

Georgian Bay Leaders Initiative Impact of Low Water Levels on Georgian Bay - 2013

The Mayors, Reeves and Chiefs of communities that border on Georgian Bay share the concerns of their citizens about the declining water levels of Georgian Bay. Leaders from twenty seven communities have come forward and identified:

- Marina slips with insufficient water depth
- Docks that are no longer accessible by boat
- Municipal water intakes that need to be relocated
- Lakers and ferries with insufficient water to operate

The low water situation affects the whole of Georgian Bay. Remedial action is required this year.

Our Focus

Our focus is the identifiable economic harms caused to communities by the declining water level in Georgian Bay this year. It is not to take a position in the international debate over the cause and solutions to regulate the water levels in the Great Lakes.

Case Book

The Case Book has been prepared to list all of the observed harms in communities for 2013. It shows:

- 68 marinas will be affected up to and including closure
- 31 government facilities will be impacted, including rebuilding docks
- 76 businesses will be hurt, including docking the Chi Cheemaun ferry

Just to maintain government and business operations will cost a minimum **\$20 million**.

The Case Book identifies additional harms including:

- Accommodative repairs to residential cottage properties, estimated at **\$500 million**
- Losses to the Georgian Bay tourism and general economy, estimated at **\$50-100 million per year**
- Disruption of the First Nations' societies and way of life

Action Now

By April 2013 the Leaders will have approached their Provincial and Federal counterparts seeking:

- **Financial support for business/municipalities**
 - o Shared funding – harms based – easy terms
- **Cottager incentives**
 - o Program to support cottagers fixing personal docks, water pipes, etc
- **Permit streamlining**
 - o Dredging/ Blasting - Half loads for moving material

Your Role

Write a letter with your Georgian Bay story and supporting the Leaders campaign.

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For further information on the Leaders Initiative on Low Water in Georgian Bay please contact Gord McKay, Mayor, Midland at gmckay@midland.ca March 14, 2013