

Search

THE BUFFALO NEWS (https://buffalonews.com/)



THE BUFFALO NEWS

# Letter: Queen City plan ignores historical weather pattern

---

By Staff (https://buffalonews.com/author/staff/)

Published December 13, 2019

---

<https://buffalonews.com/>     

The 20-story Queen City proposal, on the Outer Harbor, in the direct Lake Erie seiche path, makes no sense at all. From 1948 to 1955 I kept a dinghy at Sandy Banister's moorings just down the beach. Each year a seiche stacked our boats on the rocks.

Buffalo is at the downwind end of a long shallow lake. When that southwest wind blows hard enough, the lake piles our way, like a tsunami; like my grandfather sipping coffee from a saucer; I sneeze at him; Grampa has a coffee seiche.

The seiche of 1844, a terrible blast of wind, raised the water in Buffalo Harbor 22 feet. Lake steamers and canal boats littered downtown Buffalo. Fifty-three people died; there was inestimable property damage. Abraham Lincoln saw fit to build our breakwall to blunt these awesome forces.

A seaman friend of mine spent a nerve-jangling night aboard the derrick ship McCauley in Buffalo Harbor during a seiche. "We dropped 12x12 timbers between the boat and the concrete face of the dock; it got ground and shredded to pulp in a couple hours."

This fall Buffalo suffered two seiches. Lake Erie rose 12 feet. Winds blew 70 mph. Waves did \$10 million to \$15 million in damage to the breakwall and drove across Fuhrmann Boulevard, Gallagher Beach, the Queen City site, and Times Beach. Insurance is settling the cost of a barge grinding against the small boat harbor wall.

The Outer Harbor is a barrier island exposed to devastating natural forces. In decent weather, this barrier island is an idyllic place, perfection for the state park proposed by the Partnership for the Public Good. It is deadly, uninhabitable when the weather turns.

If this rude intrusion into what should be a state park is destroyed by a seiche, will we be expected to rebuild it?

Larry Beahan

Amherst

---

## SUPPORT LOCAL JOURNALISM

If you value these stories, please consider subscribing.

**Subscribe ([https://subscribe.buffalonews.com/?utm\\_source=article&utm\\_campaign=support\\_subs](https://subscribe.buffalonews.com/?utm_source=article&utm_campaign=support_subs))**

There are no comments - be the first to comment

0  
▼

---

## Recommended for you

### YOU ASKED, WE ANSWERED

(/2020/01/23/will-donald-trump-pardon-chris-collins/?utm\_medium=more\_stories)  
**Will President Trump pardon former Rep. Chris Collins?**  
(/2020/01/23/will-donald-trump-pardon-chris-collins/?utm\_medium=more\_stories)

(/2020/01/22/cellino-barnes-breakup-moving-forward/?utm\_medium=more\_stories)  
**The Barnes Firm and Cellino Law: New practices agreed to as breakup nears** (/2020/01/22/cellino-barnes-breakup-moving-forward/?utm\_medium=more\_stories)

**Know It Now**

1. Water main break closes Delavan rail station, alters traffic. ([https://buffalonews.com/2020/01/23/water-main-break-closes-delavan-rail-station-alters-traffic/?utm\\_medium=more\\_stories](https://buffalonews.com/2020/01/23/water-main-break-closes-delavan-rail-station-alters-traffic/?utm_medium=more_stories)) > ([https://buffalonews.com/2020/01/23/water-main-break-closes-delavan-rail-station-alters-traffic/?utm\\_medium=more\\_stories](https://buffalonews.com/2020/01/23/water-main-break-closes-delavan-rail-station-alters-traffic/?utm_medium=more_stories))

---

2. You Asked, We Answered: Will President Trump pardon former Rep. Chris Collins? ([https://buffalonews.com/2020/01/23/will-donald-trump-pardon-chris-collins/?utm\\_medium=more\\_stories](https://buffalonews.com/2020/01/23/will-donald-trump-pardon-chris-collins/?utm_medium=more_stories)) > ([https://buffalonews.com/2020/01/23/will-donald-trump-pardon-chris-collins/?utm\\_medium=more\\_stories](https://buffalonews.com/2020/01/23/will-donald-trump-pardon-chris-collins/?utm_medium=more_stories))

---

3. The Barnes Firm and Cellino Law: New practice names are agreed to as breakup nears. ([https://buffalonews.com/2020/01/22/cellino-barnes-breakup-moving-forward/?utm\\_medium=more\\_stories](https://buffalonews.com/2020/01/22/cellino-barnes-breakup-moving-forward/?utm_medium=more_stories)) > ([https://buffalonews.com/2020/01/22/cellino-barnes-breakup-moving-forward/?utm\\_medium=more\\_stories](https://buffalonews.com/2020/01/22/cellino-barnes-breakup-moving-forward/?utm_medium=more_stories))

