



October 25, 2019

Dear Mayor Tory and Council,

Waterfront For All is an umbrella group of neighborhood associations and other citizen groups concerned with the Toronto waterfront.

I write in respect of “Flood Mitigation and Damage Repair for Toronto's Waterfront and Toronto Island Park” IE 8.5, scheduled for discussion by Council on October 29th.

The Island park and community have been seriously impacted by flooding in 2017 and 2019. Such flooding is very likely to occur next spring and possibly in future years.

This summer, the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) released a Flood Characterization Report, Flood Risk Assessment Report, Flood Mapping and a Flood Mitigation Alternatives Report, which evaluated structural options to mitigate flood risk in the long-term. The Report identifies next steps which include determining the level of acceptable risk and priority areas, conducting site investigations and engineering analyses, and developing preliminary and final designs.

The current level of Lake Ontario is higher than average. Even if the next year is a typical year in terms of precipitation, Lake Ontario may experience worse flooding than in 2019. We submit that the International Joint Commission (IJC), which determines the outflow rate, must increase outflows down the St Lawrence River now through November and December in order to handle the expected inflow to the lake next Spring.

Municipalities and communities adjacent to Lake Ontario's shorelines have joined to ask that the IJC increase the outflow down the St Lawrence River now when there is no risk to communities in the lower river.

This is within IJC's mandate, as set out in the Plan 2014 Compendium Document: “The Board may also use the information acquired through the adaptive management strategy to propose to the Commission modifications to the plan should it learn over time that conditions (climatic, socio-economic or environmental) have changed enough such that the plan is no longer meeting its intended objectives or improvements to the plan could realize increased benefits.”

We therefore request that Mayor Tory and Council:

1. provide the necessary funding for the work recommended by TRCA to begin as soon as possible, and to continue in future budget cycles,
2. make flood monitoring and continued mitigation a priority of its Resilience Strategy, and
3. request the IJC to increase the outflows down the St. Lawrence now through November and December.

Yours truly,

Edward Hore

Chair,
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