

Presentation to the Trent- Severn Waterway Panel

The Union of Canadian
Transportation Employees

September 13, 2007

Present Day

- Currently working with 1901 technology.
- In 1901, locks were processing 6 vessels a day.
- Now, the locks are processing 60-100 vessels a day, with some locks processing over 200 per day.
- Not just catering to boaters, but landbased visitors and tourists as well.

Sources of Revenue

- Lock fees, based on size of vessel, whether it is a day, 6-day or season pass.
- Waterlot licensing.
- Property leasing.
- Electricity generation



Economic Impact of TSW

- Total economic activity generated: \$96.7 million
- The canal system generates more in revenue, but the different levels of government are not investing this money back in this community.

Difficulties facing the Canal system

- Downloading of services
- Contracting out
- Lack of adequate funding



Downloading

- No consistency in service. Sometimes the lock is the boundary between municipalities. How do we decide who is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep?
- Municipalities have enough on their plates without having to worry about properly caring for the waterway and its lock system.

Contracting Out of Services

- Same issues as with downloading. However, this is already happening with CorCan. Difficult to maintain consistent standards across the system.
- Current employees are already trained and experienced.

Lack of adequate funding

- The money for infrastructure repairs is simply not available.
- Repairs are now performed on a reactive basis.

Lack of adequate funding

- We need to become proactive with the maintenance of the waterway. The only way to ensure this is to receive an increase in the funding provided.
- The waterway needs to be funded by \$400M over the next 20 years just so that the system can be maintained.

Solutions

The background is a smooth blue gradient, transitioning from a lighter blue at the top to a darker blue at the bottom. On the left side, there is a bright sun flare that creates a white and yellow glow, with rays of light extending across the sky. The overall effect is serene and clean.

- Improve usage of lock station
- Increase historic displays
- Increase focus on milestones, not only on a local level, but regional and national as well



- Ensure that all stakeholders are involved in the upkeep of the waterway. For example, weed control falls under provincial jurisdiction.
- Ensure proper collection of waterlot licence fees

- Improve communication with public, federal and public agencies and other interested groups.

Why fix something that is not broken?

A simple solution is to improve a system that already works by:

- Reinvesting in the existing canal workers through additional training
- Adjusting staffing levels, and
- Increasing funding.

We ask that you

- stop contracting out,
- stop downsizing,
- stop reducing services to the public.

The members of UCTE
working on the waterway
are proud of the work
they perform.

They understand the history
and the tradition of which
they are a part.

Be careful what you change.

