



Statement

CP2012-00381

MINISTER KENT WELCOMES OPENING OF 2012 NAVIGATION SEASON

OTTAWA, May 18, 2012 – The Honourable Peter Kent, Canada's Minister of the Environment and Minister responsible for Parks Canada, today welcomed visitors to the canals managed by Parks Canada. The navigation season for most of the canals opens today across the country.

"Canada's historic canals offer a unique way to experience Canada and the many communities along these waterways."

"Our Government recognizes the importance of these canals to the tourism industry and the many communities that rely on them. We are committed to ensuring all our iconic destinations remain cornerstones of the Canadian tourism experience."

"In order to give communities, visitors and businesses enough time to make adjustments to the reduced navigation seasons, the length of the 2012 operating season at Canada's canals will remain unchanged."

"As we implement changes to next year's navigation season, Parks Canada will work closely with local stakeholders, Members of Parliament and partners to minimize, where possible, the impacts of these changes on neighbouring communities and partners in the tourism community," concluded Kent.

Under the 2012 Federal Budget, Parks Canada is adjusting the duration of operating seasons and hours of operation at national parks, canals and national historic sites when tourism demand is lowest. For canals, this means Parks Canada will be aligning its seasons, hours of operation and personal service offer to better reflect patterns of visitation.

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10 May 2012

To be sent to:
The Honourable Peter Kent, MP
Environment Minister

Mr. Alan Latourelle, CEO
Parks Canada

Dean Del Mastro, MP
Peterborough

Rick Norlock, MP
Northumberland Quinte West

Barry Devolin, MP
Haliburton Kawartha Lakes Brock

Dear Mr.

The Trent-Severn Waterway system is the tourism backbone of our Region, offering residents and tourists an opportunity to travel hundreds of kilometres through some of Ontario's finest scenery, enjoy great fishing, boating and cruising, while staying in Ontario's accommodations and spending tourist dollars in the province.

It is our understanding that Parks Canada is proposing to cut back on the staffing and the hours of operation of the waterway system in the near future. The Trent-Severn Waterway system travels through six of Ontario's Regional Tourism Organizations and we are requesting that Parks Canada review closely the negative economic impact reductions in service and hours of operation will have on the regions that the TSW serves.

A recent paper prepared by Boating Ontario reports that there are 83 marinas on the Trent-Severn System with a total of 7731 boat slips. These small to medium-sized businesses employ hundreds of full-time staff and summer seasonal staff, many of whom are college or university students relying on this income to continue their studies. In many of the smaller communities all categories of tourism operators are major employers and all of the communities rely on the tourism dollars generated by the boaters who use this system. The businesses affected are not just marine-related, but accommodations, campgrounds, restaurants, supermarkets and shops will be affected. The Ontario Government is placing a major effort on substantially increasing tourism visitation in the province and any reduction in boater traffic on these systems will have a major negative effect on those targets.

While we recognize the fiscal restraints that Parks Canada is under, the relatively short notice in announcing the possible reductions for this year will have serious consequences for tourism in our regions. The budget savings would be miniscule compared to the economic damage to businesses, land values, and communities along the systems. We request that Parks Canada postpone the reduction for this tourism season and review the situation at the end of the traditional operating season in fall 2012. This will at least give our operators time to adjust to the possible reductions for the summer of 2013. Please give every consideration to keeping the Trent Severn Waterway fully operational for the full season this year. We would also like to emphasize the need for ongoing consultation with the tourism industry to ensure that Parks Canada is not just postponing the negative effects of the cuts until the 2013 season and a plan to consult with the tourism industry representing the TSW watershed

going forward so that any future decisions are made with the full knowledge of the economic impact and loss of taxation revenue they involve.

The success of our regions' tourism industry depends on it.

Sincerely,

Joe Corrigan, Chair
Regional Tourism Organization 8

**County of
Peterborough**



Our History. Your Future.

**Administration
Clerk's Unit**

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Deputy Clerk/Office
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June 6, 2012

The Honourable Peter Kent
Minister of the Environment
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Mr. Alan Latourelle, CEO
Parks Canada
Office of the CEO
25 Eddy Street
Gatineau, Quebec
K1A 0M5

Dear Honourable Kent and Mr. Latourelle,

Re: Regional Tourism Organization 8 (RTO8) – Letter of Support

On behalf of the Lang Pioneer Village Museum Advisory Committee, this letter is being written to support the RTO8's letter to you dated May 10, 2012 (a copy of which is attached).

At its meeting held the 6th day of June, 2012, Peterborough County Council supported the following resolution by adopting the minutes of the Lang Pioneer Village Museum Advisory Committee held on May 15th, 2012 as follows:

"Be it resolved that the Lang Pioneer Village Museum Advisory Committee recommend to County Council that it approve of the Lang Pioneer Village Museum Advisory Committee writing a letter in support of the RTO8 and the work it is doing to open dialogue with Parks Canada regarding the Trent Severn Waterway cutbacks."

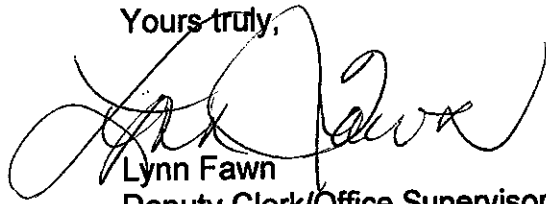


June 6, 2012
Honourable Peter Kent and Mr. Alan Latourelle, CEO

Page 2...

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Yours truly,



Lynn Fawn
Deputy Clerk/Office Supervisor

Attach.

- c: G. King, CAO, County of Peterborough
- S. Graham, Director of Procurement, Facilities & Communication, County of Peterborough
- J. Corrigan, Museum Manager, Lang Pioneer Village
- D. Del Mastro, MP, Peterborough
- B. Devolin, MP, Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock