

My wife and I were part of a group known as the North Seymour Ratepayers Association that attended your public meeting on Wednesday, July 25th in Campbellford.

Although it was a long meeting, we were glad we went to hear everyone's view on the present and future concerns of the waterway.

One major point was made a number of times and deserves closer investigation.

That was the inability to successfully co-ordinate different governing bodies that control different aspects of the waterway.

This allows municipalities, the provincial government and the federal government to pass the buck from one to another in many issues that arise on a more or less frequent basis.

It also makes it relatively easy to circumvent existing legislation or regulations on a regular basis.

This is especially true of private development of waterfront properties.

Developers go ahead with their plans regardless of environmental concerns, or, protected wetland areas.

Some property owners do not respect regulations, or, legislation because they own the land.

These people do not understand that what they do on their property, especially, if it is on the waterfront, may affect all their neighbours and the waterway.

Therefore, it is paramount that all present regulations and laws are enforced.

In order to do this, municipalities and the provincial and federal governments must work in unison and harmony and in a speedy fashion to deal with water quality, navigation and development.

Another important issue came to the fore with the mention of excessive weed growth in many parts of the waterway.

In our area, Cedar Shores and Hardy Island, the weed growth makes it unpleasant and sometimes unsafe to practice many of the water sports that were the reason people moved here or keep a cottage in proximity of the waterway.

Our parents moved and bought a small waterfront cottage as a retirement in home in 1980.

At that time, the waterway for navigation was regularly cleared of weeds and sediment and the weed growth was not a real problem on the shorelines of the waterway either.

Regardless of the cause of the ever-increasing growth of weeds, the need to introduce measures to drastically reduce the ever-expanding weed beds is a challenge that needs to be met yesterday and well into the future in many areas of the waterway.

Many of our residents and cottagers have tried individually and as members of organizations like the ratepayers associations and rod and gun clubs to meet the weed invasion.

Most of these well-intentioned individuals and organizations were soon discouraged by the reams of red-tape that they encountered to effectively do something.

Contractors that were approached either required too much capital (beyond our means) or were afraid to do anything because of numerous governmental bodies requiring numerous never-ending tests before they finally could start with their task of harvesting and disposing of the weeds.

Biologically safe ways to control the weed spread to new areas may also be necessary.

We see this activity as something that is on-going and on a regular basis.

Gernot and Beverly Gleibs