



Water Levels on the Bay of Quinte and Lake Ontario

Water Level Information

Water levels on Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River are primarily determined by rain, snow, wind, and other natural factors. The Moses- Saunders Dam, also provides some limited control over water levels and flows.

Water levels and flows on Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River are managed under Plan 2014. The International Joint Commission, after 14 years of scientific study and public engagement, advances Plan 2014 as the preferred option for regulating Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River water levels and flows.

Plan 2014 is designed to provide for more natural variations of water levels of Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River that are needed to restore ecosystem health. It will continue to moderate extreme high and low levels, better maintain system-wide levels for navigation, frequently extend the recreational boating season and slightly increase hydropower production. More year-to-year variation in water levels improve coastal health.

www.ijc.org
www.ijc.org/en/loslr

Current and forecast Lake Ontario water information

Information on water levels can be found
www.facebook.com/InternationalLakeOntarioStLawrenceRiverBoard/
www.waterlevels.gc.ca/C&A/recent-forecast-eng.html

Your local Conservation Authorities do not control Lake Ontario water levels.

Protecting your property from water damage

High water levels can cause flooded basements, erosion issues, and contaminated wells. For flooded basements ensure your sump pump is working and elevate items off the floor. If your well has been impacted by flood waters – do not drink well water in flooded areas - have it tested before using it.
www.hpepublichealth.ca/home/drinking-water

If you have erosion issues contact your local Conservation Authority.

All work along shorelines requires a permit from your local Conservation Authority and may require a permit from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry.

Your local Conservation Authority can provide you with options to protect your shoreline, and help with the permitting process.



Lower Trent Conservation
www.ltc.on.ca/planning/par/

Quinte Conservation
www.quinteconservation.ca/site/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=29&Itemid=43

The Bay of Quinte Remedial Action Plan, through its Rural Stewardship Program, can provide homeowners with financial assistance for shoreline projects that reduce erosion like: Shoreline Rehabilitation, Waterway Plantings, and Erosion/Water Quality Improvement Projects.
<https://www.bqrap.ca/communityprograms/landownerstewardship/#>

Sandbagging your home

If flood water approaches your residence, a sandbag berm can be installed. Here are some links on the proper way to install a berm.

www.ltc.on.ca/cms_lib/SandBaggingProcedures.pdf
www.quinteconservation.ca/site/images/stories/water/docs/how_to_sandbag.pdf

A sandbag berm will provide some protection to your residence from flood waters, it will not prevent erosion to the shoreline.

Contact your local hardware store for sandbags, plastic poly and a pump.
Contact your municipality to see if they have sand available to fill sandbags.

What to do with the sandbags once the water recedes.

Placing or dumping sand into the water or along the shoreline is not permitted.
For sand disposal, landowners can contact their municipality for more information.

If a land owner chooses to use the sand it must be placed on high ground on their property. For sand placement, sand can be placed 15 metres away from the 1 in a 100 year floodplain on higher ground. If you do not know where the 1 in a 100 year floodplain is you can (1) place the sand 15 metres away from the highest water level experienced on your property in 2017 (2) contact your local Conservation Authority for information about the 1 in a 100 year floodplain and setback for fill placement.

Lower Trent Conservation 613-394-4829 ext. 224 or gage.comeau@ltc.on.ca
Quinte Conservation – 613-968-3434 ext.129 or regulations@quinteconservation.ca

Roles

Conservation Authorities

Conservation Authorities have developed a flood forecasting and warning system to provide early warning of possible risks to people and property from flooding. They provide local municipalities, other agencies and the public with advance notice, information and advice so that they can respond to potential flooding and flood-related emergencies.

Municipalities

Under the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act (Ontario Regulation 380/04), municipalities have the primary responsibility and authority for response to flooding and flood emergencies, and also for the welfare of residents and protection of property.