



News Release Communiqué

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CANADA'S NEW GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES MEMBERS OF EXPERT PANEL TO PROMOTE THE FUTURE OF THE TRENT-SEVERN WATERWAY

PETERBOROUGH, ONTARIO, May 11, 2007 –The Honourable John Baird, Minister of the Environment and Minister responsible for Parks Canada, today announced the appointment of a six-member expert panel to determine the future and potential of the Trent-Severn Waterway National Historic Site of Canada.

“The Trent-Severn Waterway is at a crossroads – factors such as changing visitor patterns, the rapidly-growing Golden Horseshoe, competing demands for water and the quality of the waterway’s natural environment, present significant challenges,” said Minister Baird. “As Minister responsible for Parks Canada, I am committed to the protection of the waterway’s natural values and am pleased to appoint an independent panel of experts to study opportunities to maintain and enhance the Waterway as a sustainable contributor to Central Ontario, the entire province and all of Canada.”

The panel will conduct a detailed study of the Waterway and offer recommendations for a new vision to ensure its long-term effectiveness and sustainability and to optimize its potential contributions. The panel, and subsequent study, is the result of a Private Member’s Motion (M-161) that Mr. Bruce Stanton, Member of Parliament for Simcoe North, introduced in the House of Commons. It was unanimously passed in October of 2006. The motion calls for an evaluation of the future of the waterway, and its potential to become:

- A premier recreational asset
- A world-class destination for boaters
- A greater source of clean, renewable electric power
- A facilitator of economic opportunity and renewal for communities along its 386 km length

The panel will conduct an extensive consultation process to seek public and key stakeholder views on the future mandate and expectations for management of the waterway. In addition, results of several supporting studies, currently underway, will be considered. The panel will submit their findings and recommendations to Minister John Baird in December 2007.

“The Trent-Severn Waterway, and the corridor through which it travels, is one of the most remarkable natural, cultural, recreational and economic resources in the world,” said Mr. Stanton. “We are taking action to ensure this protected area and the values it represents are here for future generations.”

Minister Baird introduced the panel chair, Mr. Douglas Downey, and the panel members during a ceremony held along the shores of the Trent-Severn Waterway at the Peterborough Lift Lock. Panel members include; Sandra Barrett, Greg Bishop, Dean Peters, Doug Rollins and Professor Thomas H.B. Symons.

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More information is available at www.tswpanel.ca. Information on public meetings, submissions to the panel and results of the studies will be posted on the site as they become available.

Constructed between 1833 and 1920, the Trent-Severn Waterway was declared a National Historic Site in 1929. It commemorates Canada's history of canal construction and the importance of the canal system throughout this country's history. Today, this 386 km long heritage corridor is enjoyed by more than 1.5 million land and water based visitors every year.

Parks Canada is responsible for a network of national parks, national marine conservation areas and national historic sites that is recognized as one of the finest and most extensive systems of protected areas in the world. This initiative will help Parks Canada fulfill its mandate to present nationally significant examples of Canada's natural and cultural heritage to Canadians, today and in the future.

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