

UPDATE 19/10 - Lake Ontario Flooding; "Shippers catch a break"

1. **"The Duluth Seaway Port Authority and the Chamber of Marine Commerce both hailed a decision Friday not to open the Moses-Saunders Dam wider to increase the flow of water out of Lake Ontario, via the St. Lawrence River."** These are the first words in a Friday, 28 June 2019 Duluth News Tribune article titled "Shippers catch a break" (at <https://www.duluthnewstribune.com/business/transportation/2735395-Shippers-catch-a-break>). According to the article, on 28 June 2019, the International Lake Ontario St Lawrence River Board (ILOSLRB) decided to maintain an outflow of 10,400 cubic metres/second. This is the same outflow that was imposed by the ILOSLRB on 13 June 2019.

2. At 4:40 am, Tuesday, 2 July 2019, I went to the ILOSLRB Facebook site to check if the ILOSLRB had informed the public of its decision. It had not.

3. This bad news is backed up by the following numbers:

(a) as of 27 June 2019 (the most recent data available) the Net Total Supply (the sum of all water that enters Lake Ontario) was 11,070 cubic metres/second. So at an outflow of 10,400 cubic metres/second, Lake Ontario is gaining water at a rate of 670 cubic metres/second. Simply put, the flooding of Lake Ontario is getting worse. Not better; and

(b) as of 27 June 2019, the water level on Lake Ontario was 75.90 m (249.03 ft). Lake Ontario has been hovering around this mark for about the past three weeks (see <http://lre-wm.usace.army.mil/reports/GreatLakes/GLWL-CurrentMonth-Feet.pdf>). During the 2017 flood, Lake Ontario reached a maximum water level of 75.88 m (248.95 ft) on 25 May 2017. After 25 May, Lake Ontario levels steadily decreased. Simply put, Lake Ontario is higher than it ever was during the record-breaking 2017 flood and this peak is occurring one month later than the peak of the 2017 flood.

4. There is one more clear warning about the ongoing Lake Ontario flood. In its 28 June 2019 Weekly Great Lakes Water Level Update, the United States Army Corps of Engineers reported that "**High water levels and potentially record high water levels are expected to persist for at least the next six months, so flood prone areas are expected to remain vulnerable.**" (see <https://www.lre.usace.army.mil/Missions/Great-Lakes-Information/Great-Lakes-Water-Levels/Water-Level-Forecast/Weekly-Great-Lakes-Water-Levels/>; red, bolding, italicizing my own). The next six months would put us into the winter season. Fighting flooding in cold water, with ice chunks floating around, would be no easy day. It would be a mess.

5. There is nothing confidential in this e-mail. Please ensure its widest distribution.

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