

The Corporation of the Township of Hamilton
Submission to the Panel on the Future of the Trent Severn Waterway
July 23, 2007

1. Name of Organization:
The Corporation of the Township of Hamilton

2. Contact Representative:

Betty McIntosh, C.A.O.
8285 Majestic Hills Drive
Cobourg, ON K9A 4W5
bmcintosh@hamiltontownship.ca

3. Geographic Scope of Interest
Please see attached maps, Appendix "A" and "B".

The most south-westerly portion of Rice Lake borders Hamilton Township and Rice Lake connects to the Trent Severn through the Otonabee and Trent Rivers. Rice Lake is 23 miles long and three (3) of the Township's hamlets are located on the lake, namely Bewdley, Harwood and Gore's Landing.

4. The particular issue that the Township has with Rice Lake and the Trent Severn water system is the changing use of the lake. Traditionally the lake was used for transportation, then the lake became a popular recreation lake with many cottages being used only a few months of the year. In recent years there are many permanent residents on the lake.

Due to the increased recreational use and the very large cormorant population, the lake has become very polluted and is not suitable for swimming with many "do not swim" advisories being issued each summer. The fish habitat has diminished and the variety of fish in the lake is changing.

In March of 2006, Michael Ferguson and Fred Lutenbach of the Rice Lake Tourist Association addressed Council and brought forward the concern of the low fish stock in the lake and the changing varieties of fish.

5. The Township's concerns regarding the water levels, water flows and level

management are as follows:

The Township would request more controls regarding these issues. The shoreline of Rice Lake is rapidly eroding, as are two (2) of the Townships Public docks. The Township attributes this erosion to the variations in the water table and uncontrolled water levels and flows.

The Township is concerned about the present and future eroding of lot lines in relation to septic systems with increasing/decreasing water lines.

6. The Township's position is that a comprehensive and sustainable water management plan is required. There is a need to recruit and maintain skilled, experienced staff for the on-going operation of the Trent-Severn Waterway and the need to develop an environmentally based plan and policies (tools and management) that will meet the needs of all interested parties as well as all environmental concerns.
7. Yes, the Township would be interested in participating on an on-going basis in a joint decision-making body that would be responsible for recommending solutions to water management issues and concerns.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty McIntosh, A.M.C.T.
Chief Administrative Officer