

Submission to the Panel on the Future of the Trent-Severn Waterway

Chairman Douglas Downey, and members of the panel, Ms. Sandra Barrett, and Messieurs Greg Bishop, Dean Peters, Doug Rollins and Tom Symons,

By way of introduction, we are Harold and Margaret McManus, and have had a cottage on Haliburton Lake for the past 27 years.

We sincerely appreciate this opportunity to address our concerns to the Panel on the future of the Trent- Severn Waterway.

It is our understanding that the draw down of water from the lakes in the northern regions of the Trent-Severn watershed is a matter that was established in 1905 to ensure a depth of six feet was maintained in the Trent canal system.

From those early days, we have learned the ecological importance of lake and river shorelines to water organisms. It is therefore quite surprising that this panel was not created some years ago, considering the destruction wrought through the sudden and significant draw down of water from a vast area, for the sake of recreation.

The recent Discovery Day program held at the West Guilford Community Centre, "Life on the Edge" taught children the importance of riparian areas. The shoreline areas in the Haliburton Highlands are more natural and less developed than shorelines in the City of Kawartha Lakes and Muskoka. It is important for this panel to give significant weight to this aspect of your study. The northern area lake shorelines need protection.

There are many other concerns of course, such as:

- Low water levels hazardous to boating and water skiers
- Loss of marshlands, wetlands, and nesting habitat for loons, blue herons and other birds/wildlife indigenous to lakes in Haliburton County
- High and dry docks & accessibility to water
- Damage to beached boats due to no notice of drawdown
- There needs be equitable flow and water levels to all who reside or cottage on the entire system
- Can the canal system operate on less than a six foot depth, and is the system being operated efficiently to conserve water?
- Should the canal system be closed two or three days a week to conserve water, or operate on reduced hours?
- The economies of the business people in the northern reaches of the TRW watershed are as much dependent on cottagers and tourism as those communities in the south.
- When water levels are dropped it leaves many cottage wells extremely low and dry.

Yours truly,

Harold and Margaret McManus