

August 15, 2007

Verbal Presentation to The Panel on the Future of the Trent-Severn Waterway

Good evening. My name is Roger Warren. I am here tonight in my capacity as the Chair of the Marina Management Board of the Municipality of Trent Hills, Hastings Village Marina.

Our marina is located immediately up stream of Lock 18 on the south shore of the Trent River in the village of Hastings. We currently have 64 slips with another 16 planned for some later date bringing our capacity to 80 boats. The design of our facility is such that we can accommodate boats up to 85 feet in length.

Exactly a year ago this week we received a letter from Parks Canada regarding the Introduction of Water Lot Lease Requirements effecting commercial users of the Trent-Severn and Rideau Canal waterways.

The impact of the proposed water lot leases for us in 2008 will, based on the information received last year, be in the neighborhood of \$910.00 and will increase, taking into consideration the addition of our last 16 docking slips, to over \$1,800.00 by the year 2011.

All things considered this additional operating expense will not likely have a huge or unmanageable impact on our projected operations but it does bring me to raise an issue regarding fair competition.

Currently, Parks Canada offers boaters a seasonal overnight mooring permit at a cost of \$9.90 per foot valid on the Trent and Rideau systems as well as in the St. Lawrence Islands National Park, Georgian Bay Islands National Park and Fathom Five National Marine Park.

Should Parks Canada proceed with it's water lot lease program as is highly anticipated, I would ask that they consider eliminating the seasonal mooring permit program and instead charge boaters on a pay-as-you go basis for mooring throughout their jurisdiction. This would provide boaters with a choice at every mooring point to pay the lesser charges imposed by Parks Canada for basic mooring without amenities like electricity and showers or for a slightly higher charge, to stay in a commercial facility offering more amenities for a slight additional charge.

Charging commercial resort and marina operators an annual fee to lease the waters their docks are installed upon on one hand and then selling seasonal mooring permits encouraging boaters to use the parks mooring facilities as they travel through the systems will hurt the private and publicly owned commercial operators.

Holders of your mooring permits who might like to spend a night or two along their journey at a full service facility will always feel that in doing so they have had to pay twice.

Please consider giving boaters a choice and if you proceed with the implementation of water lot leases, eliminate the sale of seasonal mooring permits.

Thank You.