



Sodus Point, NY

June 22, 2008

My name is John Love. I have lived and worked in the Village of Sodus Point since 1950.

My professional background has always been and still is the Recreational Boating Business, both retail sales and operation of a 120 slip marina on Sodus Bay. I wish to convey to you my observations and concerns of the effect of abnormal water levels, both high and low as it pertains to recreational boating in and about Great Sodus Bay.

In 1955 less than 100 recreational rental slips existed on Sodus Bay. Those facilities that did exist were for the most part crude & very temporary in construction. Lake levels that varied from 242 to 248 and above mandated constant repair & reconstruction of marine facilities of that period. These same widely fluctuating levels also discouraged the growth of boating.

With construction of the Seaway and adoption of Plan 1958D things began to change in the 60's. Construction of new marine facilities commenced in earnest by the mid sixties for two important reasons.

- (1) The advent of mass produced fiberglass boats and better propulsion systems created a new demand for marinas and boat dealers.
- (2) At last a predicable & stable lake level encouraged the private sector to make long term investments in marinas & boatyards on Sodus Bay.

This growth continued into the mid 80's until building was maxed out. As time progressed existing facilities were updated and improved and this progress is on going.

For your information, there are currently 16 facilities that supply seasonal dockage on Sodus Bay. Of these 8 are 100% marina facilities, the remainder are restaurants and bait & tackle shops. This equates to over 1200 rental slips at an average fee of \$1300 per season, about 1.5 mil for seasonal dockage. Add to that winter storage and haul out receipts of over 1 mil and retail boat & accessories and fuel sales in excess of 10 mil a year. In addition there are approx. one thousand private boats docked on Sodus Bay. When you add it all up recreational boating is a highly developed and mature industry on Sodus Bay and the south shore of Lake Ontario.

Just add Water, We'll do the Rest!

Sodus Bay - Lake Ontario
Page 2 of 2

I will share with you what happened in 1964 when a prolonged drought that closed state parks and forest lands, and dropped Ontario to its lowest level in my lifetime, limiting access to most facilities to row boats & canoes. Luckily this condition was short lived and came at the end of the traditional boating season.

In 1973 when our lake level went to 248.5 everything stopped. Most marinas suffered 100% destruction of docks, break walls, launching ramps, & buildings due to the length of time (Approx. 4 months) of 248 plus levels. In addition, spring storms off Ontario compounded the damage. Floating debris fields, some over 1 mile in length made it dangerous to operate any boat on the lake & bays. In short the clean up and rebuilding process was 3 -5 years in length, to say nothing of the loss of normal business revenues.

In 1993 highwater levels in April, May and into mid June also created havoc. The differences between 73' & 93' was a slightly lower level and an intense & daily leadership interaction between residents & the Army Corp of Engineers. This was also the first time I became aware of criteria K and witnessed first hand what it could accomplish.

From my perspective anything over 247 and below 243 is cause for alarm on Sodus Bay. I have always felt 58D was basically sound with my criticism being the implementation process seemed to never get ahead of the problems and was consistently playing catch up. It has been said plan 1958D is outmoded and has to be replaced. That may be but at least we know what we have in 58D and how to live with it.

In closing our company motto is "Just Add Water and We Will Do The Rest". Add or subtract too much water and we will not be able to do the rest.

Respectively submitted.

John Love
President, Arney's Marina Inc.