



*Riverwalk is an initiative of the Friends of Minden Hills and the Haliburton Highlands*

Committee Members

Roy Haig, Chair

Laura Cunliffe,  
Secretary/Treasurer

Laurie Carmount

Cheryl Murdoch

Kate Hall

Contact Us

Riverwalk Committee  
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705-286-1312

**To: The Chairman and Members of the Panel on the Future of the Trent –Severn Waterway**

**Re: The Future of the Trent Severn Waterway and the Minden Riverwalk Project**

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Dear Sir:

The Minden Riverwalk Committee is a committee of community – minded citizens currently immersed in the recreational development of the Gull River shoreline. The area of shoreline depicted by the Riverwalk Master Plan commences at the bridge on Bobcaygeon Road in Minden and extends north easterly approximately one kilometre on both sides of the river. At that point, a footbridge will cross the Gull River providing pedestrians and non-motorized vehicles access to both sides of the river.

Further, the Riverwalk project will incorporate plantings, sculptures, benches and kiosks to support a leisurely walk along a refreshing and pristine waterway. The Gull River is the focal point of the Riverwalk project whose aim is to draw patrons to the Minden Downtown.

Unfortunately, the river suffers from artificial interference, which negatively impacts the riverbanks, aquatic vegetation, fish habitat and wildlife habitat.

The riverbanks are experiencing cycles of erosion perpetuated by continuous fluctuations in the river water levels. This erosion has resulted in and will continue to cause major expenditures by the Township of Minden Hills to ensure that all infrastructure works within the influence of the erosion are protected.

The Township of Minden Hills and its ratepayers are bearing the cost of rectifying inequities forced upon them and their natural environment by Parks Canada and the Orillia Power Corporation.

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The Riverwalk project is part of the affected infrastructure that, upon completion, will represent a million dollar investment that will have to be maintained by the Township. Even as the project progresses, so also does the negative effects of policies practised by Parks Canada and Orillia Power.

The Riverwalk Committee is concerned with these policies that threaten its efforts to draw patrons to the Gull River and ultimately the Minden Downtown.

The Minden Downtown businesses need positive efforts to remain viable and continue to contribute the economy and sustainability of Haliburton County.

The Riverwalk Committee respectfully requests the Panel to consider the effects of a river being manipulated, through artificial means, on the economy and the inhabitants of Haliburton County. The Committee also requests that the Panel recommend and participate in the creation of a mutually beneficial collaboration among Parks Canada, Orillia Power and the Township of Minden Hills.

When legislation governing the use of the waterway was passed, conditions along the waterway were vastly different than those being experienced today. Dependence on the waterway varies significantly from the headwaters to the outlet. Solutions to support these diverse dependencies have to be a mutual effort among all parties on the waterway.

If the Gull River and the lakes that feed it are to survive for future generations, this collaboration must take place and, the sooner the better.

Yours sincerely,  
**THE RIVERWALK COMMITTEE**

  
Roy L. Haig, Chair