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The Panel on the Future of the Trent Severn Waterway:
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My view of a positive and sustainable future for the Trent Severn Waterway is to begin with a plan to restore and maintain the health of the eco-system of the areas surrounding, feeding into and affected by the Waterway. It is important to maintain these watersheds as a whole.

Some of the feeder lakes for the TSW border on the Kawartha Signature Site which is habitat for a number of endangered or at risk species. Ecological studies have been conducted for this area by Ontario Parks, so I would hope that this would be a useful resource to consult in any future management plans for the Trent Severn. With the advent of global warming it is important to maintain the health of this water resource both for future generations of people but also for the wildlife we share it with.

There are many opportunities for tourism development in the area that do not destroy wildlife, such as eco-tourism, educational and experiential tourism. Any private enterprise operating in the area should be required to conform to a set of standards that protect the environmental integrity first and foremost.

I believe any harnessing of power should be in the hands of our government and not private enterprise. These resources belong to all of us and have a global impact. I think that it should be possible to use the existing infrastructure of dams to integrate sustainable small-scale power generation into the power grid. I would like to see the development of a model of micro-generation systems rather than building large structures to provide a modular form of power generation from various points along these lake and river systems.

This year I have noticed the water levels on the Mississauga River and Lake increased and decreased by about 2 feet over the course of a few hours several times over the summer to maintain water levels south of us on the TSW. This is quite different than the way these water levels have been managed in the past. I am alarmed at the damage this must be doing to the shoreline, waterfowl, fishstocks, etc. A TSW management plan must take this into account in a more environmentally healthy way, not just service a few boaters many miles to the south. It must also be adaptable to changing weather conditions.

In order to collect adequate input from the public, it's important to reach cottagers and visitors as well. Many seasonal residents don't read local newspapers and do not receive snail or email at the cottage, so unless information is posted in local stores, in local tourist publications or through tax bills, they may not be aware of meetings, etc. and will have no representation. Even as a full time resident, I was only aware of the public consultations about a month ago, although meetings had been taking place since July. Also, we do not have high speed in this area at present, so much of the documentation on your website is inaccessible to us - PDF format is too large to download at 28K. I would encourage ongoing public consultation in this process.

Sincerely,



Ann Jaeger