



County of Haliburton

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Warden Murray Fearrey

August 14, 2007

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

Attention: Mr. Douglas Downey, Chair

Dear Mr. Downey:

Re: County of Haliburton Submission

I am pleased to have the opportunity to address the Panel on the future of the historic Trent Severn Waterway. The foresight by our forefathers to create this waterway system has provided us with one of Canada's national treasures. An opportunity that now exists to manage the present and future use of water resources is one of the natural environmental strengths of this Country.

In addressing this issue, we understand the complexity of the viewpoints presented by the various levels of government, government agencies, special interest groups, environmentalists, property owners, businesses, farmers and all end users in central Ontario. This represents a large number of Canadian taxpayers living in this area.

We further understand the difficulty in managing a technical system that needs to take into account the supply needs from the head waters, second guessing changing weather patterns, spring water runoff issues and flooding protection.

Attached to this letter is a more detailed explanation of the County of Haliburton's position on this issue. The County would like to make the following recommendations:

The Federal Government through Parks Canada should continue to maintain and improve the existing infrastructure used to operate the Trent Severn Water System. The existing dams and lock infrastructure system is in need of upgrades and repair. If the infrastructure improvements can be properly engineered, well maintained and diligently managed, there will be marked operational improvements. The County suggests that a best management practices programme be developed to ensure the best possible

management of the system to preserve our scarce water resources throughout the system. These changes can include but not be limited to greater operational control of the discharge of water from the various dams on the system, reducing leakage of water not only from the dam infrastructure but from the water systems tapping into the Trent Severn water way. Efforts should be made to recycle water used in the Trent Severn System as much as possible.

Recognizing the fact that there is not an unlimited quantity of water in the reservoir lakes, development that creates further pressure on the system should be carefully managed so as not to put a further negative impact and pressure on the existing system. This may require a separate hearing process to determine the impact of such developments as hydro facilities. In such instances, the owners of such infrastructure should be required to create additional water reservoirs that will meet their water demands. In addition, careful monitoring of water taking permits should be put in place. As noted in earlier reports, the amount of water in the system is a finite amount and efforts should be taken to monitor the impact of water taken out of the system.

The Trent Severn Water System needs to improve its communication with other levels of government, external agencies and interested parties. This would help to alleviate concerns and issues raised by action or inaction of the staff operating the system.

The Trent Severn Waterway System is a significant piece of Canada's infrastructure. The economic benefit of the system is significant to not only the users of the waterway, but to those municipalities where the headwaters are located. Significant amounts of property taxation and business income are generated by the tourist and residents who reside in the area and access the waters. Every effort must be taken to protect and enhance the scarce water resource present in this area for present and future generations.

This presentation has been made with the support from the Township of Minden Hills, Township of Algonquin Highlands, the Municipality of Dysart et al and the Municipality of Highlands East who are the constituent members of the County of Haliburton.

Sincerely,



Murray Fearrey, Warden

C.c. Members of the Trent Severn Water Panel

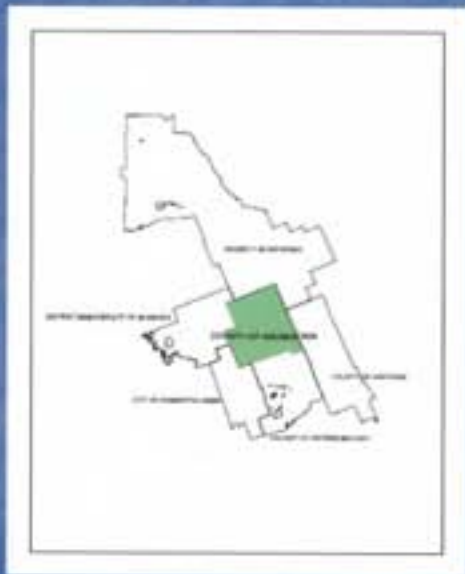
County of Haliburton



Presentation to the Trent Severn Water Panel
August 14, 2007

County of Haliburton

- The County of Haliburton is located:
 - East of the District of Muskoka
 - South of the District of Nipissing
 - West of the County of Hastings
 - North of the City of Kawartha Lakes and the County of Peterborough



