

**Shirley Bond**

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**From:** "Nancy Lee" <gilsonpoint@sympatico.ca>  
**To:** <info@tswpanel.ca>  
**Sent:** September 27, 2007 11:32 PM  
**Subject:** Future of the TSW submission

September 29, 2007

[info@tswpanel.ca](mailto:info@tswpanel.ca)

Dear Sir or Madam:

Re: Future of the Trent – Severn Waterway

We make this submission on behalf of the South Mariposa Lakefront Ratepayers Association, also known as the Gilson Point Ratepayers Association. The association represents some 60-year round residents and seasonal cottages on the northwest shore of Lake Scugog.

As Canadian's we are very proud of the Trent Severn Waterway system and feel privileged to have access to an internationally renowned waterway. For us, the TSW is an important natural heritage feature that requires stewardship and effective monitoring to result in sustained preservation.

We recognize your figures on the overall decline in the lockage and increase in boating activity along the waterways. For us this highlights the importance of having navigable waters that have moderate user fees and at the same time promote land use through developing some open space areas strategically along the TSW.

The association also recognizes the important function of controlling water and reservoirs of the TSW system. For example, on Lake Scugog this summer we experienced ineffective control of the water levels to the point where they were unusually low. This seemed to contribute to excessive weed growth changing the dynamics of the lake and at the same time, limiting the recreational and fishing opportunities. To us this was a profound statement of the need for effective water control on the TSW system.

One of the features that attracted many residents to the area was the "quality of life" effect in living near or on the lake system, having access to the lakes and the supporting recreational opportunities and conservation controls to protect species and inappropriate development.

The TSW's traditional role of ensuring navigable waters is important to our association. Our members value the navigational aids for a number of reasons. They feel safer in water oriented recreational activities (eg. water skiing, swimming, etc.). Navigational tools guide them to safe areas and also away from the navigable channels where boating traffic proceed. The removal of navigational aids in Lake Scugog has been noticed and is of concern to many residents.

The interests in protection of natural habitat are key. We believe that there has to be a continued role to control inappropriate development along the lakeshore with more of a focus on preservation of natural habitat, controlled development, protection of provincially significant wetlands and continued education of the impact lakeshore erosion, septic beds and fertilizers.

28/09/2007

We would support creation of an agency that would have primary responsibility for oversight and stewardship of the waterway system.

Alternatively, perhaps the official plan for the City of Kawartha Lakes should be amended to add clarity that it is the overall decision body in considering the impact of development on or around the TSW system.

The agency/city must look beyond just the economic realities and give equal credence to environmental preservation and conservation. In our experience there are too many agencies, each with some level of accountability for environment, energy, conservation and preservation functions. No single agency exists that assimilates the interests of all parties, and who is charged with making decisions based on the public good, not just the economic benefit of development.

We should be taking lessons from the experience on the Oak Ridges Moraine. This requires a coordinated approach to stewardship and managing stakeholders and interest groups, developers and residents, jointly with the interests of economics, enforcement, nature and preservation.

Our Association would appreciate being added to any mailing list that may exist to receive any future information that may be generated by this panel.

Sincerely,

Nancy W. Lee

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