

September 14 2007

Mr. Chairman and Panel I certainly appreciate your time as you address the inequities of the Trent Severn Waterways as it now exists. Presently there appears is little or no regard for the residents of Peterborough County who reside on the feeder lakes. I don't think this is through neglect or ^{LACK} concern but rather as a result existing mandate.

I have a summer cottage on Anstruthers lake and the lake is very reason the cottage exists. The lake is is an integral part of life at the cottage as my taxes reflect. The Municipal Property Assessment Corporation has assessed lake front properties with a disproportional tax burden for this very reason. My taxes are up 17% this year with no changes to the property. I would therefor like to address the ramifications of the existing Trent Severn Waterway's policy as it affects Anstruther Lake.

A century ago the Trent Severn Waterway was built to provide an inland waterway from Kingston to Lake Huron without going through the lakes Ontario and Erie because of fear of attack from the Americans. This in no longer a threat. But it's interesting that the Trent Severn Waterway continues to function under the mandate established at that time.

However in 1961 a new dam was built on Anstruther Lake and raised the water level even further. As the Trent Severn Waterway had functioned as a navigational waterway prior to the construction of the new higher dam why with all the extra water this new dam provides do we need to see such violent fluctuations in water levels.

I would first like to address some of the environmental damage the present policy has on the our lake. My cottage is next to a beautiful wetland of about 20 hectares and is filled with all sorts of wild life. But from an environmental point of view these wetlands get little attention from the Trent Severn Waterway and much of the wild life dies when the water is dropped in 12" and 18" increments. I have grand children who spend hour upon hour in the "marsh" saving reptiles by putting them into deeper water as the water recedes.

These drastic changes in water levels adversely affect the spawning patterns of fish and we need to preserve the fish in the cold water lakes, such as Anstruther Lake which is now a part of the newly established Provincial Park.

This year because the water has already drained from this wetland the grasses have already turning the colour of straw where as undisturbed wetlands such as those on highway #28 for example are still lush and green.

When the Trent Severn Waterway pulls a log and a half it dumps 18" of water down the river from our lake which washes out the beaver dams and any shore wild life or vegetation that exists on the river so some non tax paying boater can cruise the system. Why do we appropriate thousands of liters of water to allow a single boat to individually buzz through the locks. Can we not "group" boats and save water?

I realize the changing weather patterns are more unpredictable, but if it is a dry summer on Anstruther Lake shouldn't it be a dry summer on Stony Lake and the rest of the system. Water levels should be lower everywhere.

Conversely when a log is dropped in the dam in late spring to hold back water this presents another problem. Loons don't walk or waddle very well on land and as a consequence they build their nests close the water. When the water backs up the porous loon eggs absorb water and the eggs die. One of my neighbor built a floating raft with bulrushes etc. to see if the loons would nest on a floating platform it help with this problem. Boating is also adversely affected by excessively high water levels as shore branches and logs drift out into the lake.

Aside from the environmental concerns there are additional concerns for the tax paying cottagers on the feeder lakes where lower levels of water become a real boating concern. Rocks and shoals appear in what seems like over night. Two weeks ago I was in Toronto and I had to ask find someone on the lake to move my boat because I heard via the rumor mill that the lake had dropped significantly. The Trent Severn Waterway had taken out a log and a half resulting in an 18" drop in water level. These boating problems is was not unique to me. Two weekends ago I went to the marina on our lake to get some gas only to find both sides of the dock lined with empty boats of owners that couldn't get their boats to their docks because the water level was so low and they had ask to leave their boats at the Marina to avoid damage. There are approximately 125 cottager on our lake rely on boat access to access their cottage.

I believe we need a recognize the reality of the situation as it now existed. There are thousands of cottages on the feeder lakes that did not exist when the Trent Severn Waterway mandate was first established and this mandate must be changed to reflect this reality. Statistics show that the use of the locks is down by 50% according to Bryan Weir Director of Planning for the County of Peterborough which certainly open the door for conservation of water from the feeder lakes.

With the conservation of water in mind can you not:

- 1) shorten the navigational season for the Trent Severn Waterway
- 2) decrease the draft provided for vessels using the system?
- 3) group boats going through the system rather than spending thousands of liters of water to service one boat?
- 4) forecast the demand and water levels?
- 5) give notice of a future draw of water?
- 6) build more dams lessen the demand on the existing lakes?

Thank you for your attention on this very important matter.

Sincerely
Douglas Crowe