

Presentation

to the

**Panel on the Future of the
Trent Severn Waterway**

by

**The Friends of the
Harwood Waterfront**

Harwood on Rice Lake, K0K 2H0

August 15, 2007

at Hastings, Ontario

Good Afternoon Mr. Chairman and Fellow Panel Members,

Our organization, The Friends of the Harwood Waterfront is pleased to make a presentation to you to day. My name is Pauline Browes, Chair of the Friends of the Harwood Waterfront (FHW), and also in attendance are other members of our community group. (introduction of members)

The FHW was formed five years ago to improve the public waterfront properties and the dock area at the village of Harwood, located on the south shore of Rice Lake. (See Appendix "A" – drawing of Rice Lake)

This unique waterfront area consists of two parts:

- **the main dock area managed by Hamilton Township (previously under the jurisdiction of the federal government). This area has a sandy beach on one side and a dock platform on the opposite side where the water is approximately ten feet deep. Therefore there is swimming for younger children on the beach side and swimming for experienced swimmers on the other side. The deeper side is also excellent for fishing and is well utilized for that purpose. Boats, of all sizes, are also able to dock there. As this dock area juts out from the shore, it is a special place for passive recreation to see the sunrise as well as the sunset.**

- **the extended area north from that dock is the remains of the causeway, constructed in early 1850 for the historic Cobourg & Peterborough Railway. This area is under the jurisdiction of the Trent Severn Waterway. It was a remarkable feat in those very early years of economic development that a railway was built crossing Rice Lake. It is important to communicate and share this information to visitors to the area. The Trent Severn Waterway has, at present, a water levels monitoring station (small building) where the causeway begins. Along the causeway is also an excellent location for cast fishing.**

Our vision is to create a Harwood Waterfront Park where there are designated areas for fishing, swimming and boat docking as well as to relate the value of this remarkable historical area.

To begin this work, the Friends of the Harwood Waterfront, a federally registered not-for profit charity, applied and received an Ontario Trillium Foundation grant to conduct public consultation and to have prepared a landscape architect design for these two areas of the Harwood public waterfront. Please find attached a copy of the design. (*Appendix "B" – Landscape Design by Envision –The Hough Group*) The detailed design incorporates the particular areas for swimming, boat docking and fishing as well as providing information of the Cobourg and Peterborough Railway. In order to proceed with this work, the various levels of government and agencies will be required. This is rare opportunity to bring together the recreational, cultural and impressive historical aspect of this special waterfront area.

The FHW has had community support in raising funds with our projects. We have enhanced the roadways to the waterfront by annually affixing Canadian flags (*Appendix "C" – photo taken at the Harwood dock*) to hydro poles. Improvement, to other public waterfront properties in Harwood, has been made with the assistance of the Hamilton Township Council. We have sponsored dinner cruises on Rice Lake with special speakers relating the exciting history of the railroad era. For the past four summers we have held the Harwood Waterfront Festival and Decorated Boat Parade at the waterfront.

About a year ago we learned that the original Harwood Railway Station, built in the 1850s, which was moved to Roseneath (10 miles east of Harwood) in 1905, would be donated back to Harwood. We were ecstatic about this possibility and we have worked diligently to raise funds to have this building returned to Harwood. There will be a separate presentation to follow concerning this particular project.

The history of the Cobourg & Peterborough Railway needs to be told and worthy of a specific federal historical designation. As you may know, King Edward VII when he was the Prince of Wales, rode this

railway in 1860 and visited the village of Harwood at that time. The Cobourg and Peterborough railroad span across Rice Lake was partly a causeway and partly a bridge. The causeway began in Harwood to Tic Island and the bridge portion began at Tic Island to Hiawatha, the Indian village on the north shore of Rice Lake. With the Trent Severn Waterway having authority over the remains of the causeway railroad, we believe it is important for the Panel to recognize its significant importance. The sustainability of the causeway along with the structural elements and cultural landscapes are worthy of heritage recognition.

