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Submitted by Paul Morgan. South Channel Assoc's GBA Rep.

Now that the International Joint Commission report has come out, we are being asked "what is GBA doing now?" and "what can I do to help?" What GBA is doing:

GBA has already followed up with Tony Clement and will be continuing to press the governments on both sides of the border to act on the recommendations of the International Joint Commission to take action to raise water levels in the middle Great Lakes by 5 to 10 inches. The fact that we have had a wet spring and water levels have risen from the crisis levels of this winter does not change the need for action. Water levels are still well below the historical range, and with a changing climate it is likely that we will have more droughts in the future.

Therefore, it is still vital to retain the water that we have. We have been told by Minister Clement that he understands the issues, and that the next steps will be to ensure that other politicians of all parties also get to understand the issues and the need for action as well.

GBA has agreed to make a \$10,000 donation to support a study on the economic impact of low water levels in the Great Lakes that Georgian Bay Forever is arranging through the University of Toronto's Mowat Centre. This study will provide a strong economic rationale for taking action on low water levels.

GBA is also urging the Canadian government to fill the Canadian vacancies on the International Joint Commission as soon as possible. Canada is entitled to three positions, and right now two of them are vacant. We need to ensure that Canada is seen to be treating the IJC seriously and has good people arguing our case.

What can cottagers do to help? We have three suggestions:

1. Urge your friends, family and neighbours to join your local cottagers' association if they are not already members. The more people GBA speaks for, the more influential our voice will be with politicians.

2. Write to your politicians, both in Canada and the US, emphasizing the importance of taking action to deal with low water levels. You can get their email contacts and suggested points for your message from the "Political Action" tab on the GBA website: www.georgianbay.ca.

3. Consider supporting the economic impact study by making a financial contribution to the study through Georgian Bay Forever.

Members can also get more information from the GBA's UPDATE newsletter. The summer issue is being sent out, and is also available online at <http://www.georgianbay.ca/pdf/update/vol23no2.pdf>