

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

From: Dianne McFeeters

To: info@tswpanel.ca

Sent: Thursday, September 27, 2007 5:03 AM

Subject: Trent Severn Waterway

To the panel,

Being a cottage owner on Eels Lake over the last 38 years has been a wonderful experience. It is a beautiful lake and in my opinion has even greater beauty as the seasonal draw down exposes the granite along a great part of its shoreline. This rise and fall of Eels Lake's water level is as well known fact to all property owners. After all, in spite of this annual lowering, we still bought property on Eels. Adjusting to this draw down, is a "given" for those that enjoy Eels Lake. We do all the things that are necessary to accommodate such water loss and do it with little or no grumbling. It is just part of what you do as a cottager on Eels. For example, it just becomes routine to adjust the ropes and walkway to the dock on a regular basis during the spring to fall cottage season and to be certain to leave adequate slack (about 8-10 feet) in the dock anchor ropes prior to leaving our dock for the winter in the back bay. A big part of accepting this lowering of Eel's over the season is we knew it was a dam controlled lake right from the start and that accommodations would have to be made. The changing water level has always been, for the most part, fairly predictable over the season. In fact, in our cottage journal and I would be surprised if it isn't in other cottagers', jotting down a line about the water level is quite common. Where the problem arises is when we get caught by surprise and return to a dock that is hung up on rocks due to an unexpected fast drop in the lake's level. Not being informed of an impending "man-made" rapid drop such as this August's is frustrating.

A silly thought but I wonder how a letter, to you the panel, from the plants and animals in and surrounding the shoreline of Eels lake would read. Were they indeed able to make the necessary adjustments to such a rapid drop?

I have certainly appreciated being able to voice my thoughts and have read with interest the numerous submissions of the many stakeholders. Good luck as you weigh the many valid points and suggestions that have been submitted.

John McFeeters

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27/09/2007