County of Haliburton

- Located on Precambrian Shield
- Headwaters for the Trent Severn Water System
 - Watershed covers estimated 4,740 sq km

County of Haliburton

- Tourism is a major industry in the County
 - Permanent population of 16,147 jumps to over 60,000 during the summer months
 - According to Ontario Government 2004 statistics
 - 880,000 visitors
 - \$96 million in total tourism spending
 - Provides 839 direct tourism related jobs and another 160 indirect jobs in the County

County of Haliburton

- Trent Severn Waterway is a significant piece of Canada's infrastructure
- Serves a variety of needs
 - Tourism
 - Transportation
 - Municipal water source
- Viewpoints on how it is to operate are many

County of Haliburton

- Operation needs to take into account a variety of factors:
 - Supply needs from the head waters
 - Changing weather patterns
 - Spring water run-off
 - Flooding protection

County of Haliburton

- Operational decisions made by the Trent Severn Water System impact the County of Haliburton:
 - Fish and wildlife habitats
 - Tourism
 - Waterfront Properties

County of Haliburton

- Fish and Wildlife Habitats
 - Wetlands decreasing in size
 - Fluctuating water levels damage spawning areas for fish and nesting areas for birds
 - Fluctuating water levels result in major erosion problems
 - Low water levels magnifies impact of bird and animal waste in the lakes and watercourses

County of Haliburton

- Tourism
 - Boating is major part of tourism
 - Significant economic spin offs
 - with 16 marinas providing employment to County residents
 - Stay in cottages and resorts in the area
 - Shop at area stores and patronize eating establishments

County of Haliburton

- Fluctuating water levels
 - Curtails boating season causing tourists and seasonal residents to travel to other areas of the Province
 - Impacts boating safety

County of Haliburton

- Waterfront Properties
 - Form a significant part of the County's property tax base
 - Assessed value over \$3.6 billion
 - County has minimal commercial and industrial assessment (3% of total assessment)
 - Rely on waterfront assessment to fund municipal services that would not otherwise be available

County of Haliburton

- **Recommendation #1:**
 - Federal Government should continue to retain ownership and control of the Trent Severn System
 - Federal Government has the mandate and the financial resources to continue operating and protecting this piece of nationally significant infrastructure
 - Municipalities do not have the mandate or the financial resources to operate this type of infrastructure

County of Haliburton

- **Recommendation #2:**

- Provide additional infrastructure resources to the Trent Severn System
- Provide additional staffing resources to the Trent Severn System

County of Haliburton

- Modernize the existing infrastructure
 - Upgrade the dams and control system
 - Maintain infrastructure to the same degree as Rideau Canal system
 - Maximize use of available water resources
 - Change from being reactive to proactive in water level management
 - Create additional reservoirs for more storage capacity

County of Haliburton

- Modernize the existing infrastructure
 - Recycle water in the system where possible
 - Monitor the amount of water taken out of the system by other users such as municipalities and private companies

County of Haliburton

- Provide Additional staffing resources to:
 - Increase monitoring of water levels and control of sluice gates
 - Increase monitoring of daily weather occurrences and impact on water levels
 - Like most employers, there is a need to start succession planning for upcoming retirements

County of Haliburton

■ **Recommendation #3:**

- Develop better communication practices with the Stakeholders:
 - On a regular basis, explain to the public the various policy and procedural decisions affecting water levels
 - Allow for input and feedback on operational issues and long-term planning decisions from all concerned parties
 - Trent Severn Water System needs to become aware of concerns and issues before they become major problems

County of Haliburton

- **CONCLUSION**

- Trent Severn Waterway System is a significant piece of Canada's infrastructure and sufficient financial and human resources need to be provided by the Federal Government to ensure its continued longevity
- Trent Severn Waterway System provides a major economic impact on the whole region
- Every effort must be made by the Federal Government to protect and enhance this water resource for present and future generations.