



ORILLIA DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

PANEL ON THE FUTURE OF THE TRENT SEVERN WATERWAY

**Submission by : Orillia District Chamber of Commerce - operators of the
Port of Orillia**

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The Trent Severn Waterway is a unique selling point for municipalities in its environs. The waterway provides direct and indirect employment as well as other economic generators in the area. It is an integral component of the marine industry in the Province of Ontario. The waterway has tremendous historical value and is quite a feat of engineering which should be celebrated and continue to be acknowledged.

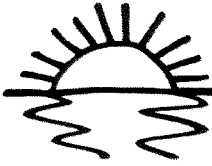
The review of water management decision - making that is presently being undertaken is a welcome process. There may well be opportunities to make adjustments to the existing methods with technology that is available today.

As recognized by The Panel, it is imperative to address the aging infrastructure. The system must operate in a safe and reasonable manner in order for all of the other elements of economy, natural environment, culture and heritage to work toward building a more financially sustainable network.

An examination of other waterway/canal management models in Canada and the United States may provide some valuable program information that could be utilized or modified in various areas of the Trent Severn Waterway. This could lead to program development that would enhance land and water visitor experiences and address, to some degree, funding and management challenges.

The data collected through the Supporting Studies will provide valuable information on various assessments and development options throughout the system. This information, in concert with opinions shared in the consultation process, could be used as a tool to develop recommendations for a Management Plan.

The Orillia District Chamber of Commerce would be pleased to communicate relevant information regarding the study to our over six hundred forty members through our bi-monthly newsletter. We have also added your link to our website. If we can be of assistance to the members of the panel through discussions on this very important issue we would endeavour to accommodate your schedule.



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The Port of Orillia has a very strong economic impact on business in the City of Orillia in particular and business in the area in general. Most specifically, the marine sector. The smooth, safe operation of the locks on the Trent Severn Waterway has a strong influence on confidence in the safety of the system and therefore boater traffic. We cannot stress enough the importance of addressing the aging infrastructure in order to maintain support for the marine industry; ecosystem integrity; flood management; support for local economies and the celebration of the history of the system.

Possibilities for Revenue Generation

1. The exploration of green power generation on some portions of the system may prove to be worthwhile from an educational and environmental position. The Federal Government is currently supporting green power initiatives.
2. Wherever possible, land visitors should pay to park to help support the system. More people are wanting to enjoy lock stations as parkland. There is an associated cost to foot traffic.
3. The gas tax contributed from the fuel sold by the marine industry should be diverted in to the Trent Severn Waterway infrastructure program.
4. As mentioned in our submission the examination of other waterway/canal management models may provide some revenue generation ideas that could be implemented or modified in various areas on the Trent Severn Waterway. They will also undoubtedly provide information on levels of financial support from government.