

I have spent a lot of time on the TSW,(as well as travelling on the Rideau) & have owned different types of boats , including a 36' houseboat , which I kept on Chemong. While I daresay many people have expressed their concern of lack of space at many of the locks, & other matters, I would like to make the following suggestion:

I very strongly recommend privatizing the operations of the locks and have them run by contract. This could easily be done by either a tender system for each lock (or a group of locks at one location) or choosing an applicant from submissions by interested parties. This could lead to huge cost savings as there has always seemed to me to be an overabundance of staff at all locks, who are being paid astronomical salaries (plus all those expensive benefits), and who no doubt collect unemployment benefits in the off season. Private individuals would take a sincere interest in the locks they were awarded, & I'm sure treat & care for them as their own, while taking pride in providing a service to the boating public. This would also provide much needed employment to people who are local to each locks location. While I'm sure the pro-union people among you might immediately try to knock down this idea, I respectfully suggest that your mandate is to consider ALL ideas which may help the overall situation of the system. And that is what this is all about: the preservation of this wonderful & unique treasure we have in our own backyards.

Submitted by : Andy Gray