

There are numerous concerns that abound amongst those of us residing along the shores of the Trent-Severn Waterway. First and foremost, the importance of the Trent Severn Waterway must not be underestimated. It is a Tourist Attraction, it is a Heritage Site, and for many thousands of us, it is Home. Its perseverance must be considered a priority.

1. I realize that there is a general ban on the use of herbicides in our watercourses. However few of our inland water bodies have as profound an effect on its users and its shoreline residents as the Waterway. As residents with "shoreline" property, we are assessed at a premium for our property taxes. Yet our shoreline and our proximity to the Waterway has become more of a burden than a benefit. The growth of weeds has proliferated in the past several years. The response to our complaints has simply been that herbicides are banned in the waterway. In this regard, I consider the administration of the Trent Severn Waterway... Parks Canada, if you will, a terrible neighbour. We cannot clear weeds away from our property without a permit, and then there are limitations as to how much we can clear. But there is no use in clearing the weeds in front of our properties, when the Waterway administration does not clear any weeds from the channels. As the boats go through the channel, their props cut the weeds which grow uncontrollably and we have the weeds washed back to our shoreline. If we, as property owners cultivated a yard full of weeds or allowed the weeds to proliferate uncut along our property lines we would likely soon have numerous complaints from our neighbours, and the Municipality. And the municipality would notify us to take care of our weeds. If we did not, then the Municipality would likely cut them for us and add the costs to our Property Taxes. If Parks Canada cannot, or will not, use herbicides to control the weeds, then they should dredge regularly. or find whatever means will do the job. If funding is a concern, then, perhaps a portion of the extra money we pay for our "shoreline" taxes should be retrieved from the Municipalities in which we live, for such maintenance costs.

2. How healthy can it be for the waterway and for residents along the waterway, to have herds of cattle or other livestock wander into rivers and streams that feed into the Waterway? The Waterway authority should undertake measures to enforce that such bodies of water are properly fenced to stop that practice.

3. The condition of the various locks and dams along the waterway is reaching catastrophically dangerous proportions. My home is downstream from Lock 38 which is downstream from Lock 37. The dam at Lock 37 has been thoroughly investigated and it has been determined that it is in dire need of repair as its breach appears to be imminent. A budget of approximately \$5 000 000.00 has been struck and approved. Construction was to have been started this year. I believe that because of the creation of this investigative panel this repair has been shelved. What has happened ?!?. Has the danger

of the dam breaking, magically disappeared? It is already crumbling and allowing water to pour through its holes and cracks. This is the only dam that is holding back the waters of Canal Lake, and should it breach, the water of Canal lake will most certainly overflow the dam at Lock 38. My home, and all the properties between lock 37 and Lake Simcoe will likely be flooded. We all saw what the removal of a few logs from the dam at Lock 38 did a couple of years ago.

Recommendation: Move ahead with the repair to the dam at Lock 37 !

4. A couple of years ago, it became necessary to re-align a log in the dam at Lock 38. The Trent Severn Waterway management undertook the removal of several logs to effect the repair. No notice was given to any residents along the shore downstream. The result was that we had docks set afloat, belongings that were on the docks floated off, Boats were set adrift, and even endangered by floating too close to the waterfall coming over the dam. People's properties were flooded to the point that fish were stranded when the water level was returned to normal.

Personally, my dock which normally stands on legs, was set afloat and has now been re-aligned...it will require repair soon.

I called the TSW and was told that there were no funds to hire someone to give advance notice to each individual resident. My response was simple. How difficult would it have been for someone from the waterway to hop in a boat with a megaphone and announce that at the designated time, the water will be allowed to rise inordinately. Then residents would have had time to "batten down the hatches", so to speak. When such situations arise, the TSW, should notify residents more effectively and in a timely manner, to avoid loss and damage.

5. Enforcement and Signage issues :

The speed posted periodically along the Waterway is 10 km/h. Yet boaters often travel at a much higher rate of speed. The wake and wash from some of these speeding boats is so powerful that my shorewall is about to collapse into the water. This is as a result of the extreme pressure that the wash of boats puts on the lower part of my wall. My cost has been estimated at between 8 to 10 thousand dollars. My dock is sustaining damage and my rowboat is damaged if I leave it in the water.

As well there have been people camping overnight on Parks Canada lands. The concern here is untended open fires, or careless campers and accumulated garbage. The TSW should patrol these areas or at least install better signage to control some of these activities.

I am sorry if my presentation seems to have taken on the timbre of a litany of complaints, however, I have made my retirement home on the shores of the Talbot River, and my interest is only in improving conditions here and having the Trent Severn Waterway persevere as the wonderful choice for my place to live.