

June 3, 2020

International Joint Committee
234 Laurier Ave W, Ottawa, ON K1P 6K6

To: Chairman Pierre Beland

Dear Chairman Beland,

I am sending you this letter in desperation. We are begging. The environmental, economic, and property destruction that is occurring as a result of the extreme high water level on Lake Michigan, Huron and Georgian Bay are incredible. They are at crisis levels and immediate action is needed to address it.

Climate change is happening, and water level crises are going to become more frequent.

In 1990, the International Joint Commission (IJC) issued a directive to prepare a report on methods to alleviate the adverse consequences of fluctuating water levels. This report is very detailed and took three years and considerable cost to complete. It has four key recommendations to enact during high water levels. To our knowledge, none of these actions are taking place. A four page synopsis of the report is attached and key points highlighted. Here are the IJC committee recommendations...

The Board further recommends that the following be implemented in the near future:

- **The authority necessary for deviation from the Lake Superior Regulation Plan during an emergency, similar to the authority to deviate that exists for Lake Ontario**
- **The installation of an ice boom at the head of the St. Clair River to reduce the risk of ice jams and flooding**
- **An increase in the flow capacity of the Black Rock Lock, so the flow through the Lock may be increased in emergency situations by an additional 340 cms (12,000 cfs)**
- **The manipulation of the four major Great Lakes diversions: Long Lac, Ogoki, Lake Michigan at Chicago, and the Welland Canal during crisis**

Why have none of the recommendations been enacted? Why is the IJC ignoring their own emergency plans?

In fact, the opposite is happening. The Long Lac diversion dumped inordinate amounts of water into Lake Superior in the first quarter of this year, and Superior then dumped it into Huron/Michigan.

The emergency alert level for Michigan/Huron from the water level report is 176.78 meters. We are now at 177.44 meters!

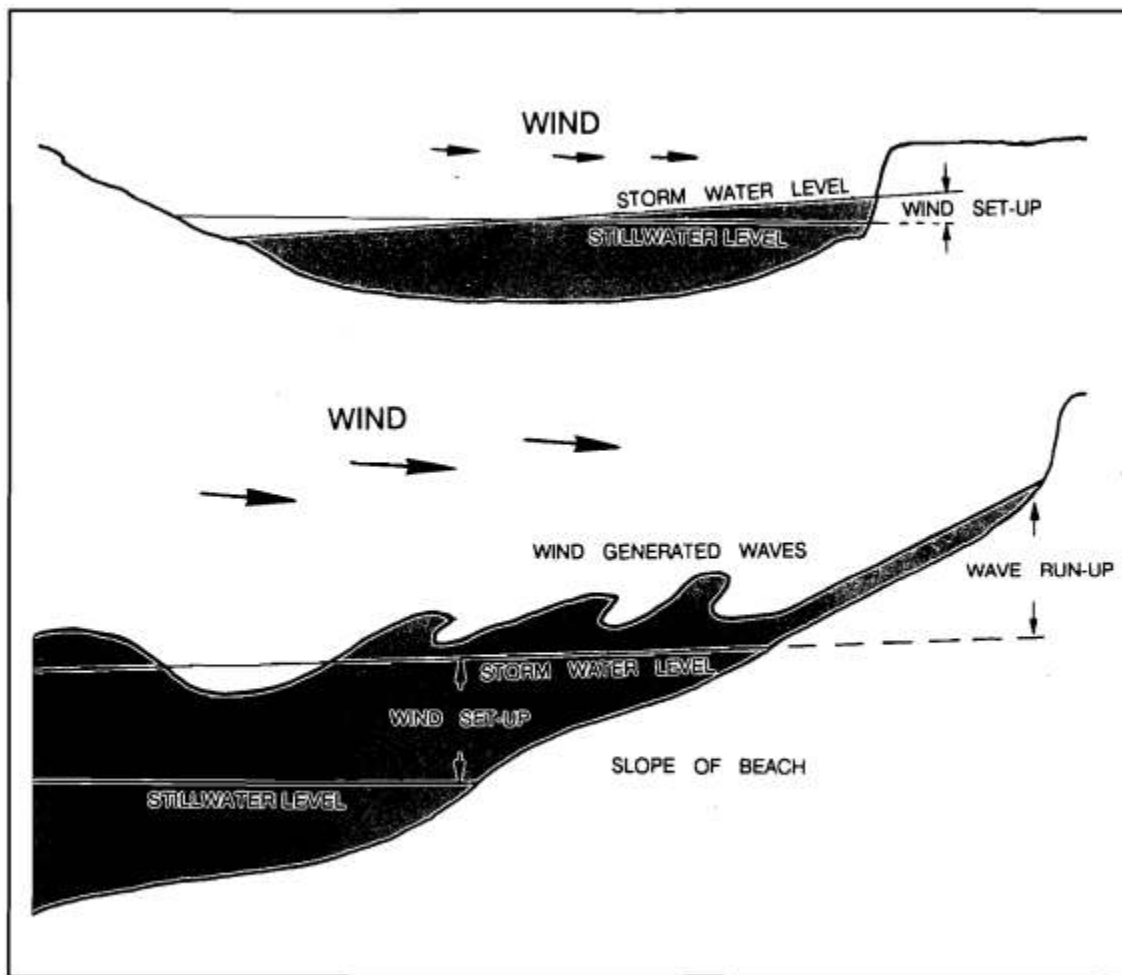
May 2020 Lake Levels Above May Long Term Average

Superior	+11 inches
Michigan/Huron	+33 inches
St Clair	+31 inches
Erie	+30 inches
Ontario	+13 inches

The Water Level study of 1993 recommended a two Lake Regulation system, but the numbers above show that it has manifested into Superior and Ontario taking care of themselves and ignoring the middle lakes. Why are Michigan/Huron/Erie the abused stepchildren in the Great Lakes family? How much longer will this punishment go on?

With wind set situations, a 5 inch increase in water levels can easily translate into double or triple that height. With the increasing winds of climate change, we are experiencing waves over 16 feet in height.

The figure shows the effects of wind on lake levels:



Source:

<http://graham.umich.edu/media/files/water-levels-ijc-reference-study-1993.pdf>

Even a four inch reduction translates into a huge avoidance of damage.

Please see the devastating effect this has on just one property over the last 24 months (pictures below).

There are compromised septic systems dumping raw sewage into our lakes. There is massive hardening of the shoreline, destroying fish, bird, and game habitat. There are whole tourist economies like Wasaga Beach at risk (now the Longest Freshwater Beach Disaster in the World), and there are hundreds of millions of dollars of damage and repair to the 30,000+ residences on Michigan/Huron/Erie.

It took three years and millions of tax payer dollars to come up with a plan for water level emergencies. For goodness sakes, please implement your plan, fairly distribute the water levels, and protect our vital resources.

Respectfully,

Frank and Mary Beth Dunnigan

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Complete water levels report...

<http://graham.umich.edu/media/files/water-levels-ijc-reference-study-1993.pdf>

Destruction progression of our property over last 24 months

How it was July 2018. 62 Trew Avenue, Tiny ON



August 2019. Stairs gone and boardwalk hanging. Not near deck yet.



April 2020. Everything gone. Deck undercut and hanging.



The main strip at Wasaga Beach has disappeared under sand and shops infiltrated



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