

Lake Ontario St. Lawrence River Alliance,  
Inc.



## **JOINING FORCES, FIGHT BACK CAMPAIGN**

PO Box 862, Fayetteville, NY 13066

January 2020 Newsletter

Website: [www.LOSLRA.org](http://www.LOSLRA.org)

Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/LOSLRA](http://www.facebook.com/LOSLRA)

### **2019 Re-cap and 2020 Action Plan**

**Dear Members,**

No one is angrier and more frustrated than I am over the continued implementation of Plan 2014 and the clear prioritization of the shipping industry interests by the IJC. Our team has worked tirelessly since we formed this organization and our Canadian partners have as well. The history of several previous legal battles over Lake Ontario levels indicates that it takes several years of continuous effort at best to get any change or legal remedy. We have researched and learned from these past efforts and

we will not stop until change is accomplished. Below is a brief re-cap of LOSLRA's accomplishments and efforts in 2019 and our future direction.

- LOSLRA has held public rallies in Sandy Pond, Clayton, Alexandria Bay, Oswego, Greece, Sodus Point, Henderson Harbor and Olcott NY to raise awareness, educate people, and recruit members to join our fight.
- LOSLRA puts out an email newsletter at least monthly to everyone—these newsletters are posted on our Facebook page and website as well.
- LOSLRA has met with nearly every elected official along the lakeshore at the state, federal and county level multiple times in the past 6 months to urge to action against Plan 2014 .
- We have gotten legal opinions on 2 legal strategies (injunctive relief and a taking claim).Going forward with either strategy requires in excess of \$150,000 and we need your help to raise those funds now.
- We have produced several videos and participated in multiple webinars to educate people and elected officials about the impact of Plan 2014. We need to constantly fight the climate change propoganda that the IJC continuously puts out. We will be doing more of these videos and webinars in 2020.
- There is currently a government investigation underway into the IJC Plan 2014 by the US Government Accountability Office. LOSLRA has met with the GAO investigators and given them lots of information about the failings of Plan 2014. The GAO report is expected this spring.
- Late in the summer, NYS filed a lawsuit against the IJC. In December, LOSLRA met with the legal team at the NYS Attorney General's office in Albany and offered our advice and expertise.
- Team members have had several meetings with the IJC, Army Corps of Engineers, River Board members, Environmental Groups and Canadian Engineers to discuss the implementation of Plan 2014 and its effect on shoreline residents and communities.

## **2020 Action Plan**

- We are currently working with Save our Sodus and putting together a fundraising team and plan to raise \$250,000 for lobbying and legal action. We have some very experienced team members and will be looking for local coordinators to work with regional team leaders.
- We are currently negotiating with a DC based law firm to help with lobbying and legal action. This law firm is a very large, well connected, and experienced firm with considerable experience and expertise in complex legal and legislative issues.

- We continue to talk with our elected officials on both the US and Canadian side to effect change or repeal of Plan 2014 and receive compensation for damages.
- We continue to keep abreast of the NYS Attorney General's lawsuit against the IJC. We will continue to encourage the AG to be aggressive and we will learn from their legal strategies and efforts.
- We will continue to urge our elected officials to pressure the IJC to release water and lower the lake level before the Spring rains and snow melt occurs.
- We will continue to urge the federal government and NYS to provide funding for flood damage victims' property **and** break walls (primary and secondary homeowners')
- Urging the Federal Govt. and Canada to shut down incoming diversions in the Upper Great Lakes as was done in 1952, 1973, and 1985 to address the high water emergencies such as we have been experiencing. High water in the upper great lakes contributes to high water in Lake Ontario and this is also a man-made problem which can be managed (despite what the IJC says).
- Strongly advocate for delaying the start of the Shipping season from mid-March to mid-April or later until the Lake can be lowered to minimize flooding potential from Spring rains and run-off.

### **Flood Damage Funding Update:**

In July 2019 Governor Cuomo announced the REDI Commission. The original purpose of the REDI Commission was to find ways to "harden and make the Shoreline of Lake Ontario more Resilient" to flooding. Meetings and workshops were held around the State. \$300 Million was identified as the amount needed "to make the Shoreline more Resilient". This was broken down into \$270 Million for Towns, Counties and Municipalities. \$30 Million was for damage caused to "Homeowners". Initially this \$30 Million was only for "Primary" residences. Under strong pressure from LOSLRA, several other organizations, and hundreds of "secondary" homeowners', additional funding was identified to include damage to "secondary" homes. As the State REDI Commission identified the covered damage, it has been limited to "structural damage to home only". Damage to homeowners "break walls" has been excluded and this is ABSURD and UNACCEPTABLE!! Without solid break walls damages will continue year after year in high water.

**Call and email your NYS Senator and NYS Assembly person ASAP to voice your displeasure before it is too late.**

Douglas Dobson-VP LOSLRA has contacted several NYS Senators and Assembly people and is also working to setup a live press conference in the

next several weeks (date/time/location to be determined), to continue to pressure NYS to provide funding to repair damaged break walls. If you would like to attend the live press conference or send Doug a copy of your denial letter, call Doug at 585-225-1669 or email to: [edge1575@aol.com](mailto:edge1575@aol.com)

We really need more members and more donations, so please enlist your friends and neighbors to join and donate today. **Our legal expenses are rising and funding is critical. To join and donate to LOSLRA please visit: [www.LOSLRA.ORG](http://www.LOSLRA.ORG)**

Happy New Years to everyone

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