

July 25th 2007

I am forwarding this written presentation to your panel for your consideration in putting some action into the concerns which I presented by photos at the afternoon session held at the Campbellford Legion Wed. July 25th 2007.

My husband and I were drawn to the area because of the beauty and tranquility of the Trent. We purchased our home in 1998 and we have noticed many changes living on the waterway since then, and most of them disturbing.

The water quality and level on our waterfront property was amazing in 1998, our grown children and families loved to visit because of all the activities which they were able to enjoy. Great swimming, boating, water sports such as skiing and tubing, kayaking and canoeing, there is just something magic about a day on the water.

Over the last 5 years there have been some very disturbing changes on the river...

Behind our property runs the Trans Canada Trail, when I started a walking program 4 years ago, I follow the river into town which is approximately 4 k's from the village of Hastings. The trail is at many points extremely close to the river; I started to notice at the first island east of lock 18 a vast amount of weeds starting to overtake the waterway, which was once open water. NOW 4 year later you cannot even get into this area by watercraft of any type, these above pictures were taken Mon. July 24th 2007. What used to be beautiful is now becoming a swamp as the photos prove for themselves.

This to me is extremely disturbing because our property is on the south side of the second Island just a short distance east, which is named Hyucke Island and it is beginning to resemble this water also.

You would not have seen the poor water levels and water quality as you traveled into Hastings on your river cruise because we are to the south side of the island. This is happening on the section of water between lock 18 and the Healey Falls Locks. The water is at such a low level during the summer months that it is becoming stagnant and does not have any flow or very little current at most times unless you are in the channel, which I must say is not much better. Boaters are constantly battling the weed pods in many areas.

Our family never comes to enjoy the water anymore, we do not do water activities, and we have trouble even getting our boat off the marine rail and into the water because of the poor level of water.

As far swimming, I have put in place a weed mat which has had some success, we even rented a weed cutter to try and make our waterfront property enjoyable. When the water level drops sometimes 2 ft. in the matter of a day or two this is what happens. See photos below taken in front of our property Tuesday morning July 24th 2007.

We have had a problem with water level for the last 3-4 years and it continues to get worse. The level of water above lock 18 is at a great level, even seems high at times, and they certainly don't have stagnant water or weeds lying on the top. Below Healey falls and along the water way in to Campbellford they also have better water levels and water quality. Why can't the control be better maintained? Is it because of the Hydro generating at Healy Falls? There must be a reason for poor levels and water quality in our section, or is it BAD decision making on the part of the people controlling the Trent's water system and dams in Trenton.

I understand that when there was lock masters at the locks the water was more consistent and better controlled. As you look at the following photos you will notice the height of our dock, at one time our boat sat beside it and the bumpers protected the boat, now we can't even tie up to the dock because the boat goes under the dock.

In the next photo you will see the steps walking into the water. Sunday July 22nd the water level was at the first step, on the morning of Tuesday July 24th when the photo was taken, you can see that the water dropped about 2 feet. When we first purchased the property the water was always wound the second step.

When the water level drops so drastically it creates the weeds laying on the water surface, they rot and begin to ferment which causes a terrible odor and creates slime, when the winds come from the north it drives all this onto our waterfront. We have spent hours upon hours trying to keep our frontage usable but it is becoming worse every summer. I certainly hope that this panel will look into these problems.

The residents whom have chosen to live on this beautiful body of water reside here for many different reasons, its beauty, its heritage, its greens space and wildlife. Most take pride in their properties, and maintain them as best they can.

We deal with the visitors, fisherman & boaters whom pollute and litter the waterway with garbage, we pick up bottles, Styrofoam containers and even rescue wildlife that have become entangled in fishing line and garbage, and we even accept fisherman and hunters draining our waterway of fish and waterfowl.

We want our properties to be worth the investment and time we have put into them and without good water levels and water quality that will not happen.

I ask that you consider my concerns about water levels, water quality and ways that we can stop the weed growth from overtaking our shore lines, because if you don't put something into action we will eventually have one big swamp that nobody will come to enjoy.

In closing, I thank you for the opportunity given to me to express my presentation of concern.

Please include the numerous photos I have provided.

Sincerely

Wendy Asselstine