



By e-mail

Barry Devolin,
MP Haliburton – Kawartha Lakes – Brock

November 2, 2012

Dear Barry:

The Coalition for Equitable Water Flow is writing to express concern with the uneven treatment of the Haliburton and Peterborough counties' reservoir and flow-through lakes of the Trent Severn Waterway (TSW) system in the proposed new **Navigation Protection Act**.

According to Schedule 2 of Bill C-45 many of the Muskoka lakes and rivers are to be 'scheduled' under the Act – including lakes Joseph, Rosseau, Muskoka, Vernon, Fairy, Peninsula and Lake of Bays. Similarly, most of the lakes and rivers that comprise the canal portion of the TSW are included in the Schedule.

However none of the Haliburton and northern Peterborough counties reservoir and flow-through lakes appear in Schedule 2 of Bill C-45, even though several are of similar size as those in Muskoka and are used for a similar style of navigation.

The criteria for selection are unclear – what for example is so different between the Peninsular-Fairy lake system and the Boshkung – Twelve Mile – Mountain – Horseshoe lake system? Similarly, small lakes off the main channel of the canal, such as Big and Little Bald lakes are in the Schedule but the larger reservoir lakes such as Redstone, Kennisis, and the Mississagua-Catchacoma chain of lakes are omitted.

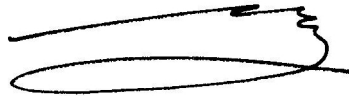
Accordingly we question the process for inclusion in the Schedule and would like to understand the specific criteria for inclusion and how it was that the above quoted anomalies occurred.

The Report of the Panel on the Future of the Trent Severn Waterway made it clear that *“to consider the lakes and rivers of the navigation channel as separate from the rest of the system is neither ecologically tenable nor advisable in planning for the future of the waterway”*. An integrated approach to water management at the watershed level requires that equal consideration be given to navigation throughout the watershed, and especially on those inter-connected lakes and rivers that form part of the overall TSW system.

The new Act is described by the Government as a “*modern, robust and flexible legislative scheme that can respond to current and future needs of Canadians*”. However, the selection of lakes and rivers for protection under the Act appears to be based in the past. It overlooks the impact of increased water-based activities in Haliburton and northern Peterborough Counties coupled with increasing pressures on navigable waterways due to overall water shortages in the Trent watershed resulting from extreme weather events, climate change and regional development.

We respectfully urge you to press for the inclusion of the Haliburton and northern Peterborough counties’ reservoir and flow-through lakes in the Schedule of Navigable Waters, along with the linking river systems of the Trent watershed.

We look forward to hearing from you,



Regards,
Chris Riddle & Martin Rist, co-chairs

c.c. The Hon. Jim Flaherty, Minister of Finance
The Hon. Denis Lebel, Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities
Dean Del Mastro, MP Peterborough
Laurie Scott, MPP Haliburton – Kawartha Lakes – Brock
Murray Fearrey, Warden Haliburton County & Reeve Dysart et al
J. Murray Jones, Warden Peterborough County
Carol Moffat, Reeve Algonquin Highlands
Barbara Reid, Reeve Minden Hills
Dave Burton, Reeve Highlands East
Janet Clarkson, Mayor Galway-Cavendish & Harvey
Jim Whelan, Reeve the Township of North Kawartha