From the aerial photograph (*Appendix "D" – photograph taken by Burke VanValkenburg, June, 2007*), the remains of the causeway, which stretched from Harwood to Tic Island, (about ¾ mile) can easily be seen. Observing this photograph, the Harwood Waterfront Park would continue along the causeway to what is called the "gap". The other portion of the remains of the causeway (some above and some just below the surface of the water) is not part of the Park, but requires attention by the Trent Severn Waterway. The strip below the surface is a dangerous area for boaters. On a daily basis, boaters hit the rocks, with boats and motors damaged and sometimes destroyed. Last year an individual lost his life when his boat was marooned on the causeway and while he attempted to push it off the rocks slipped under the pontoons of the boat and was drowned. Many persons have contacted the Trent Severn Waterway over the years about officially marking this causeway in some way but the answer always is, "we only mark the area the boats should travel". We urge you to give thought to this issue, to have this historic causeway preserved, appreciated by all boaters and made conspicuous in order that boaters can navigate Rice Lake safely. Our group of concerned volunteers is willing to work in conjunction with the Trent Severn Waterway to devise a plan to protect boaters as well as to retain the historical significance of the causeway

The Friends of the Harwood Waterfront is a community based local organization, who have freely given their time and financial contributions to enhance this portion of the Rice Lake shoreline of the Trent Severn Waterway. We are committed to enhancing, preserving and promoting the unique natural beauty and the numerous opportunities for improvement of the area.

Conclusion

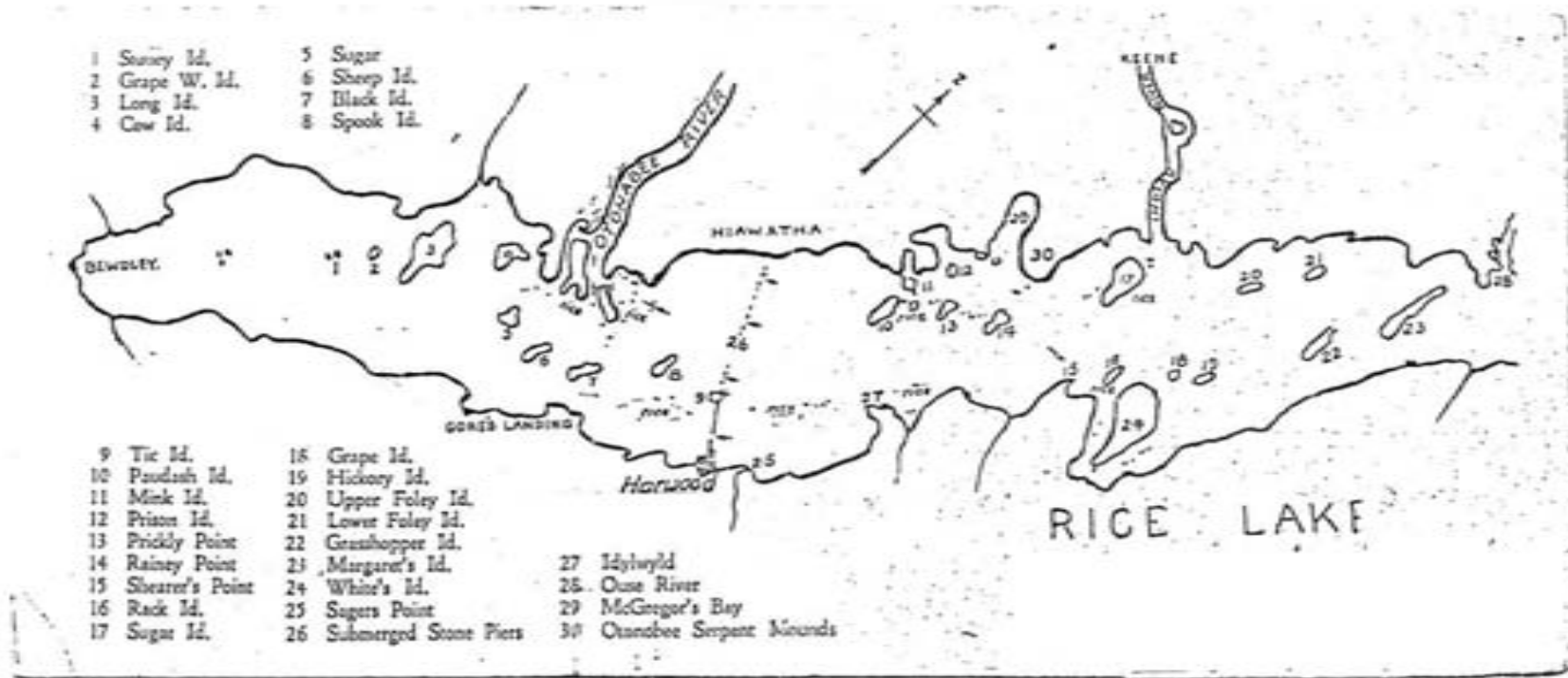
The Friends of the Harwood Waterfront believe it is important to have the history of the Cobourg and Peterborough Railway more fully incorporated into the Trent Severn Waterway plan.

