



CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF
SMITH-ENNISMORE-LAKEFIELD

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September 21, 2007

The Panel on the Future of the Trent Severn Waterway
185 King Street, Suite 100
Peterborough, ON
K9J 2R8

Re: Township of Smith-Ennismore-Lakefield Submission to the Panel on the Future of the Trent-Severn Waterway

The Council of the Township of Smith-Ennismore-Lakefield through Reeve Ron Millen presented to the Panel on September 14, 2007 at the Marshland Centre in Lakefield. Thank you for this opportunity. Please accept this correspondence as the Township's written submission to Panel.

Council requests that the Panel consider the following relative to the Trent Severn Waterway:

- Improve water quality
- Grow and sustain the economic benefits of the Waterway
- Increase activities for non-boaters
- Address deteriorating infrastructure
- Create sustainable uses of the waterway to create revenue opportunities that are environmentally friendly
- Raise awareness to attract people to the waterway

Approximately 80 kms of the 386 kms of the waterway run through the Township of Smith-Ennismore-Lakefield which includes 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.

KEY ISSUES

Deteriorating Infrastructure

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

The Trent Severn Waterway (TSW) 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 requires 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 have not been sufficient monies set aside to address ongoing capital needs in the system.

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 welcome a Federal program that would involve the inspection of 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 the position of the Council of the Township of Smith-Ennismore-Lakefield 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:

- 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 and also dependent on balancing the impacts of the many uses and users of the system.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments. The township looks forward to the outcomes of this process.

Sincerely,



Angela Chittick
Deputy Clerk