



Mr. Douglas Downey, Chair

The Panel on the Future of the Trent Severn Waterway

185 King Street, Suite 100

Peterborough, ON

K9J 2R8

Dear Mr. Downey,

Please accept this written opinion of the Camping In Ontario members when considering the future of the Trent Severn Waterway. Camping In Ontario has always been an advocate of the Trent Severn Waterway, understanding its role in the economic and tourism impacts on local economies.

By submitting this brief, we are ensuring that the panel understands that our membership believes that the Trent Severn Waterway is a vital factor in the tourism sector in this part of the province of Ontario. Our membership, like that of other small and seasonal business on the waterway, are concerned about water quality, water levels, and the impact of user fees on the system and businesses along the way.

Water quality is of vital importance to our members. Excellent water quality ensures that local marine life can be sustained over the long term. Maintaining the local environment means that visitors to the region will be able to take advantage of all of the natural wonders that the Trent Severn has to offer. We would also encourage the government to use its long reach to inspect the septic systems of cottages on the system as we believe that everyone should be held to the same standards as our member campgrounds.

Water levels are a concern to all businesses on the waterway. Lower than normal water levels have an impact on local wild life, shore life, and the water activities for which so many tourists come to the region.

Finally, our membership understands the financial burden that Parks Canada is under considering the age and maintenance required by the lock system, however, it is our belief that it is impossible for Parks Canada to achieve the funding required to maintain, let alone repair or enhance, the waterway through lockage and commercial dock fees. Further, we strongly believe that the funds for repair, maintenance and enhancements to this vital system, must come out of general government funds – perhaps GST

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ONTARIO PRIVATE CAMPGROUND ASSOC.
8-220 Royal Crest Court
Markham, ON, L3R 9Y2

PHONE 905 947 9500
TOLL FREE 877 672 2226
FAX 905 947 9501

www.campinginontario.ca
opca@campinginontario.ca

collected through the businesses on the waterway. Commercial businesses on the waterway are already paying substantially more in property taxes, and imposing docking fees would not only serve to double tax these businesses, but it would also serve as an impediment to growing these businesses. In times when we are fighting globally for tourists, this kind of obstacle could, in fact, do more to hurt tourism along the waterway than help it.

We encourage Parks Canada to take advantage of any opportunities to use the lock system for hydro generation as we believe that this will not only generate income for the system, but also take advantage of a natural use of the system.

Camping In Ontario (also known as the Ontario Private Campground Association) represents close to 500 independently owned and operated campgrounds in the province of Ontario. At least 50 of our members are directly affected by the Trent Severn Waterway, with many more indirectly affected. We expend much of our annual budget promoting camping in Ontario, and look forward to doing so for years to come.

If we can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us at any time. Good luck in your efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Beth".

Beth Potter

Executive Director