

Panel on the Future of the Trent Severn Waterway
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To whom it may concern.

This letter is in response to a request to provide concerns, information and ideas regarding the future of the Trent Severn Waterway.

We reside for several months of the year, in a small cottage on the Trent River System at the bottom end of Crowe Lake opposite Island One. This is approximately a mile north of Lock 14. We pay \$2200 land lease per year and approximately \$1300 in taxes for this 30 by 30 simple cottage.

We attended a meeting at The Legion in Campbellford July 15 2007 regarding the Trent and we were pleased that so many people had concerns and ideas on how this valuable Canadian historic river system must be saved and suggested ways it could be enhanced, not just for the present local and distant populations who use and value it, but for generations to come. There was recognition that the waterway is costly to operate and maintain. This will be referenced later in this letter.

I am concerned that the precious ecosystem existing in the water and on the banks of this river is in danger of being severely disrupted by erosion of the banks caused by river craft not slowing down. Their speed produces waves that wash away soil and plants growing on the banks.

This speeding close to shore is also illegal as well as being inconsiderate. Lockmasters have informed us that boat owners are supposed to respect the set speed limits when travelling within a certain distance from shore. It is obvious to us, that many vessels do not acknowledge these rules as they race by causing wake that disrupts the rocks, and disturbs the water plants that serve as habitat for baby fish. It also causes boats moored to crash against dock, washes away soil from the bank and irritates those of us who care

about the land whether it is owned or leased from the Trent Severn Waterway.

A few suggestions on ways to address this problem.

- Lockmasters have advised us to contact the OPP. Even if they are able to come given their busy schedule, they may not be at the location when a misdemeanour occurs.
- Could the Lockmasters be given more authority? It would be much more convenient, effective and timely if they had the authority to deal with offending boats.
- Could Lockmasters be instructed to always remind boat owners of speed regulations either verbally or by giving them a printed notice as they traverse the locks?
- Could additional signs stating speed regulations in restricted zones be placed in the channel? At our own cost we have posted a large sign on our boat house door but it is not visible until the boaters are upon it. By the time a boater sees the sign, the speeding vessel has already produced its large, destructive wake. If cost is the problem with this suggestion, some residents may be prepared to help cover those expenses.

Hardy Island.

Although we do not live by Hardy Island we know where it is and the value it has from an environmental, aesthetic and tourism point of view. The plan unveiled at the Campbellford meeting, rather than reflecting, encompassing, and enhancing the natural beauty of this island location, more closely resembled tenement housing in the inner city. It is hard to imagine this as a successful real estate venture. Surely it is time to put the interest of the public before private profit.

A suggestion to address this concern.

- As the Trent Severn Waterway is the responsibility of all three levels of government, surely they could work together to put this sensitive piece of property into public ownership thereby saving it from the *wreckers ball* and preserving it for future generations". Once it is logged and paved it is lost forever!

Leased Land

We have contacted the Trent River System several times to inquire about purchasing the property on which this little cottage stands. The inquiry has been passed to another department. We were informed that the land is not for sale. However the land of the permanent home right next door north of us and the cottages beyond, are owned by the residents who live there.

A few comments

- I understand that the Trent Severn System needs money. We would be interested in purchasing the land as would our neighbour to the left of us. We are people who are very caring of this leased land and have planted trees, shrubs and flowers. However, we are hesitant to spend much more on its beautification as we do not own it.

It stands to reason that treed and flowered properties on the banks of the Trent enhances the journey of visiting boaters and also gives them greater cause to recommend the Trent Severn System to their friends.

I applaud the Ministry of the Environment for sponsoring this Panel to Explore the Future of the Trent Severn Waterway using public forums. The team present in Campbellford performed its task very well. The background and hand out material provided, together with the expertise of the members, resulted in a productive evening. I wondered whether a recorder would have been useful to assure that all comments were saved for the Panel's subsequent consideration.

In conclusion, I trust that the findings and recommendations of the Panel will not be put on the back burner but will be implemented for the benefit of the environment and the people of this and future generations.