

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE:

Dear South Channeler,

If you got to your cottage this month of June, you were no doubt surprised and delighted at the high water...thinking that Mother Nature had responded to our appeal to "stop the drop". It may save some dredging plans at cottages and marinas and give a "business as usual" go-ahead; for example for the Island Queen to keep sailing its customary route. But the long-term enterprise still faces us. I got a helpful letter from our Parry Sound-Muskoka member, Tony Clement, this month where he said,

"Last month the Government of Canada received recommendations from the International Joint Commission (IJC) on Great Lakes

Water levels. I have already discussed the report with stakeholders, the IJC lead Canadian Commissioner, and with my colleagues in

Government. I believe the report contains measures that, if adopted, can make a difference over the long term in restoring water

levels to traditional variances. We'll also need to take action in conjunction with our U.S. partners that will ensure that we can

have the greatest and most immediate impact.

I have attended numerous meetings with stakeholders and have seen the impact first hand. I know full well how record low water

levels are affecting my constituents along Georgian Bay. I understand the frustration and anxiety that exist for homeowners,

businesses, municipal leaders and cottagers. It is crucial that all those with an interest in finding remedies review what the IJC

has presented, and continue to work together toward effective solutions. I will do all I can in this regard.

I am meeting again in Ottawa with my fellow ministers John Baird and Peter Kent to discuss how we will specifically respond to what

the IJC has presented. Knowing that time is of the essence, I can assure you that we are working diligently with a full understanding of what's at stake."

Sincerely, Tony Clement

Another interesting communication has come from Bob Duncanson regarding IJC appointments to say that the Federal Government has appointed two new Commissioners, one being Gordon Walker, a former Cabinet Minister in Ontario Governments, and who was and IJC Commissioner from 1992-95. He is a Cognashene cottager and therefore, personally concerned about the issues and very supportive of the GBA. Liane and I have also known the Walkers, Gordon and Harriet, for many years since they lived in London, Ontario.

Your South Channel Association is active on a number of fronts and we hope you will note and support them. Do please remember our **Annual Meeting on August 10 at Glenn Burney Lodge**. It will be full of fascinating information and you will hear from two top speakers. 1. Janet Loughheed: Director of Development, Georgian Bay Land Trust

2. Bob Duncanson: Executive Director of the GBA

So, bring the family if you have a full house that weekend, meet your neighbours, and feel the

pulse of being the most favoured summer people on the globe...and I would like to shake your hand as well.

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