeting of the LOSL board with the Commission.

I have a question for you. You don't need to answer as I'll give it to you.

What do earthworms, red marsh worms, honeybees, malaria and narrow leafed cattails all have in common? They are all invasive species. The first four arrived in North America in the 1600's and the last in the 1800's. We would not be able to get rid of the first four if we wanted to and you will not be able to get rid of the last. Literature has shown that each plant can produce up to 250,000 seeds per year that once in soil can last for 100 years. Even if you can dry out the wetlands as proposed by some, as soon as water returns so will the plants. Even the US Dept of Agriculture Forest Service recommends against drying out of wetlands to prevent spreading. They recommend flooding them but to achieve the level required there would have to be about a foot of water over the top the pavement of Edgemere Dr. for three months in the spring of the year, which would cause inland flooding and home damages into the northern ¼ of the Town of Greece and take out the drinking supply for 5 counties and 600,000 people along the south shore. The commission has a computer animation made by the Baird group during the LOSL study that shows the extent of this widespread damage to just the Town of Greece alone.

A simpler solution and one that is in effect now is to have a water level range of 4-5 ft. This favors the survival of muskrats and once they reach a population of 10 per acre can aid in the control of cattails both native and invasive.

Let me pose another question.

Why does the Lake St. Lawrence area feel that it can regulate the entire system for its own benefit? They wrap themselves in the environment saying they want to return the river to its pre-project condition. This is just a cover to serve their purpose of having not to endure the problem of going through the Iroquois navigation lock instead of going through the open gates of the Iroquois Dam with their boats. They would rather have their preferred water levels at the expense of more fluctuation and damages in other areas of the system.

Lake Ontario peaked lower and later in the year pre-project than since the project was built. The pre-regulation range was 6.6 ft, as stated by Doug Wilcox and others, but the post-regulation range was actually 6.1 ft. No one has demonstrated that this small change in range, or in any of the other statistical measures of water level change due to regulation, has had any impact on wetlands or that wetlands on

the Lake shore are not tolerant and "gotten used to" such variations. In fact, the analysis and background research upon which the Plan B+ benefits are based provided no scientific analysis indicating that any significant damage or detriment to Lake wetlands has occurred due to water level management on Lake Ontario.

Additionally, environmentalists have stated a preference for Plan B+, which will provide higher high water levels and lower low water levels, each with longer durations. This is justified on the basis of an assumed improvement to wetlands around the Lake. However, recent research has shown that adverse changes to wetlands are more a result of urbanization of adjacent land areas and watersheds than water level variations. And to the boaters in the audience, this means with Plan B+ your midsummer levels during periods of low supply will range from 245 to 245.5 ft for four years in a row, which now occurs in March and October of the year.

I still have concerns with science behind any of the plans:

Affects on tax rolls. The study plan formulators did not account for the cost on local assessments with the potential loss of homes. They have stated that there is no net loss to the tax rolls if a home on the shore is lost because the higher assessment of the lakefront home shifts to the next inland row of homes. The problem with this line of inaccurate thinking is: first, on much of the shore there is only one row of homes and secondly where there is a second, those homes are not as developed as the lakefront homes and thus would have lower assessments for some time until remodeled. During this time frame there would be a loss to local governments.

Under valued land costs Public and private

Have homeowners stand. Then have ½ sit and have elected officials stand. These people standing represent the undervaluation of the cost of shore protection based on study documents. The cost for shore protection is above \$1000.00/ft and based on study documents, the study used a cost of \$576/ft for Monroe and Orleans counties and \$589/ft for Niagara and Wayne counties. The cost of shore protection does not matter when you are comparing between plans but no one yet has looked at how this undervaluation affects the aggregate dollar value for coastal and how it compares to the other interests.

The public officials standing represent the lack of assessment of the approximate 17% of the shoreline along the south shore, which is the public taxpayer financed properties which would be adversely affected by any plan and were not considered.

Bottom line - the economics of the plans are still wrong!

One final comment on coastal costs not evaluated. Throughout the study, myself and others spoke to the problem about wave induced damages to the homes on the shore. These comments were ignored and only damages from first floor flooding were evaluated. Let me state, First floor flooding is not the problem on Lake Ontario, it is the wave damages and levels above 247 that continue to cause these problems.

I'd like to say a few words on Mitigation,

This is a still very gray area. There is no idea on what it will take to mitigate between Plan 2007 and Plan B+. Studies need to occur to determine types of mitigation needed and their associated costs.

Stakeholders from the affected interest primarily coastal when talking about Plan B+ need to be at table and have their input accepted, not some bureaucrat in Albany!

Do not be led astray by groups advocating Plan B+'s immediate implementation. Based on information taken from one of their web sites, their only mitigation option is to allow for expedited permits for homeowners. That may be all well and good but it does nothing to help pay for new protection to reduce damages. The cost should not fall on the backs of the individual homeowners or local governments. Maybe we should take the increased benefits from Hydropower and Commercial Navigation to pay for this work. I'm sure the hydropower interests would welcome the opportunity to give more benefits to more of the system just like they did to the areas around the dam when they relicensed the Hydro dam two years ago.

Additionally, mitigation will only lead to increased hardening of the shoreline, which at present is approximately 60% hardened.

