



August 9, 2007

Presentation to: Trent-Severn Waterway Panel

Kawartha Protect Our Water (KPOW) is a voluntary non-profit organization incorporated July 2001. This organization was initiated by six individuals who took exception to the expansion of the Lindsay/Ops landfill on the shoreline of the Scugog River. They organized when the Town of Lindsay and Ops Twp. Decided to expand this landfill into a mega dump. This small group presented sound arguments against their Municipal foes, but alas, could not muster sufficient support to stop the expansion. In the interim, there have been considerable efforts by KPOW to halt the City of Kawartha Lakes from entering into an agreement for disposing of dead livestock in this dump and signing a contract with a private firm to haul contaminated soil for remediation at this dump site. Currently, we are at odds with a City proposal to pipe sewage from a Municipal village to the Lindsay Sewage Treatment Plant for processing which will create more effluent being discharged into the Scugog River and in turn the surrounding lakes. We have worked with Sir Sanford Fleming students, the Kawartha Conservation Authority and have members on the Public Review Committee which oversees the Lindsay/Ops dump. We are an umbrella group for many of the Sturgeon Lake associations and we have approximately 450 members and 50 corporate sponsors. We have primarily concentrated on the Scugog River and Sturgeon Lake but are now planning on expanding to Pigeon and Cameron Lakes where we have created some interest. We are proponents of reducing pollution in our waterways, finding ways and means of encouraging the fish stocks to return, to reducing winter kill-offs, to discouraging weed growth and to maintaining reasonable water levels year round. Relatively stable water levels encourage successful spawning beds, reduce the influx of pollutants from the Scugog due to faster water movement and ensure shoreline residents of a year round water supply

We are concerned with

1. Pollution in our waters.
2. Loss of fish stocks.
3. Reduction in the number and type of fish recommended for consumption.
4. Unreasonable winter water levels resulting in permanent residents suffering without access to water.
5. Frogs and crayfish are gone primarily due to fluctuating water levels.
6. Winter fish kills are lessening due to smaller quantities of fish surviving in summer

#### SUBMISSION

Our concerns as related to the Trent Canal Authority

1. Fall and winter lake water levels.
2. The diminishing stock of consumable fish.
3. The removal of navigational aids (buoys).
4. The declining tourist population.
5. The lack of enforcement by ecological and environmental protection agencies.
6. The difficulty in communicating with Parks Canada and the Trent-Severn Waterway Board.

ITEM

## WATER LEVELS

During the past three years everyone on the System has experienced extreme fluxations in water levels particularly in Fall and Winter. We note that this topic is the lead topic in most presentations; and is certainly a dangerous situation when not properly scheduled and assessed as to need, depth and time of year.

We all understand that adjustments must be made to accommodate Spring run-off, but one does question dropping Sturgeon Lake 38 inches , while the Peterborough Conservation Authority forecast a 4 inch to 5 inch spring runoff based on snow acculations.

Now surely in this computerized age a proper model can be designed to correctly ascertain how much water must be removed throughout the entire system to minimize flooding. God help us if TSW is incapable in the year 2007 of designing such a program. They had best be able to because with the climatic changes we are going to experience with global warming, water will become our most precious resource, and we will be looking to TSW to protect that water in every possible way in everything they do.

The performance of the last three years has been disasterous. We have heard of spawning beds being totally destroyed, shorelines flooded and eroded fish eggs exposed and fish kills.

Low water levels during winter under frozen ice can result in oxygen deprivation especially in shallow water, making it more difficult for marine life to survive, especially young fish.

## NAVIGATIONAL AIDS

TSW is responsible for safe navigation throughout the TSW system.

This year the waterway is shy between 200 to 300 navigational buoys on the system, and this includes some on the Scugog River between Lake Scugog and Sturgeon Lake.

The rationale for this decision was TSW could reduce expenditures by \$25,000 annually if they did not set these buoys.

Talk about a ridiculous decision! We already have boaters saying they will not boat the system again.

Has anyone thought about the liability this decision could cost if a boat sinks or flips and someone drowns.

Tourists who boat in this area are already saying they will not be back.

We'll, lose the tourists and kill the tourist business.

Someone, somewhere saved \$25,000.00 this year and lost \$250,000.00 for next year.

ITEM

## COMMUNICATIONS

Several of the presentations highlight the problems of cutting through the bureaucracy to obtain clear information and a concise explanation or answer to an inquiry.

We believe TSW needs a clearing office that can either field and respond or field and refer requests for information. Further there is a desperate need for a co-ordinator of information who will work in harmony and directly with the Provincial M.O.E., M.N.R. and local Municipal governments.

This individual should not have to clear information with Parks Canada or anyone else. Simply dispatch the information.

There should not be any big dark secrets pertaining to the operation of a waterway system. The operations need to be more transparent for the public.

ITEM

## PHILOSOPHIC CHANGE

Given that TSW was originally charged with maintaining and operating a navigational waterway, it becomes apparent from M.P. Bruce Stanton's motion that those responsibilities should now be expanded to include an economic focus that will maximize the value of TSW to the tourist industry, municipalities on the waterways and the many taxpayers who live on the waterways.

This is a tall order and this panel will be very hard pressed to build a plan to meet this goal.

Clear concise communications between all parties is essential and we believe respect and open communications between TSW and the Provincial M.O.E. and M.N.R. are mandatory. If this is not achievable perhaps the answer is to remove TSW from Federal Jurisdiction and make it a Provincial Operation. If TSW does not adjust its operational mode this plan will not come to fruition.

## MY PERSONABLE PERSPECTIVE

The motion by M.P. Bruce Stanton:

That, in the opinion of the House, the government should consider the advisability of evaluating the future of the historic Trent-Severn Waterway, one of Parks Canada's National Historic Sites, and its potential to become (a) a premier recreational asset; (b) a world-class destination for recreational boaters; (c) a greater source of clean renewable electrical power; (d) a facilitator of economic opportunity and renewal in the communities along its 386 km length and (e) a model of environmental sustainability.

The House passed this motion unanimously on October 18, 2006.

The motion that M.P. Bruce Stanton introduced in the House of Commons that was passed unanimously on Oct 18, 2006 was very clear and concise and unquestionably complete with subsections, (A) (B) (C) (D) and (E)

There is no mention of a funding framework.

The funding idea was obviously a concoction of the Federal Ministry of the Environment when he detailed the purpose of the mandate review and he tacked it on as his view of what the review encompassed.

It is certainly questionable whether or not he has the authority to alter a member's motion that received unanimous consent and in my view he has overstepped his authority.

It is also questionable whether unanimous consent would have been forthcoming if funding had been in the original motion presented by M.P Stanton.

In any event funding is an issue between the TSW and the Federal Government. The Federal Government has surplus funds available and I would suggest the Minister insure TSW is not financially embarrassed soliciting operative and maintenance funds from the taxpayer who has already paid for this service

## SUMMARY

Mr. Chairman, and members of the Panel.

You are indeed charged with an onerous task, and you will have accumulated many suggestions, recommendations, and criticisms when these public meetings are completed and all the presentations digested.

We would ask you to keep in mind that there are people in the Municipal Field, the Tourism Field, Economic Field and management Field who would be prepared to provide whatever help they can as you search for answers, and most certainly if groups like "KAWARTHA PROTECT OUR WATER" can be assistance we will.

Respectfully submitted

Murray Hynes Chair  
Kawartha Protect Our Water (KPOW)  
Presented at Lindsay ON. August 9,2007.