

Water level expectations for 2019. Roger Gauthier.

Water levels in the Les Cheneaux region are projected to be at least 2" higher this summer than last year. Very heavy snowpack across the northern Great Lakes could push water levels even higher than current estimates, potentially causing damage to shore property and structures.

LCWC members have been engaged with other shore property groups across Lakes Michigan-Huron and Georgian Bay to request that the U.S. and Canadian governments to push for implementation of emergency response measures to reduce water levels across the region. The principal method for reducing water levels would be to reduce inflows from the Long Lac and Ogoki (LL/O) diversions north of Lake Superior over the next year in accordance with recommendations made by the International Joint Commission (IJC), a binational agency between countries, in 1993. The LL/O diversions were first implemented during the early years of World War II to increase hydropower production across the Great Lakes to support the war effort.

We are requesting that the two governments push for limiting inflows from the LL/O diversion to pre-diversion quantities. This action has occurred twice over the last 35 years setting a precedent for such actions. The governments so far have failed to agree to this request. Cut-backs to natural flows for the LL/O diversions would reduce Lakes Michigan-Huron water levels by at least 2" inches by the end of the summer. This may be a very modest amount, but it is a movement in the right direction nevertheless.