

Greater Peterborough Chamber of Commerce
Position Paper on the
Federal Government's Review of the future of the
Trent Seven Waterway

Many of our member businesses derive a significant portion of their income from the waterway either directly (i.e. marinas) or indirectly (i.e. restaurants). This document will support:

- Continued Federal Government presence
- A central entity to oversee the operation and maintenance
- Increased promotion of the waterway as a tourist destination
- Updated water-level control systems and technology

1. There are many key stakeholders involved - government and private agencies, including Parks Canada, Environment Canada, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Trent Severn Waterway, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, bordering Counties, Townships, First Nations peoples, as well as Economic Development Agencies, Chambers of Commerce, Cottagers Associations, etc. The panel realizes that a different kind of structure may be necessary. We agree with the following principles of management for the waterway:

- That the Federal Government is the owner of the Trent Severn Waterway system and must provide the policies and goals for its operation and maintenance.
- That there should be a dedicated water management agency to oversee the operation. The intent of the model would be to involve the bordering communities and affected agencies to implement a shared vision.
- That the Federal Government continue to consult with various users and government entities, which will result in a more successful and coordinated operation of the waterway over the years.
- That increased Federal Government spending is required to ensure that the goals and objectives are achieved.
- That increased and sustained Provincial Government funding is also necessary to support Provincial activities associated with the waterway such as environmental protection and destination marketing and promotion.

2. More up-to-date water level control structures, technology, and policies would mitigate the impact that inconsistent water drawdown has on:

- Shoreline businesses, including navigation and access to the system
- The environment, including spawning fish and wetlands.
- Water supply for those who use the system as a water source.
- Flood control.
- Hydro-electric generation.

We believe that a hydrological study, modeling the entire system, would look at the capacity and water levels of the water reservoirs feeding the system, as well as the water levels in the waterway itself. It would include how the system reacts to flood and low flow conditions, and would be very beneficial when considering the issues outlined above.

3. We encourage increased marketing of the waterway as a tourist destination. Creative cost-sharing opportunities involving key stakeholders would result in dramatically improved visitation and commercial opportunities.

4. Additional considerations include:

- Maintaining the natural environment of the waterway is a key objective.
- Improved communication regarding water level changes would be helpful.
- Maintaining or improving water quality.
- Consider the impact of the recent removal of numerous marker buoys.
- Consider the possible reasons for the recent decline in lock usage, including the reduced operating hours and increased dockage fees.

The Peterborough Chamber of Commerce commends the panel for it's hard work over the past several months, and we look forward to your recommendations to ensure the successful operation of the Trent Severn Waterway.

Greater Peterborough Chamber of Commerce
175 George Street
Peterborough Ontario
K9J 3G6

General Manager
Stuart Harrison
705-748-9771 ext 202
stuart@peterboroughchamber.ca
www.peterboroughchamber.ca