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Contact: Terry Hogan
Greece Chamber of Commerce Director of Marketing & Communications
(585) 227-7272, Terry@GreeceChamber.org

Greece Chamber Presentation on Plan 2014

Impact of changes in Lake Ontario Levels on Property Owners

Greece, NY, July 22, 2015 – The Greece Chamber of Commerce today announced that their upcoming *Eggs & Issues* Breakfast will focus on the Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River Plan 2014, proposed for adoption by the International Joint Commission (IJC), and the impact that it will have on businesses and residents.

WHAT:	Eggs & Issues Networking Breakfast
WHEN:	Thursday, August 13, 2015
TIME:	7:30 am – 8:30 am
PLACE:	Brook House Restaurant 920 Elm Ridge Center Plaza (off Ridge Road West)
TOPIC:	Proposed Lake Ontario – St. Lawrence River Plan 2014
GUEST SPEAKERS:	Dr. Dan Barletta Dr. Frank Sciremammano
COST:	\$22 per person for Greece Chamber members \$32 per person for non-members

Plan 2014 will change the current regulations controlling the water levels of Lake Ontario. It will be a departure from the Lake’s current 4-foot regulatory range, which has been in effect for over 50 years, and instead allow for a greater variation that could lead to significant public and private property damage.

“As a representative of the shoreline communities of Hamlin, Parma, Greece, and Charlotte, I have heard from countless residents about the problems that this plan will likely have as a result of higher water levels, which will increase the potential for flooding and other water damage,” said NYS Senator Joseph Robach. “In choosing to continue in this direction, the IJC has selected a plan that will result in potentially dangerous water levels on Lake Ontario that could have disastrous effect on homes, properties and infrastructure along the southern shoreline.”

“Plan 2014 is well intentioned, but clearly falls short of an ideal solution. This plan is certainly a step in the right direction, but the proposal turns a blind eye to residents along the southern shore of Lake Ontario” said Greece Town Supervisor Bill Reilich. “I cannot support this plan until I see alterations which better serve Greece residents.”

“Lakeshore homeowners and business owners have, for years, constructed and developed their properties along Lake Ontario according to assurances that were made to them by the governments of the United States and Canada decades ago,” said New York State Assemblyman Peter Lawrence, whose

district represents the Monroe County lakeshore towns of Greece and Parma. “If the plan is put into effect as it is currently proposed, the investments made by those lakeshore property owners and the taxes which are collected on those properties would be adversely affected. We must protect the rights and investments of our lakeshore residents; therefore, I am in opposition of the plan.”

In October 2014, the Greece Chamber of Commerce officially opposed Plan 2014 and called for a moratorium on the development of any future proposals by the International Joint Commission (IJC) until a thorough, objective and all-inclusive analysis of the potential economic damages to tourism, recreation, business, and homes along the south shore of Lake Ontario, can be undertaken.

“Plan 2014 is proposing changes that could impact every one of us,” said Sarah Lentini, Greece Chamber of Commerce President and CEO. “The Greece Chamber of Commerce wants to make sure that businesses and residents are aware of this proposal and have the opportunity to participate in a community dialogue on this important topic.”

Guest Speakers for the Eggs & Issues Networking Breakfast:

Dr. Dan Barletta

Dr. Dan Barletta is a lakeshore resident and in private dental practice in the Town of Greece. He is an Associate Professor at the University of Rochester Department of Dentistry, member of the Grand View Beach Association, member of the Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River Study (LOSL) - Study Board and US Chair of its Public Interest Advisory Group, Co-Author of the Minority Report on the LOSL Study and Director of the Lake Ontario Riparian Alliance (Grassroots Public Advocacy for the Protection, Restoration and Conservation of Lake Ontario Beaches and Riparian Property). Barletta is a member of the Town of Greece Planning Board.

Dr. Frank Sciremammano

Dr. Sciremammano is a full Professor of Mechanical Engineering at the Rochester Institute of Technology and a licensed Professional Engineer. He was appointed in 1995 by the International Joint Commission to serve as a member of the St. Lawrence River Board of Control and is currently the ranking member of United States section. He also served as a member of the Study Board of the Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River Study (LOSL) from 1999 - 2006 and is a co-author of the Minority Report from it. He resides in the Town of Brighton and has served as the Chairman of the Town of Brighton Planning Board, Chairman of the Monroe County Environmental Management Council and Chairman of the Town of Brighton Conservation Board.

Media Inquiries contact:

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