

June 24, 2007

Noise Issues

Please consider the following as part of your review of the Trent Severn Waterway.

Problem – Excessive noise from power (motor) boats reduces the enjoyment of the waterway and surrounding properties. Specifically, I have experienced much reduced enjoyment of the waterway when fishing, swimming, sailing, canoeing and picnicking due to the noise created by power boats on the waterway. In addition, the noise from fishing tournaments (bull horns and boats early in the morning as the events start) and racing type boats using Lake Couchiching (poker runs, boat shows etc.) is a disturbance at my residence. My residence is located about 350m from shore.

Recommendation – If power boats are going to continue to be permitted on the Waterway please consider the following suggestion. (I realize there will likely be some exception for emergency services.) In areas where power boats are permitted I would suggest that they be required to have the highest standard of noise attenuation equipment and for it to be in good repair and in use whenever the motor is running. This should be independent of distance from shore. In addition, there should be time limits placed on the operation of power boats. Although the even days peaceful, odd days loud approach would be more than fair, perhaps a one day per week prohibition or allowing operation 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. would work.

Discussion – There is not an appreciable increase in benefit to those with power boats to operate in a way that causes excessive noise. However, if they are not creating excessive noise many other users of and property owners near the waterway will experience a significant benefit.

Thanks for your consideration of this important component of your review.

Yours truly

Peter Dance