

CORNWALL & DISTRICT ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

"TAKING CARE OF OUR ENVIRONMENT FOR OURSELVES AND OUR CHILDREN"

June 17, 2008

Initial Submission to the International Joint Commission on the Draft new Order and plan for regulation of water levels and flows for Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River

The Cornwall & District Environment Committee (CDEC) is a group of volunteers some of whom were members of the Public Advisory Committee of the St. Lawrence (Cornwall) Remedial Action Plan (RAP). While involved in the RAP process, the members acquired a comprehensive knowledge about the issues in this Area of Concern. CDEC's mandate encourages responsible environmental protection and restoration by citizens, industries, governments through communication, education, lobbying and community involvement.

The Cornwall & District Environment Committee is in favour of the implementation of Plan B+ as soon as possible but understands the problems that the Commission faces and the reasons that Plan 2007 is being suggested at this time.

CDEC believes that the International Joint Commission must have meaningful discussions with the five governments, the federal governments of Canada and the United States and the governments of the provinces of Ontario and Quebec and the state of New York concerning the timely funding of both adaptive management and mitigation measures.

Since the Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River Board will need funding to have the staff and resources for monitoring the operation of the new Plan, the implementation of adaptive management and mitigation measures, it is important that the International Joint Commission urge the governments, in the strongest terms, that there must be sufficient and ongoing support to make the process work to the benefit of **all** stakeholders.

It also is the responsibility of each of us that want B+ implemented to lobby for sufficient funds to ensure all these programs are funded sufficiently to make them viable, transparent and believable.

Since the Commissioners are appearing so close to our community, the CDEC wanted to make an initial short statement. However, the CDEC will make a more complete submission to the Commission before the deadline.

Thank you for your attention,
Elaine Kennedy,
Chair, Cornwall & District Environment Committee