

From: <oldhomestead@eagle.ca>
To: "Ken East" <Ken.East@TSWPanel.ca>
Sent: Friday, September 28, 2007 2:57 AM
Subject: Re: Panel Consultations

The following views are that of my own on behalf of our tourist camp The Old Burrison Homestead Tourist Camp Ltd. and are not to be perceived as coming from my position as Deputy Mayor for the Township of Hamilton.

The Trent Severn Waterway is a chain of lakes and rivers which has evolved over the years into a tourist destination. Boaters are able to travel with ease throughout the system thanks to the number of lift locks. Due to the extensive network of highways leading to the Trent Severn system easy access can be had for boaters by land and those without boats are able to enjoy recreational activities at various locations along its shores. Keeping a healthy waterway brings tourists to the region and along with the tourists come the dollars. Small businesses, towns, the city of Peterborough, those with privately owned cottages and residents of the area all depend on the system whether it be for financial gain, recreation or a source of drinking water.

I have lived on the south shore of Rice Lake all my life and have been witness to much change. More and more tourists are invading the country side from the cities and towns. Many of them live in apartments and can hardly wait to experience the freedom and beauty of the open spaces. Invasive species such as the Zebra Mussel can be found on almost every rock in the water and other species are on the way so we are told. ie the Goby fish. The raising and lowering of the water by the operators of the Trent Severn has aided in the erosion of the shore line. This shoreline weakened by the erosion has been heaved and rolled back in various areas by the winter ice resulting in a loss of land. During the Peterborough flood the mouth of the Otonabee River threw up a mixture of unhealthy vile. Tourists turned away and all that the locals could do was watch. Each spring as the ice leaves the lake it is interesting to see what garbage will float down the river into the lake. Plastic containers, logs, docks, oil drums, barrels and much more have been pulled form the water over the years. The increased population of Cormorants attacked the vegetation on the islands with their burning feces. I have witnessed floating pools of septic waste containing feces, toilet paper and tampons.

The only conclusion I can come to is that passing boats have made illegal and unpaid discharges. At the west end of the lake in the Bewdley area

the waters are often posted as no swim. It is important to note that here in the past truck loads of fill were spread over a large part of the wet lands abutting the shore. It makes me wonder how many natural springs feeding into the lake were covered preventing sufficient flow to the waters. Today piles of rubble remain to be bulldozed down. I am told they are within a fill line. Putting all of these comments aside I can say that our lake and the Trent Severn waterway has a great deal to offer.

Dotting the landscape along it's shores quaint hamlets, towns, the city of Peterborough, tourist resorts and many other small businesses can be found. Fishing is great and the sunsets can not be outdone anywhere else in Ontario. My suggestions are as follows in point form.

1. The city of Peterborough and all towns should have sufficient catchment basins to contain septic spills and heavy rains.
2. There should be a culling of Cormorants to prevent the devastation of vegetation on the islands and the fecal contamination in the water from these birds.
3. Consideration should be given to the culling of the Canadian Goose as they too leave large amounts of fecal matter in the water and on the shoreline. Their numbers are increasing too quickly.
4. It has been suggested by some that the waters of Rice Lake be made clear. Perhaps this is a good idea, but I have always been of the mind that the pickerel can only exist in murky waters. Since tourist and game fishermen come to the lake for the pickerel fishing this idea should be explored.
5. As long as the water is being raised and lowered we will continue to see erosion. I have no suggestion for this problem, however some kind of consideration should be given to those who have lost shore line due to erosion and ice damage. I know that the municipal docks in the Township of Hamilton (once owned by the Federal Government) will soon be in need of work. The cost to recover and repair the land can be quite steep.
6. What to do about invasive species? I have no suggestion other than to monitor and educate those using the waterway.
7. It is my opinion that most tourists and therefore most dollars come to the Trent Severn by land. It is therefore important to provide incentives to business along the waterway and infuse dollars into the municipalities for infrastructure.

8. With the increasing numbers of tourists there will be a greater demand for public washrooms. This presents the need for greater sewage treatment plants. Provincial washrooms should be considered.

9. Advance warning of water level changes should be made known if possible. Those with boats docked and those who draw water from the lake would appreciate this.

10. It seems unjust that some are allowed to fish the Trent Severn out of season while others can not. We watch this happening each spring. Perhaps it is time that this law on the waterway applies to all.

11. With the high cost of hydro, perhaps it would be worth exploring hydro generating stations.

Over the years taxes have continued to rise. The last increase was dramatic to those owning water front properties. Many of these land owners are descendants from families who settled around the waters edge in the early 1900s. These families have been dedicated Canadians and good stewards of the land. Others purchased their homes or cottages unaware that MPAC would sneak up and attack them while they attempted to meet mortgage payments.

The added burden has forced the sale of properties and I know of some who have lowered their standard of living to keep the family property. In 2008 the two year freeze of taxes will be lifted. Who knows what the effects will be. MPAC did not stop there. Along with the increased property tax to trailer parks they imposed a trailer tax which hit trailer parks from one end of the Trent Severn waterway to the other. There is a fear that the Trent Severn soon hit the park owners with yet other taxes. Those being a water lot fee and a dock tax.

Since the Walkerton devastation the fear of unsafe water sent our government into a frenzy and created trauma to the people. Water regulation 170 came out of Justice Connors report along with other recommendations. Small businesses, community centres and churches were in shock by the time frames they had to work with. Consultants were hired, water handling courses were taken, and many additional water samples were taken at a cost into the thousands for some businesses. Others unable to make the required changes just ignored the whole thing. Then like someone had waved a magic wand the government backed off. It is now a wait and see attitudes that many are taking. These actions were a good thing, however the hammer of the Connor report came down too hard and swift in the beginning.

The tourist business has also been affected by 911, the war, the lower dollar, Sars, Peterborough flood, Cormorants, and Carolyn Parish stomping on the doll of President Bush.

Suggestions :

I suggest that since most tourist resorts operate only during the summer months and that out of those months June, July and August are the most active months that no more taxes or fees be applied to resort owners. It is true that they are busy during the summer, but expenses continue during the fall, winter and spring months when no money is coming in.

Take care of the business along the Trent Severn Waterway that provide the Governments with many, many tax dollars.

I thank you for accepting my comments.

Isobel Hie