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THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF BARRIE
Engineering Department
"Committed to Service Excellence"

September 7, 2007

File: A16-TR

The Panel on the Future of the Trent-Severn Waterway
185 King Street, Suite 100
Peterborough, ON K9J 2R8

Attention: **Mr. Doug Downey**
Chair

Dear Mr. Downey:

RE: **The Panel on the Future of the Trent-Severn Waterway**

The following is in response to questions contained in your correspondence of May 25, 2007, to Mayor Dave Aspden, City of Barrie:

What are the essential values of the waterway from the perspective of your community?

- The values of the Trent-Severn Waterway for the City of Barrie are *Tourism* (Transient Boaters).

Is current water management decision-making reflecting your needs and expectations?

- The management of the water resources has had little impact on the City. However, indirectly, phosphorous loading is creating heavy weed beds and poor fish habitat, resulting in reduced recreation.

What tools and changes should be put in place to ensure that agencies and orders of government work together?

- It is suggested that the management of the Trent-Severn Waterway become a self-regulating authority. This Authority would be managed by an appointed Board from the various Stakeholders, including the public, Parks Canada and Municipalities. The funding would be shared by the Federal, Provincial and directly impacted Municipalities. The Authority could also oversee other regulatory bodies such as the MOE, MNR, Ministry of Culture, and CA to allow efficient implementation of environmentally sensitive improvements. This governance will provide a strong framework to manage the waterway.

How can communities benefit economically, environmentally, and socially from a future sustainable waterway, and what programs should government put in place to ensure that happens?

- Communities, such as the City of Barrie, would benefit from increased tourism. The single governance tier would allow efficient use of available resources to address issues such as the environment.

How can the varied cultural heritage resources along the waterway be protected and its important stories told?

- The Authority should consult the services of the Ministry of Culture and local historians to identify and preserve these resources.

How can jurisdictions better cooperate and integrate their efforts to protect and restore the natural environment?

- As noted above, a single Authority with the mandate to manage the system, would look after the interests of Stakeholders, and protect and enhance the natural environment.

How can governments work together to ensure that the waterway plays an important role in satisfying increasing demands for outdoor recreation coming from a Greater Golden Horseshoe?

- Implementing a more open governance model will help build partnerships with other stakeholders. Capital improvements can then be implemented in a cost effective environmentally sensitive manner.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input to this process. Should you require additional information and/or clarification please contact me

Yours truly,



Ralph E. Scheunemann, P. Eng.
Manager of Infrastructure Planning

RES/deg

pc: Mayor Aspden
R. W. McArthur – Director of Engineering (Acting)