

A Challenge from Collins Bay Marina

in support of the

International Water Levels Coalition

The water levels in Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River are critically important to boaters and marinas. None of us wants to again see the difficulties associated with low water or face the prospect of ever greater dredging projects. The only answer available to us is to be active in communicating with the International Joint Commission (IJC) that sets policy and the International St. Lawrence River Board of Control (ISLRBC) which makes the decisions concerning water flows and levels.

There is a citizens group, the International Water Levels Coalition (www.IWLC.org), that acts as a watchdog and advocate on water level issues to the IJC and ISLRBC on behalf of all of us. Their mission is tremendously important, but their membership, especially in Canada, is quite small. This year, Collins Bay Marina took steps to help expand that membership and strengthen their voice on our behalf.

We instituted a membership drive among our customers to ask them to join the IWLC. We explained the purpose and endorsed the work of the IWLC and enclosed a copy of their newsletter in our winter mailing to each customer. We further offered to enrol each customer in the organization and pay their first year fees (a modest \$10 per member). As a result of these efforts, the current Canadian membership of less than 200 is expected to be increased by more than 50%.

As you can see from the numbers, much more is needed. We would like to challenge each marina, association, boating business and yacht club on the St. Lawrence River and Lake Ontario to mount a similar membership drive for the IWLC. Aware citizens, active in making our needs known to government, are the only route we have to protecting our waters, our recreation and our businesses.

Thank you for your support!

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March 2008