

TRENT-SEVERN WATERWAY PRESENTATION

Lakefield - SEPT 13th, 2007

Good afternoon. Members of the panel. Members of the community. Friends, neighbours and concerned citizens.

My name is Heather Brooks-Hill. I am a senior citizen and a long time devotee of the T-SW and, in particular, Ston(e)y Lake.

Most of you know me as I have attended several of your summer deliberations. I admire your commitment to offer such broad and frequent attempts to make this opportunity possible for so many to participate.

I asked to speak today in Lakefield because this is where my paternal grandparents are buried.

I grew up with the stories of my family's love of this area.

I grew up (maybe!) - I may still be doing so! - aware that this was a small piece of paradise....a treasure to be loved, honoured and protected.

My husband Jeremy Carver, with whom I am sharing this allotted time, will provide comments that address this statement....not the "growing up" part but the need to remediate and protect.

The fierceness with which I hold this belief was first informed by my grandmother who, in 1917, arrived in Lakefield by train from Toronto and took the boat from Lakefield to Ston(e)y where she stayed alone on Grassy Island with my father as a young boy. That was 90 years ago. Grassy was their "home".

Later, my family stayed six months of the year when my grandfather was able to get the Peterborough, Smith Falls Perth territory for his sales route.

There was no paid staff on Grassy Island....just a small nuclear family who loved the challenge, the beauty and the serenity from which I learned about the sacredness and celebration of Nature's gifts.

Many years later....I live year round on the main land in a cottage-to-home conversion....still the same values prevail....and I am fierce, like my grandmother, about the responsibility to respect and protect what is ours, for a short time, that belongs to those who will follow us....your grandchildren, mine and theirs.

In our modern technological world much is possible....but building white pine trees and pink granite landscapes on sparkling waters, are challenges beyond the current possibilities. *creating large + small wetlands...*

Water is perhaps our greatest resource and, because we have so much to lose, is our greatest challenge....quality and quantity.

You, the appointed members of the T-SW panel hearings committee are now in a position to recommend the preservation, restoration and respect that this mighty Nature-made....maximised for transportation, pleasure, tourism and commerce.... T-SW deserves.

Please find the passion in your hearts to make the strongest recommendations possible that will ensure that our federal government takes the necessary action....legislation, regulations, negotiations and

necessary dollars to implement what is necessary.

I, and you have heard, citizens express their passion and concern. Suggestions and recommendations have been put forward.

You have the right and responsibility, to state, in the strongest way possible, the essence of this mandate that you have heard.

You are now the stewards who can recommend the solutions.

It's up to you!

Thank-you.

Heather Brooks-Hill

