



LOWER TRENT
CONSERVATION

WATER LEVEL BULLETIN

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Flood Watch Cancelled - Lake Ontario/Bay of Quinte

DATE: October 10, 2019

TIME: 2:00 PM

ISSUED TO: Municipalities (Alnwick/Haldimand, Cramahe, Brighton & Quinte West), Northumberland & Hastings Counties, Ministry of Natural Resources & Forestry, Media, Health Units, Emergency Response Agencies

MESSAGE #: LTC – 19 – 29

Lower Trent Conservation is cancelling the Flood Watch for the **Lake Ontario shoreline from Grafton to Quinte West** and the **Bay of Quinte shoreline within Quinte West**.

A Flood Outlook Statement was first issued on April 23, 2019 and a Flood Warning was in effect for May through mid-September. Water levels as recorded at Cobourg have now dropped approximately 87 cm from the record setting daily average of 75.92 masl (metres above sea level) set at the beginning of June.

The International Lake Ontario - St. Lawrence River Board has indicated that the warm and dry weather through the summer and September combined with record high outflows from Lake Ontario and declining inflows from Lake Erie will allow Lake Ontario water levels to continue to decline over the next several weeks. Lake Ontario typically reaches its seasonal low level in late fall. Additional information can be obtained at <https://www.ijc.org/en/loslrb>.

Lake Ontario outflows were at a record high for the month of September the ILOSLRB will continue releasing high outflows, while considering the effects on all interests within the Lake Ontario – St. Lawrence River system. Though it is too early for accurate predictions, ILOSLRB forecasts are suggesting that 2020 will likely begin with above average water levels. Additional opportunities to further increase outflows, however brief or incremental, are being evaluated in order to try and reduce the risk of potentially high water levels again next spring.

As water levels remain 45 cm above average for this time of year, the public are reminded to be aware of shoreline hazards. Saturated and eroded shorelines may be unstable after the recent and unprecedented high lake levels. Shorelines should be avoided particularly during periods of strong onshore winds.

The International Joint Commission (IJC) through the Great Lakes –St. Lawrence River Adaptive Management Committee is now calling on residents impacted by flooding events in 2019 to express their concerns by sharing comments and photos through the organization's online survey.

A similar study was conducted after the flood events in 2017 where the International Joint Commission received comments from only 299 Ontario residents.

The data collected from this year's survey will allow the Commission to evaluate and improve their scientific and engineering models that were developed to help estimate potential damages, and impacts to plan modifications that may be experienced under a range of Great Lakes water level conditions. Residents can fill the survey out here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YXZ8822>

Property owners are reminded that any restoration or repair work along the shoreline (e.g., placement of fill, armour stone, etc.) will require a permit from Lower Trent Conservation and should call the office at 613-394-4829 or visit the website (www.LTC.on.ca) for more information.

Lower Trent Conservation monitors water levels and weather forecasts closely as part of its flood forecasting and warning program. Water level updates are available at www.LTC.on.ca. If you have concerns about water levels, please contact Lower Trent Conservation at (613) 394-4829.

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