



PRESS RELEASE **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Clinton County Sheriff David Favro is warning recreational boaters to stay off Lake Champlain in the wake of the recent flooding and unusually high lake levels in our region over the last few weeks. Reports of speeding on local waterways combined with excessive debris obscured by high lake levels prompted the Sheriff to issue this warning.

High flow from rivers into Lake Champlain over the last couple weeks washed a large amount of debris into the lake.

Sheriff Favro says there is a high likelihood any debris, break-walls or rocks in the lake will be obscured by the unusually high lake levels, posing a serious danger to boaters.

Additionally, the lake temperature is only in the upper 30s. Sheriff Favro says immersion in water this cold can become life-threatening very quickly due to hypothermia.

For these reasons recreational boating is discouraged at this time. A special webpage has been created with updated information about the flooding conditions on Lake Champlain:

www.erh.noaa.gov/btv/lake/floodinfo.php.

If you must venture out onto the lake, wear a personal floatation device, file a float plan and have either a chart or GPS. Sheriff Favro says you should also carry a cell phone, marine-band radio and visual distress equipment.

For a more detailed listing of all the emergency equipment boaters are required to have on their vessel please visit:

www.nysparks.com/recreation/boating.

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