

Presentation to Trent-Severn Waterway Panel

The following material is based on my rough notes used to make a presentation to the Trent-Severn Waterway Panel in Minden, Ontario, August 14, 2007. These notes won't be quite verbatim, but I've not added nor re-organized the material, though I have added some additional material after.

"Mr. Chairman, Panel Members, Participants.

My Name is Peter Macnaughton. My brothers and I share a cottage on Grace Lake. I didn't know exactly what to expect at this meeting so didn't prepare ahead of time a proper presentation. I'm not as eloquent as the previous speakers, so let their comments on the importance of your work stand.

I'm speaking as a property owner, and on behalf of my two brothers, but not for any others on the lake.

Grace Lake, near Wilberforce, Ontario, is one of the headwaters for the Trent Canal system, and also serves to store spring run-off.

The property has been in my family since 1949 or perhaps late 1948. My brothers and I spent all summer long at the cottage during our youth. We really love the wilderness here in Haliburton and elsewhere. We live with nature, and don't attempt to re-engineer it.

In our youth, we came to expect the vast changes in water level in Grace Lake, awaiting the exposure of the small beaches we have near the cottage. Now we find the water levels are much higher. Over the years there has been considerable shore erosion at high water, from wind driven waves and the wakes from power boats.

So I'd like to make sure you have heard from people who appreciate low water in their lake and adapt to its fluctuations.

Thank you."

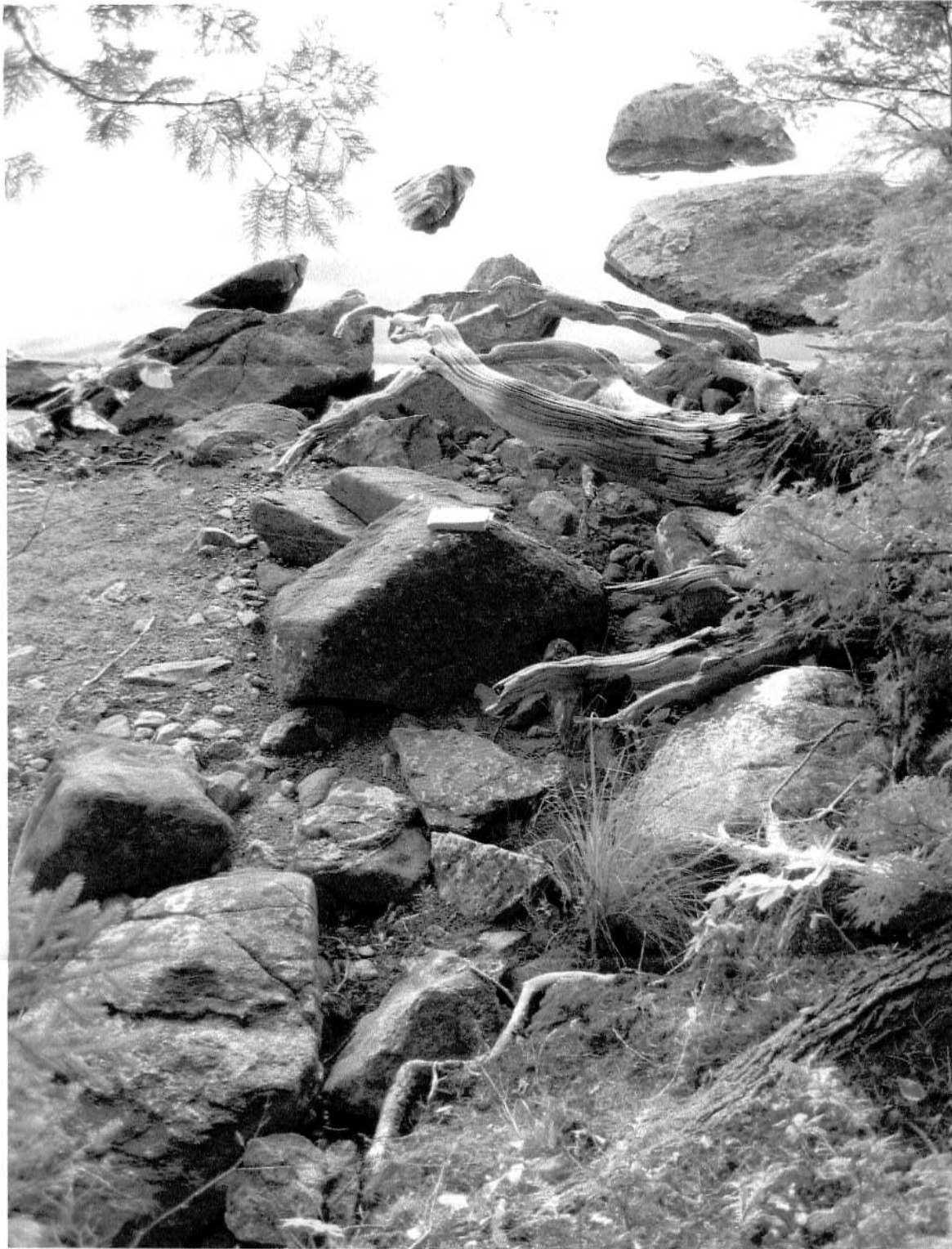
Here is some additional material:

The property is also jointly owned with our second cousin, ~~Bob Macnaughton~~ whose name is first on the owner's role.

We have water access only although the property is part of the mainland. There is no road servicing the property.

There is at least one other property owner on the lake who prefers lower water levels so he can enjoy his sand beach.

I'm attaching a digital picture to illustrate the erosion that has taken place over the close to 60 years we've been there. There's a rock with a pocket book lying on top, in the centre of the picture. Soil used to surround the rock and extend to the old stump roots just to the right and past this rock. I used to step on the rock and then onto the roots when I would fetch water in pails for cottage use during the mid 1960s. The tip of the rock is just exposed at high water. It's perhaps the worst area of erosion but not the only place.



When my family first started coming to the lake, there was a narrow channel between Grace Lake and Grace River with wood and log crib retaining walls that channelled the

flow of water at the outlet. This channel, probably established by one of the local lumber companies, focused the flow of water out of the lake, keeping a fairly deep passage that was navigable most of the year. Over time, the walls deteriorated and have disappeared. Recently I heard that some cottagers on Grace Lake, Grace Lake River, and/or Dark Lake are trying to arrange to dredge part of the river at the outlet between Grace Lake and the river in order to maintain navigation between the two lakes, and to re-establish the retaining walls. It would be nice if the Trent-Severn Waterway included such works in its program; then perhaps, the water levels in Grace Lake could be lowered earlier in the season.

The level of Grace Lake last weekend (September 1 and 2, 2007) was a good level for us; in fact, the water could be 3 or 4 inches higher to improve boat motor clearance around the end of the docks we use.

Peter C. Macnaughton