

Thank you for the opportunity to present the Township of Smith-Ennismore-Lakefield's position related to the evaluation of the future of the Trent Severn Waterway.

My name is Ron Millen and I am the Reeve of the Township of Smith-Ennismore-Lakefield. I am here today representing the members of the Township Council.

Approximately 80 kms of the 386 kms of the waterway run through our Township which include the Otonabee River, Katchewanooka Lake, Chemong Lake and portions of Pigeon, Buckhorn, Lovesick, Clear and Stoney Lakes. Township residents and visitors use the waterway for many different purposes and reasons and as a representative of the Township Council I would like to highlight some key issues that we would wish the Panel to consider in their evaluation:

Deteriorating Infrastructure

The system needs dedicated funding to replace, repair and upgrade the system.

The Trent Severn Waterway is managed by Parks Canada whose mandate encompasses much more than the waterway. As part of the larger Parks Canada budget, the TSW competes for funding with other Parks Canada programs and sites.

This system needs dedicated funding to recognize not only its infrastructure needs but also the need to promote the system's uses to visitors and residents and to properly manage its day-to-day functions.

The total replacement value of the system is estimated to be \$1.5 Billion.

Recapitalization is estimated to be hundreds of millions of dollars over the next 15 -20 years.

The total budget for the waterway's operation is \$15.3 million. Clearly there hasn't been sufficient monies set aside to address ongoing capital needs in the system.

This needs to change.

Commitment of Federal Jurisdiction

By committing dedicated funding to the system the Federal government would be re-affirming its commitment that it will maintain jurisdiction over the system.

A single governing body must continue to be responsible for the ownership and operation of the system.

Multiple jurisdictions managing a single system would be a logistical nightmare.

These jurisdictional issues aside, lower tier municipalities cannot be expected to be burdened with the costs to manage and operate the system.

Water Quality

The Lakefield Water Treatment Plant and thousands of the households draw water from the system for drinking

water purposes. In addition, the waterway supports an entire ecosystem. Water quality is an important issue.

Like the County of Peterborough, the Township would like to like to see a Federal program to inspect private septic systems along the waterway and offer further funding to stakeholders to help re-mediate any potential septic problems discovered.

Federal policies regulating upland developments that support the Provincial Policy Statement and have regard for local planning policies are also needed.

Heritage Designation

In the early 1990's there was consideration of the TSW being designated as a Canadian Heritage River. For a variety of reasons, this did not materialize and it is my Council's position that this be considered again.

The Heritage Designation would provide a higher profile for the system aligning it to the Rideau system - potentially attracting more visitors and funding.

Conclusion:

The Township's economic, social and health fabric is intricately tied to the waterway in so many ways:

It's needed for

- Drinking water – for private and municipal systems
- Power generation and flood control – dams and hydro generation
- Ecological needs – waterway habitat and other ecosystems

- Recreational needs – boating, swimming, fishing etc...
- As an attraction and economic driver

The future success of the waterway is dependent on dedicated sustainable funding.

Its future also depends on balancing the impacts of the many uses and users of the system.

Thank you for the opportunity to make a presentation and the Township looks forward outcomes that will result.