

# LEVELER

E-Newsletter from the Lake Ontario Riparian Alliance

Issue 55      April 11, 2016

Grassroots Public Advocacy for the Protection, Restoration and Conservation of Lake Ontario  
Beaches and Riparian Property

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## Where would we be, if Plan 2014 were the operational plan for the regulation of Lake Ontario? Part 2



This photo was taken following the storm on April 5-6, 2016. The photo shows a breach in the eastern spit on Port Bay. Does this portend the future under Plan 2014 for Irondequoit Bay, Sodus Bay and any other water bodies along the south shore of Lake Ontario? Plan 2014 will not allow deviations until a trigger level, which is much higher than the current level is reached.

The Environmental Working Group of the Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River Study never evaluated the environmental effects on these impounded bodies of water, which have a different environment than the lake as to what the loss of their lakeshore protective structures would do to their environment. What will happen to endangered species like the Bog Turtle whose habitat is found along the south shore of Lake Ontario and the New York State Department of Conservation lists as an endangered species?<sup>1</sup>

Yanicy Creek which is adjacent to Hamlin Beach State Park is another threatened area. So much so that after the high water period of 1997 the US Army Corp of Engineers build a stone breakwall based on the current regulation plan. The habitat's worth was confirmed in a biological survey conducted by Joseph C. Makarewicz, SUNY Brockport professor, in 2000. As far as wildlife, Makarewicz found that the marsh was home to nine species of plants that have received special

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/7164.html>

status from New York State: the Peregrine Falcon, which is an endangered bird; the Bald Eagle and Pied-billed Grebe, two threatened birds; and several important fish species.<sup>2</sup>

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Charles Point can now again be called Charles Island. Photos below were taken this morning (April 9, 2016) on the stretch of - what used to be the board walk connecting Crescent Beach to Charles Point. The board walk is gone. The breach is about 75 feet wide. Deep spots - so not crossable today. A plume of mud from the break goes 1/4 to 1/2 mile south out into the bay. We expect that the break will widen, as the waves have already started to wash away bushes and beach into the bay. Location is west of the Bloomer cottage.



Photographs taken by Rosa Fox

Below is photo of the protection for the parking lot at Sodus Point Park owned by Wayne County. The damage would be greater under Plan 2014, since water levels would be much higher than at present time. Additionally, and more importantly, the damage to public infrastructure like this was never added as a cost during Plan 2014 assessments



Photo by Chris Tine Phtoography

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<sup>2</sup> <http://westsidenewsny.com/pastarchives/OldSite/westside/news/2007/0708/features/protectingyanty.html>

# Shoreline Survey.

If you have seen areas of damage from the current high water and recent storm, please reply to this newsletter so we can further document this damage or email info to: [loranet@rochester.rr.com](mailto:loranet@rochester.rr.com).

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## Current Lake Level vs 2014 Level and Trigger

The Rochester Democrat and Chronicle reported today that the current Lake Ontario level is at **246.45** feet.

If Plan 2014 were the operational plan, the lake would be about **7.5** inches higher than the current level and would be at **247.07** feet.

The Plan 2014 trigger that would allow the Board of Control to deviate from plan flows is **247.38** feet for this week.

**Therefore, the Board would not be allowed to do anything to help reduced damages along the south shore of Lake Ontario.**