Commissioners, you need to hang tough with NYS. My read on NYSDEC and NYS DOS is that they will concentrate on mitigating damages for the three most populated areas on the south shore and then lobby you to go to Plan B+ and leave the rest to fend for themselves. This is not acceptable! Mitigation and plan change has to be all or none. Either all mitigation is in place or no plan change occurs.

Let me conclude by stating that you will be hearing from many opposed to your decision. Quantity of opinion does not make it right, even if it is from misguided elected officials in the state and federal government or others. Let's not be like lemmings and run off a cliff together. Let me however leave you with one item that will guide you to make an ethical decision, when it seems that everyone is against you. It is something I pickup as a member of Rotary. It is the Rotary Four Way Test. The Four-Way Test is the cornerstone of all action. Of the things we think, say or do. All you need it to answer four questions when making a ethical decision:

1. Is it the TRUTH?
2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?
3. Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned

Thank you for your time.

Dr. Dan Barletta

A new look at global ethics and The Four-Way Test

By RI Director-elect Lars-Olof Fredricksson

Moral codes and ethics give us tools but also raise questions to be answered: How should we live? What is morally good and bad, right and wrong? Shall we aim at happiness or knowledge? Virtue or the creation of beautiful objects? If we choose happiness, will it be our own or the happiness of all?

And what of the more specific questions that face us? Is it right to be dishonest for a good cause? Can we justify living in opulence while elsewhere in the world people are starving? Is going to war warranted in cases where innocent people will likely be killed?

Ethics deals with such questions at all levels. The subject's core consists of the fundamental issues of practical decision-making, and its major concerns include the nature of ultimate value and the standards by which human actions can be judged right or wrong.

For Rotary, The Four-Way Test is the cornerstone of all action. It has been for years, and it will be in the future. Of the things we think, say or do

1. Is it the TRUTH?
2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?
3. Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

The test is one of the hallmarks of Rotary. Since it was developed in 1932 by Herbert J. Taylor, who later became RI president, it has never ceased to be relevant. Its four brief questions are not based on culture or religion. Instead, they are a simple checklist for ethical behavior. They transcend generations and national borders.

As Rotarians, we should have The Four-Way Test in mind in every decision we make, all day long. Our utmost responsibility is to speak the truth, to be fair, to build goodwill and better friendships, and to do our very best in all situations.

Life is very turbulent today, and people all over the world are exhausted in their duties. Where are the dreams of a better world? Where are we? Who are we? What is our duty to ourselves, neighbors, and fellow citizens? Where are charity and our joint responsibility to humankind?

Now more than ever, we need a vision and knowledge of what is happening around us, a new view of cultural and religious phenomena, without dividing humankind into limited and subjective categories. That's the tenet for a better world and a job for us Rotarians: not engaging in politics, but serving without any boundaries.

This happens through our programs, and it happens through acting as a guide for international coexistence, providing a forum for dialogue and discussion worldwide, giving perspective to views and models, finding new solutions using Rotarians' great knowledge and expertise, and having interfaith, multicultural, and ethical standards as guiding principles in all dealings.

No divine right can be vested in anyone to pronounce the final word or the ultimate truth. In matters of faith and religion, prescriptive morality should be avoided, as it often is the root cause of hostility and divisiveness. Global ethics is based on an interfaith mind and ecumenical way of living.

The one universal, unsurpassed principle expressed by nearly every major religion and values system is similar to the golden rule: Do to others as you would have them do to you.

Today, it is especially confusing to determine what is really right and wrong. But the fundamentals of Rotary are bound to universal ethics and humanity without any boundaries between race, religion, or ethnic background.

Rotary offers a possibility for solving ethical problems. Well-trained, well-engaged in social life, and with strong consciences, Rotarians must try to address these issues through Rotary's vocational and community service programs. People all over the world need more safety, tolerance, understanding, and love. They want to live in peace.

Tolerance, fairness, respect, compassion, and hope are particularly needed today. But what are tolerance and fairness? Are they only a question of sharing resources, rights, and obligations, or more a question of an ongoing dialogue? For an effective discourse, we have to identify the real problems, discuss them, and try to find compromises.

We should know what the human culture is made of, and what it means to different people and to the identity of other nationalities. The knowledge of other cultures, along with the skill to face the dissimilarities in our lives and lifestyles, seems to be a key point and the biggest issue.

Rotary, whose club members represent many cultures and religious beliefs and are committed to high ethical standards, can support mutual understanding and serve as a tool for peace. Rotarians and Rotary clubs all over the world — in small country towns and huge capitals, in the East and West, South and North — may provide enduring forums for peace discussions and together work for peace.

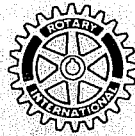
Lars-Olof Fredriksson, of the Rotary Club of Äänekoski, Finland, is a retired major in the Finnish air force and has a master's degree in political science.



OBJECT OF ROTARY

The Object of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster:

1. The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service;
2. High ethical standards in business and professions; the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations; and the dignifying of each Rotarian's occupation as an opportunity to serve society;
3. The application of the ideal of service in each Rotarian's personal, business, and community life;
4. The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service.



The Rotarian's 4-WAY TEST

of the things we think, say, or do

1. **Is it the TRUTH?**
2. **Is it FAIR to all concerned?**
3. **Will it build GOODWILL
And better FRIENDSHIPS?**
4. **Will it be BENEFICIAL to
all concerned?**
