

## THE TRENT- SEVERN WATERWAY

By way of introduction we are Ron and Linda Benson and own a cottage on Eels lake. We are four season cottagers and will be retiring on the lake during the summers beginning 2008.

We are writing to voice our concerns with the drawing down of water from Northern lakes to feed the TSW. We understand the need to draw water to keep the TSW at safe levels however we do not understand why the water releases can not be planned and communicated in advance of a drawdown.

Being relatively new to this area we can not bring a historical perspective however we do believe that the resource, water in this case needs to be managed in a way that serves ALL the people who live and play in the greater TSW watershed.

With that in mind we wonder why a 6foot draft is required on the TSW, perhaps maintaining to 5 feet would suffice and force slower traffic thereby addressing a concern of many who have voiced displeasure with wake damage and boater safety.

Additionally it would seem that a great deal of water can be saved if locks are completely filled with watercraft prior to a lift or descent. Since there is no commercial traffic on the TSW recreational boaters would not be opposed to a wait if they understood the purpose.

Is there a potential to manage water levels to a tighter minimum and maximum range, for example; rather than waiting until levels in the TSW require a massive drawdown from the lakes that support it a gradual drawdown that requires one log to be removed at a time from dams thereby lowering lake levels gradually over the summer may be possible

Hoping these and all the many other ideas submitted will be considered by the panel as plans for our future are developed.

It seems that management of the resource and communications are essential.

Thank You.

Ron and Linda Benson