

----- Original Message -----

From: Wally McCourt McCourt

To: info@tswpanel.ca

Sent: Thursday, August 23, 2007 4:09 PM

Subject: Navigation aids TSW

I am a recreational boater using the TSW for the past 4 years. I have purchased a season pass for my boat during this time and have travelled the length of the waterway twice. I utilize the lock system on a weekly basis as I live on Sturgeon Lake and travel to Pigeon Lake to visit my brother frequently and also to Balsam Lake via Cameron Lake. My wife and I plan a trip on the waterway at least once a year during the boating season and more often if we can. The removal of the navigation aids have caused us concern for areas that we are not familiar with. I have purchased a GPS to assist with our boating safety, however without the aids being visible, it is sometimes difficult to place exactly where you are. We live at the north-west end of Sturgeon Lake and the channel from Fenelon Falls on the lake and then towards Sturgeon Point was well marked prior to the removal of the aids. This is no longer the case and has caused damage to boaters as well as decreasing safety on the waterway. Prior to the removal, the boaters travelling southbound would stay in the channel and usually stay in single file. Now they are travelling two and three abreast with oncoming boat traffic stretched out as well. This is causing further erosion to both east and west shorelines due to increased wake. The boats are travelling faster as well due to the widening of the waterway available for travel. The amount of money saved as quoted for removal and discontinued upkeep is not worth the increased safety risks in my opinion. Thank you

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