

Panel of the Future
of the
Trent-Severn Waterway

Dear Committee Members:

It is with mixed feelings I submit some personal input into the issues, challenges and opportunities facing the Trent-Severn System.

I have lived on the waterway all my life. Growing up on the Fenelon River and for 50 years spending 6 months each year on Balsam Lake and traversing the system. I have also been involved with many segments of the waterway for over 25 years. It has been a fascinating journey, but one that has also given me great concern. I am passionate about this waterway of natural beauty.

We should be honored to be part of this majestic waterway, but we hide the problems we are faced with by counting turtles, looking for ways and means of collecting petty amounts of money through antiquated and fractured permit requirements, and patching the landscape owned by Trent Severn only when absolutely necessary. We are a forgotten waterway, financially, and have become obscure in the Parks Canada Ministry system.

Therefore the Trent Severn Waterway needs to be removed from the Parks Canada Ministry and placed in a Heritage Ministry of its own. It would then receive proper recognition, and funding, to keep the waterway functional and have a Heritage asset to be proud of.

The Trent Severn Waterway is a historic and recreational waterway route of natural beauty joining Lake Ontario to Georgian Bay through Central Ontario. The waterway began with a strong base due to the commercial needs of the times, but over the years the route has gradually changed to recreational, and the strong base is presently severely fractured. This waterway deserves better. We must make sure there are PEOPLE and FUNDS to meet the needs.

As stated it is with mixed feelings I present this rationale. Permit requirements must be put into proper perspective to meet the needs of to-day, all Trent Severn property should be personally visited by Ministry personal - to assess possible illegal unpaid use of their property (i.e permanent docks and boathouses) , boats should be licenced annually, and most of all we must ALL have a vision to SAVE THIS WONDERFUL WATERWAY.

Moving the TRENT SEVERN from Parks Canada to a HERITAGE MINISTRY, will create changes from the top down, a direction that is drastically needed to preserve the waterway.

Many thanks for considering my personal report.


Marina McLennan

BACKGROUND

CONCERNS and SUGGESTIONS for future mandate and management of the waterway

- C..At the present time I am President of the Fenelon Falls Historical Society and it is over 2 years since we offered to fund upgraded historical plaques on the Trent Severn Island in Fenelon Falls. The text has been presented but nothing has been done.
- S..Staff is at minimum due to lack of funds and because of this problem there is very little if any real waterway promotion being done. In the past 10-15 years Superintendents have been placed in Peterborough to finalize their working careers. Nothing gets done. This process cannot continue. If there is outside funding for events or history of the waterway, there should be knowledgeable staff available with open minds and open arms, with suggestions to assist in every way possible.
- C..I volunteered on the Friends of the Trent Severn Waterway Board and along with other volunteers from the surrounding communities was eager to serve and see projects GO AHEAD, to assist with the interpretive aspect of the system, to make people aware and expand the history of the complete waterway system. Very little was done - funding was received from outside agencies but the majority of expenditures in the end were going to management. I offered to write a book on the history etc of the waterway, and traveled the length of the system many times researching historical documents. In the end the funds set aside for printing books was transferred for other expenses.
- S..Appointed committees and volunteer groups could be a great asset to a Trent Severn Heritage Ministry, but should not be used as patch-up groups .
- C..I am presently chairman of the Fenelon Falls Powerlinks - a Committee appointed by the Council of the City of Kawartha Lakes to save our natural beauty and enhance property along the waterway in Fenelon Falls. We have been requesting land ownership information from the Peterborough Trent Severn office for 2 years and have heard nothing. As a result of this we are unable to plan projects on Trent Severn property, that is otherwise desperate for clean-up and upgrading.
- S..With proper funding through the Federal Government there should be enough staff to reply to these requests immediately.