

1281 Bridle Drive,  
Peterborough, Ontario  
K9J 7J7  
Sept. 26/07

Panel on the Future of The Trent Severn Waterway,  
Unit 100 - 185 King Street,  
Peterborough, Ontario  
K9J 2R8

Dear Sirs:

Re: Eels Lake

I have been a cottage owner on Eels Lake since 1970. I purchased my lot from the Crown which did not mention that the Trent Severn Waterway (TSW) could lower the water level 13 feet during the summer months.

There are 400 plus cottages on Eels Lake and property taxes are paid to the local municipalities. The only service provided for these taxes is the use of a garbage dump if I take my garbage to the dump. This is bad enough, but the situation is exacerbated by the activity of the TSW.

Every year the TSW sucks water from the lake to support their system. There is no fore warning about this draw down which was radical and rapid this year. Could the TSW be held responsible for any damage created by the practice of removing logs from the dam? Could the TSW be held responsible for the labour undertaken by the cottagers to move docks and foot valves as the water is lowered (about four times each year)?

You will find enclosed a copy of a letter sent to the TSW January 29/87. (Please read it.) Nothing has changed. The TSW takes water from our lake because it is convenient and plentiful. They fulfill their mandate.

The value of real estate on the lake is in the order of \$75,000,000. The tax payers have been treated with blatant disrespect for 50 years. The drawn down should be markedly reduced with ample fore warning about the timing.

Mr. Rollins said the purpose of the panel was "to fix things that are wrong". The draw down on Eels Lake is wrong.

Yours truly,



W.N. Duncan

10 Dukinfield cr  
Don Mills, Ont  
M3A 2E1  
Jan 29/87  
447 8467

Mr J. Lewis  
Superintendent  
Trent-Severn Waterway  
P.O. Box 567  
Peterborough, Ont  
K9J 6Z6

Dear Sir:

In April/86 our Annual Meeting was addressed by Mr Fred Alyea and Mr Bruce Kitchen. The general topic was the operation of the Trent Severn Waterway and the reservoir lakes which feed the system. Eels Lake is one of the lakes. During the ensuing question period, it must have been apparent to Messrs Alyea and Kitchen that the cottagers on Eels Lake were unhappy with their fluctuating water level. We wish to go on record with our specific problems, as follows:-

In recent years the water level has been pulled down about 8 ft. between the high water in the spring and low water in the fall. This practice produces the following conditions:-

In shallow bays the shoreline in front of some cottages can move out 80 ft. There are cases where a cottager has no water in front of his property.

As the draw down takes place, the growth of weeds is promoted because the sun penetrates and encourages weeds to grow.

As the water drops, rocks and stumps are exposed to create a navigation hazard.

In the fall, when pumps have been disconnected because of freezing weather, many cottagers must wade through a quagmire of mud and dead weeds to get a pail of water.

As the water level falls, it becomes necessary to move docks and the foot valves of pumps to maintain contact with the lake. About 4 moves are required each year.

Because of the draw down procedures of the Trent Severn System and the spawning habits of lake trout, it is probable that the eggs end up on dry land, freeze and don't hatch.

In the Reiner Jaakson Report of 1973, the maximum draw down recommended to minimize loss of shoreline recreation of Eels Lake was 2.5 ft. Records show that no attempt was made on Eels Lake to comply with this recommendation.

When the reservoir lakes were undeveloped, the draw down procedures created no problems. To day these procedures are unacceptable. Taking large amounts of water from Ee@s Lake to satisfy the needs of the Trent Canal System is no longer fair to the property owners. There are approximately 380 cottages on the lake.

Since Eels Lake has the maximum permissible draw down in the system, we are not enthusiastic about your policy of "equal percentage draw down". Any percentage of a high capacity is numerically greater than the same percentage of a low capacity. We feel that the draw down should be equal in terms of vertical feet for all the reservoir lakes.

Our executive wishes to discuss the draw down situation on Eels Lake with representatives of the Trent Severn Waterway. We Sincerely hope that our problems can be addressed.

May we have a response to this letter, please.

Yours truly,



W.N. Duncan  
President