

Shirley Bond

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To: <info@tswpanel.ca>
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Sent: September 27, 2007 3:08 PM
Subject: Please encourage canoeing and kyacking on the TSW

The Panel on the Future of the Trent Severn Waterway (TSW)
185 King St., Suite 100
Peterborough ON K9J 2R8

Sept. 27, 2007
Dear Madam/Sir,

Together with three other friends I have recently paddled the entire length of the Trent Severn Waterway. It was a marvelous experience. During this time I was able to reacquaint myself with the beauties of nature in southern Ontario. The persons manning the locks were all very helpful in explaining the historical background of many of the locks along the way. Though we portaged through most of the locks we were glad to pay camping fees at the locks and we paid for the experience of using the two hydraulic lift locks at Kirkfield and Peterborough.

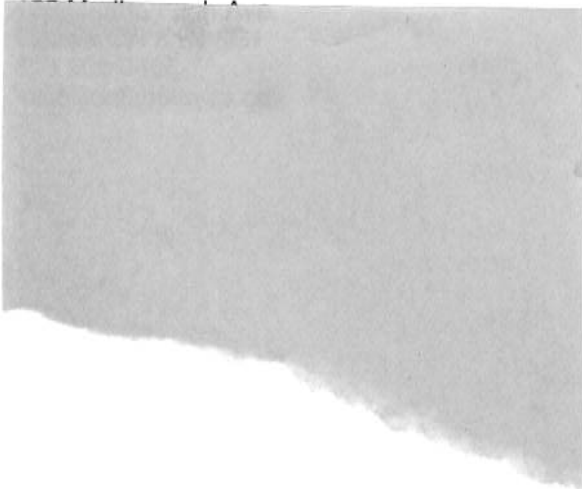
However, as canoeists we did find one aspect very disappointing. Many of the locks did have facilities that allowed canoes to be taken out of and to be placed into the water (either by stepped portions in the lock walls or separate sloped areas for canoes). However in too many of the locks no provision at all was made for canoes. At the Lakefield locks the walls were very high and even tall men such as we were had difficulty in getting out of our canoes and unloading our gear. The same could be said for some of the locks near Trenton and other places. There seemed to be no uniform planning for persons using canoes and kayaks who would want to use these waterways.

As we traveled along the TSW we tried to publicize this waterway as a wonderful opportunity for people to find exercise and relaxation on their non motorized water craft. We could be much more enthusiastic about the TSW if a uniform policy for canoe/kayak landing areas were in place. The lack of a consistent plan for loading and unloading canoes and kayaks is a definite flaw in the present TSW structure.

Would you please make an effort to make ALL of your locks canoe friendly. The costs should be minimal and as people take more time to do healthy exercise in this part of nature, I am sure that more people will be drawn to use this waterway if some small improvements were to be made.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Dr. Eric Schiller



27/09/2007