

September 17, 2007

Panel on the Future of the Trent-Severn Waterway
185 King Street Unit 100
Peterborough ON K9J 2R8

Dear Panel Members

Although we have been unable to attend any of your public meetings we did want to share our perspective on this important matter. We have owned a lot –
in the Westshore Road area on Lake Kennisis in Haliburton County since 2002
and recently completed the construction of a cottage/retirement home there.

Certainly you face a tremendous challenge trying to balance the needs of a wide group of stakeholders on water levels. Obviously we would like to see the water levels on Lake Kennisis stay as high as possible throughout the summer. The dramatic decline over the summer months creates many challenges in terms of safe boating and maintaining an attractive shore line. Why others benefit by taking water from our lake is a mystery – one to which we have yet to hear a good answer. We await your answer to that question.

We do have one suggestion. In our experience the water level seems to decline no matter how much rain falls. Should we not do a better job of capturing the benefit of heavy rains? Since both Kennisis lakes are largely sourced by precipitation runoff from surrounding lands it is not clear why the damn can't be raised during or shortly after major rainfalls. We had several days of very heavy rains last June. Unfortunately the damn was left low, or even lowered further based on some predetermined schedule and we did not see any rise in the water levels. One easy change in process could benefit all stakeholders.

At the same time we must question the current priorities. What makes one area more important than another? If we face a water shortage should not all lakes and waterways share equally in the shortage? Will our lake be drained further to "protect" others?

We wish you well in your deliberations. Hopefully next year our lake will not experience a dramatic decline in our water levels. Let us keep our water. At a minimum we ask that you ensure new processes are put in place to take every possible advantage of whatever rainfall we receive during the summer months by managing the damn more effectively. Thanks very much for your careful consideration of our request.

Yours truly

John and Brenda Smith