

Resolution of the Council of Tiny Township regarding extreme high water levels

Whereas; Extreme “crisis” high water levels on Lakes Michigan Huron and Georgian Bay are causing massive ecological and economic harm;

And Whereas; the IJC in 2015 recommended the collection of accurate St. Clair River flows and regular depth measurements of the St Clair River be taken to be able to assess and determine changes in conveyance capacity of the St. Clair River;

And Whereas; Based on evidence gathered and analysed by the Georgian Bay Great Lakes Foundation, it is now known that as of July 2020 no accurate depth measurements of the St. Clair River – measurements that are critical in determining if there has been further conveyance change in the St. Clair River outflow;

And Whereas; by using the ECCC data to calculate NBS by the component’s method, GBGLF have determined that 3 of the past 4 years have had below average net basin supplies on Lakes Michigan/Huron and Georgian Bay;

And Whereas; in reviewing satellite imagery of the outflow of Lake Huron onto the St. Clair River, it is obvious that there has been a significant increase in the sediment/sand supply into the river most likely resulting in a reduction of the outflow;

And Whereas; for the past 5 years there has been a significant and consistent reduction in the fall decline of water levels on Lakes Michigan Huron and Georgian Bay also indicating a reduction in the outflow capacity of the St. Clair River;

And Whereas; When similar extreme high water levels occurred on three occasions in the past government agencies initiated a temporary reduction in the Long Lac and Ogoki diversions into Lake Superior, resulting in a reduction in the flows from Lake Superior into Lakes Michigan Huron and Georgian Bay;

And Whereas; The recommendations in Annex 6 of the IJC’s 1993 Levels Reference Study clearly outlined effective remedial measures;

And Whereas; in dire situations such as this, every few centimeters of extreme water level reduction count.

Therefore, be it resolved that the Council of Tiny Township urges that the International Joint Commission in conjunction with both the USACE and ECCC take every measure possible to reduce water levels on Lakes Michigan Huron and Georgian Bay including the following;

1. Request the International Joint Commission to direct the International Lake Superior Board of Control (ILSBC) to immediately begin to hold back the extra 360CM/s extra flow that they directed Dec 2019 to March 2020.
2. Request review of the ILSBC's Plan 2012 to ensure that as such times for example in July 2020 when Lakes Michigan Huron Georgian Bay are 33 inches above their monthly longterm average and Lake Superior is only 9 inches above it longterm monthly average that Lake Superior discharges are reduced rather than increased as they have been since 2014.
3. Require analysis to determine best methods to stabilize the St. Clair Riverbed,

Further be it resolved that the Council of Tiny Township requests that the Ontario Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, Minister Yakabuski, issue a Ministerial Order requiring a temporary reduction in the Long Lac and Ogoki diversions as an emergency relief measure to alleviate the extreme high water levels on Lakes Michigan Huron and Georgian Bay.