

September 13th, 2007.

To: TSW Panel

Subject: Water Management on Eels Creek

Dear Trent Severn Waterway Panel

Our History

I have owned 3 adjoining 100-acre lots in North Kawartha, for the past 29 years (formerly Anstruther Township).

I purchased this property to have a “wilderness recreational area” for my two (then young) boys. From 1978 until the spring of 2006, the management of water levels flowing through all 3 of our 100-acre lots was what I considered, for those years, acceptable. We had water levels, which although fluctuating, were reasonable. It was my understanding, from first ownership, that we were on a creek that was a “feeder” from Eels Lake to Stoney Lake. This feeder was to help maintain water levels for boat navigation on the Trent Waterway.

From 1978 to 2005 the water levels on Eels Creek had been managed fairly well and I had no complaints.

Our Problem

High water level in Eels Creek

In the last 2 years “reasonable” water levels have not been maintained!! One week the water will be what we call “normal” and the next, the water will rise significantly and cause a raging torrent through our swimming area. While the water is at this very high level we cannot swim due to the force of the water and under-tow created. This is quite discouraging since we cannot use the water for swimming until the water level subsides. Swimming is an important feature of continuing to own property along the Creek

In addition, higher than normal water levels cause erosion thereby deteriorating the shore vegetation. When the water level recedes the mud walls created, are very unattractive.

Our Suggested Solution

Current water management philosophy must return to the pre 2006 water management philosophy, whereby water is released at a more reasonable rate.

Communication between TSW and the various Cottagers Associations of the affected lakes, must be initiated and maintained. In this age of e-mail technology, it seems to me, a short e-mail note to a designated person, association or group is possible.

Thank-you for your consideration

R. A. Burns.