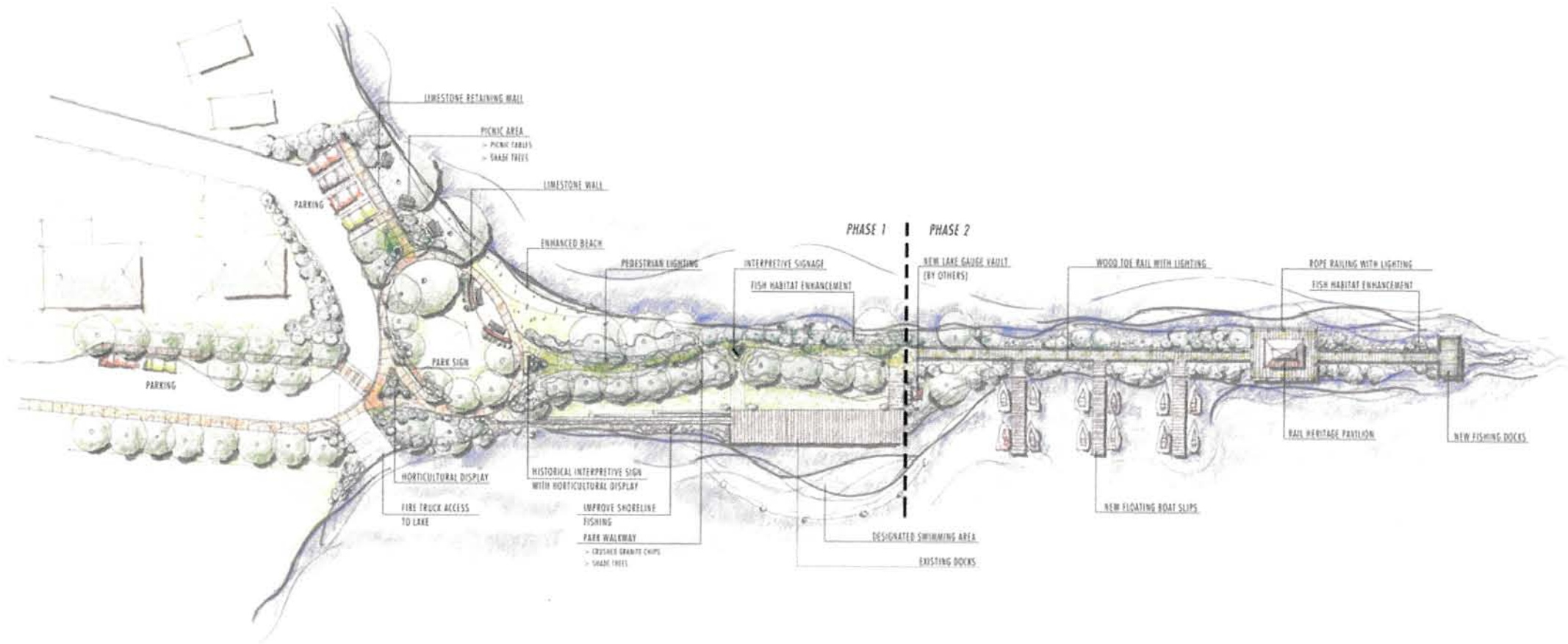
Consideration needs be given to have a federal designation established for the historic Cobourg & Peterborough Railway with particular importance given to the causeway and bridge, which crossed Rice Lake. The Historic Sites and Monuments Board could be encouraged to pursue this initiative.

The remains of the causeway beyond the Harwood Waterfront Park need to be identified for boaters to navigate safely. This is an important initiative that the Friends of the Harwood Waterfront would be pleased to work in partnership with the Trent Severn Waterway.

The expanded recreational and economic opportunities available with the proposed Harwood Waterfront Park are significant and contribute to the enhancement of the land use of the Rice Lake waterfront on the Trent Severn Waterway. At present there are persons from ethnic cultural communities availing themselves of the excellent fishing at the waterfront. With the expansion and designations of the public property, these opportunities for fishing swimming and boat docking become even greater for local persons and visitors. Assistance by governments will be required to continue with this work. The Panel's support of this proposal will assist in obtaining partnerships with all levels of government as well as to secure private and foundation funding.

Thank You.







Appendix "C"



Appendix "D"