---

4. Opponents' hot stretches are pushing the Sabres further out of the playoff race. ([https://buffalonews.com/2020/01/22/buffalo-sabres-nhl-tampa-bay-lightning-florida-panthers-columbus-blue-jackets-playoffs-all-star-break-news-opinion-2020/?utm\\_medium=more\\_stories](https://buffalonews.com/2020/01/22/buffalo-sabres-nhl-tampa-bay-lightning-florida-panthers-columbus-blue-jackets-playoffs-all-star-break-news-opinion-2020/?utm_medium=more_stories)) > ([https://buffalonews.com/2020/01/22/buffalo-sabres-nhl-tampa-bay-lightning-florida-panthers-columbus-blue-jackets-playoffs-all-star-break-news-opinion-2020/?utm\\_medium=more\\_stories](https://buffalonews.com/2020/01/22/buffalo-sabres-nhl-tampa-bay-lightning-florida-panthers-columbus-blue-jackets-playoffs-all-star-break-news-opinion-2020/?utm_medium=more_stories))

---

5. Projecting the next great edge rusher is an art form for Bills scouts at the Senior Bowl. ([https://buffalonews.com/2020/01/22/projecting-the-next-great-edge-rusher-is-an-art-form-for-bills-scouts-at-senior-bowl/?utm\\_medium=more\\_stories](https://buffalonews.com/2020/01/22/projecting-the-next-great-edge-rusher-is-an-art-form-for-bills-scouts-at-senior-bowl/?utm_medium=more_stories)) >  ([https://buffalonews.com/2020/01/22/projecting-the-next-great-edge-rusher-is-an-art-form-for-bills-scouts-at-senior-bowl/?utm\\_medium=more\\_stories](https://buffalonews.com/2020/01/22/projecting-the-next-great-edge-rusher-is-an-art-form-for-bills-scouts-at-senior-bowl/?utm_medium=more_stories))

([https://buffalonews.com/2020/01/22/gallery13192/?utm\\_medium=more\\_stories](https://buffalonews.com/2020/01/22/gallery13192/?utm_medium=more_stories))  
([https://buffalonews.com/2020/01/22/gallery13192/?utm\\_medium=more\\_stories](https://buffalonews.com/2020/01/22/gallery13192/?utm_medium=more_stories))

([https://buffalonews.com/2020/01/22/gallery13192/?utm\\_medium=more\\_stories](https://buffalonews.com/2020/01/22/gallery13192/?utm_medium=more_stories))  
([https://buffalonews.com/2020/01/22/gallery13192/?utm\\_medium=more\\_stories](https://buffalonews.com/2020/01/22/gallery13192/?utm_medium=more_stories))

**Smiles at Prospectus Premiere 2020 at Salvatore's**  
([https://buffalonews.com/2020/01/22/gallery13192/?utm\\_medium=more\\_stories](https://buffalonews.com/2020/01/22/gallery13192/?utm_medium=more_stories))

([https://buffalonews.com/2020/01/22/gallery13117/?utm\\_medium=more\\_stories](https://buffalonews.com/2020/01/22/gallery13117/?utm_medium=more_stories))  
([https://buffalonews.com/2020/01/22/gallery13117/?utm\\_medium=more\\_stories](https://buffalonews.com/2020/01/22/gallery13117/?utm_medium=more_stories))  
([https://buffalonews.com/2020/01/22/gallery13117/?utm\\_medium=more\\_stories](https://buffalonews.com/2020/01/22/gallery13117/?utm_medium=more_stories))

(https://buffalonews.com/2020/01/22/gallery13117/?utm\_medium=more\_stories)

### #EveryDayAPhoto 2020

(https://buffalonews.com/2020/01/22/gallery13117/?utm\_medium=more\_stories)

(https://buffalonews.com/2020/01/20/gallery13185/?utm\_medium=more\_stories)  
(https://buffalonews.com/2020/01/20/gallery13185/?utm\_medium=more\_stories)  
(https://buffalonews.com/2020/01/20/gallery13185/?utm\_medium=more\_stories)  
(https://buffalonews.com/2020/01/20/gallery13185/?utm\_medium=more\_stories)

### Smiles at Chestnut Ridge Winterfest

(https://buffalonews.com/2020/01/20/gallery13185/?utm\_medium=more\_stories)

