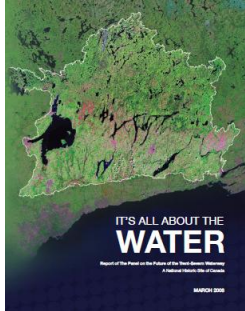


FOCA participates in Trent-Severn Waterway Leaders' Round Table

On January 20, 2011, over 140 delegates gathered from key stakeholder groups, three levels of government, First Nations, non-governmental organizations, and other watershed leaders to discuss a common vision and key goals for the important watershed of the Trent-Severn Waterway (TSW).

The event, jointly hosted by Parks Canada and Trent University's Institute of Watershed Science, continued the discussion from the 2008 report, "It's All About The Water."



During the event, **FOCA's Executive Director, Terry Rees**, emphasized the importance of including waterfront residents' voice in the conversation. "Waterfront residents, both on and adjacent to the waterway, benefit from the sound management of the waterway, have a vested and long-term interest, and are the stewards of a great deal of near-shore property," said Rees. "Having them involved in decisions related to the future planning and operation of the waterway is a must." FOCA has been the voice of the Ontario waterfront property owner for nearly fifty years.

Dawn Bronson, field unit superintendent for Parks Canada Central Ontario, set the context for the day, stating, "There is a lot of expertise in this room and I hope to tap into it from temporal, spatial and values perspectives." She challenged the assembled group: "What do we really care about?"



Ten major themes were identified as priorities:

- 1) water quality and management
- 2) First Nations
- 3) culture and heritage
- 4) environmental impact
- 5) jurisdictional / organizational roles and responsibilities
- 6) tourism and marketing
- 7) infrastructure
- 8) land conservation and planning
- 9) user / residential interests
- 10) going forward.

The assembled leaders worked through a series of workshops and information exchanges to define successful outcomes and to attempt to draft summary visions for each priority.

The result of the forum was a clarified sense of direction, and general agreement that the TSW needs an integrated approach and active partnerships with involvement from all levels of government, communities and organizations. Dr. Steven Franklin, President of Trent University commented, "The leadership forum provided a unique opportunity to build new alliances within the water community. The round table discussion represents a major step forward in the government's response to the summary report from the Trent-Severn Waterway Panel."

FOCA encourages all our members on the TSW, or affected by its operations, to remain vigilant and watch for more news from FOCA about the opportunities related to this important national treasure.