

I am a Long term cottager on Crystal Lake, in Galway Township I have read many of the submissions and the background information provided by Ecoplan.

It appears to me that the main issues have been highlighted quite well.

The main problem seems to be very simple the Trent staff have chosen to use navigation as its main mandate and have set an artificial navigation standard in the canal by posting depths on charts.

A suggested solution would be to simply not post these depths, post a range of depths or the clearly put a disclaimer on the charts that "depths may not reflect the actual conditions on a daily basis".

All inland lakes are navigable waters, protected under the Navigable Waters Protection Act, so why is navigation on the reservoir lakes not given due consideration? The early appearance of shoals and islands this year caused more than one serious accident on Crystal Lake in 2007 and countless propeller and lower unit incidents.

The water levels in the main commercial shipping lanes on the Great Lakes are not guaranteed, why the Trent?

All bodies of water in this Province have varying water depths. Lake Ontario, goes up and down as does Georgian Bay, Transport Canada does not take it upon itself to empty every inland lake in order to deal with this issue. Why is Trent taking this position?

As many others have mentioned, water control in previous years, has been predictable and acceptable for the most part. However, 2007 was disastrous, we lost 2.5 feet of water at one time in mid-August and have been at near winter levels since early September. Calls to Trent staff have been less than satisfying, it has been made quite clear that we on the reservoir lakes just have to take what we get and that Trent staff will unilaterally make any water level adjustments that it sees fit with no regard for our residents. We have been told categorically "the water is there for us to use to feed the Trent – period and we can take as much water as we wish".

We are truly hoping that the panel hears the concerns of the residents and takes the recommendations put forth by Ecoplan to heart.

Sincerely,

Fred and Ethel Clark
Crystal Lake