(HTTP://BUFFALONEWS.COM/SECTION/SPORTS/BILLS?UTM\_MEDIUM=MORE\_STORIES)BEST OF [BN] BLITZ

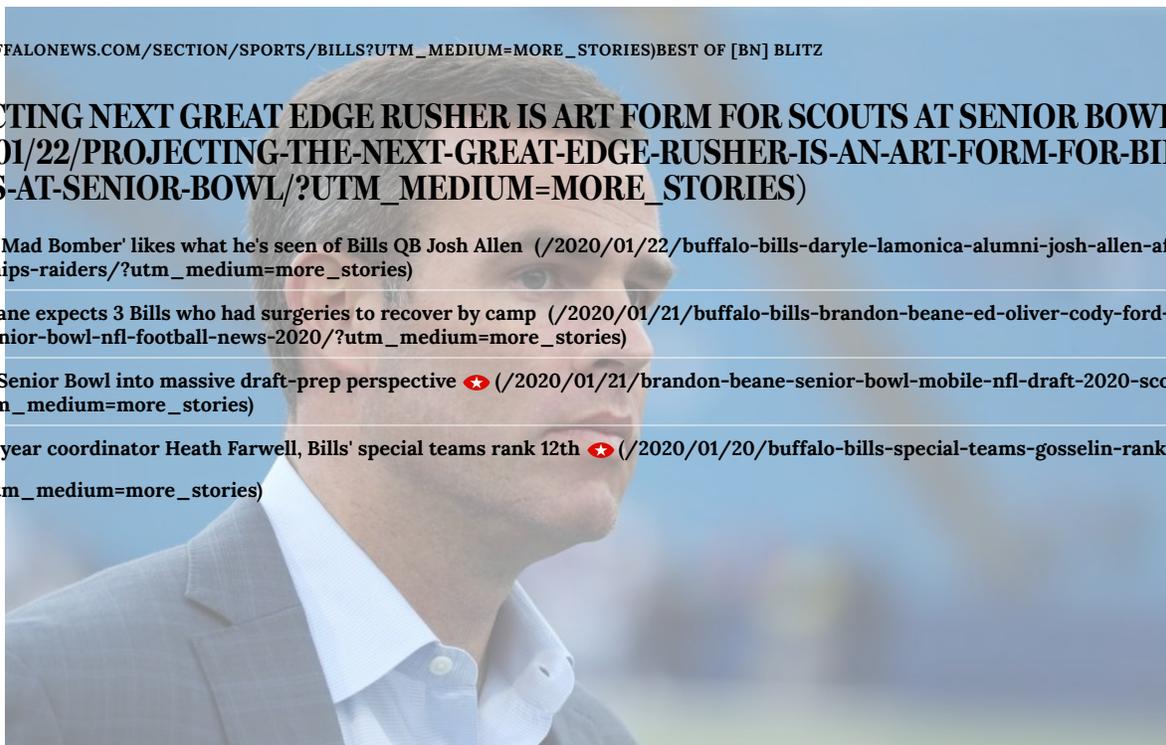
## PROJECTING NEXT GREAT EDGE RUSHER IS ART FORM FOR SCOUTS AT SENIOR BOWL (2020/01/22/PROJECTING-THE-NEXT-GREAT-EDGE-RUSHER-IS-AN-ART-FORM-FOR-BILLS-SCOUTS-AT-SENIOR-BOWL/?UTM\_MEDIUM=MORE\_STORIES)

Erik Brady: 'Mad Bomber' likes what he's seen of Bills QB Josh Allen (/2020/01/22/buffalo-bills-daryle-lamonica-alumni-josh-allen-afl-championships-raiders/?utm\_medium=more\_stories)

Brandon Beane expects 3 Bills who had surgeries to recover by camp (/2020/01/21/buffalo-bills-brandon-beane-ed-oliver-cody-ford-jon-feliciano-senior-bowl-nfl-football-news-2020/?utm\_medium=more\_stories)

Beane puts Senior Bowl into massive draft-prep perspective (2020/01/21/brandon-beane-senior-bowl-mobile-nfl-draft-2020-scouting-free-agents/?utm\_medium=more\_stories)

Under first-year coordinator Heath Farwell, Bills' special teams rank 12th (2020/01/20/buffalo-bills-special-teams-gosselin-rankings-skurski/?utm\_medium=more\_stories)



(/2020/01/23/breakthrough-diabetes-insulin-drug-developed-with-help-from-buffalo/?utm\_medium=more\_stories)

### Breakthrough diabetes insulin drug developed with help from Buffalo

(/2020/01/23/breakthrough-diabetes-insulin-drug-developed-with-help-from-

(HTTP://BUFFALONEWS.COM/SECTION/GUSTO?UTM\_MEDIUM=MORE\_STORIES)BEST OF GUSTO

### AT EURO CAFE, A BRIGHTER WAY OF LOOKING AT POLISH FOOD (/2020/01/22/AT-EURO-CAFE-A-BRIGHTER-WAY-OF-LOOKING-AT-POLISH-FOOD/?UTM\_MEDIUM=MORE\_STORIES)

TOY to Room 207, Lancaster does Christie's classic (/2020/01/22/arts-beat-toy-goes-to-room-207-lancaster-does-christies-classic-and-a-not-to-be-missed-mozart/?utm\_medium=more\_stories)

Great Lakes Pizza is a tried-and-true experience for the everyman eater (/2020/01/21/great-lakes-pizza-is-a-tried-and-true-experience-for-the-everyman-eater/?utm\_medium=more\_stories)

Santa puking, other art on Buffalo breweries' beer cans (/2020/01/21/for-beer-can-appreciation-day-5-great-examples-of-local-beer-can-art/?utm\_medium=more\_stories)

Hang on, Buffalo, Hofbrauhaus will get here when it gets here (/2020/01/20/hang-on-buffalo-hofbrauhaus-will-get-here-when-it-gets-here/?utm\_medium=more\_stories)

Best bang for your buck: Restaurants with heaping helpings (/2020/01/09/the-best-bang-for-your-buck-restaurants-with-generous-helpings/?utm\_medium=more\_stories)

