

**MAY 23 2013**

Mr. Paul G. Crysler  
Chair  
Mr. Jeffrey Schmidt  
Executive Director  
Regional Tourism Organization 7  
[jschmidt@rto7.ca](mailto:jschmidt@rto7.ca)

Dear Mr. Crysler and Mr. Schmidt:

Thank you for your e-mail message of February 25, 2013, written on behalf of the Ontario Regional Tourism Organizations, and follow-up e-mail message of March 14, 2013, regarding the Trent-Severn and Rideau waterways.

I acknowledge the vital contributions of the Trent-Severn Waterway to Ontario communities, Canada's heritage and the tourism industry. Last summer, Parks Canada sought public feedback and worked with local Members of Parliament, mayors, business leaders and stakeholders to determine a workable solution to the fiscal pressure. In the end, the Government identified an approach that would have the least impact on local economies while enabling Parks Canada to meet fiscal targets.

The 2013 navigation season will continue to run seven days a week from Victoria Day to Thanksgiving, as in previous years, with Parks Canada providing a mix of "upon arrival" lockage services and "scheduled lockage" services throughout the operational season to match the level of boater usage. Scheduled lockages have been used effectively at the Lachine and Chambly canals in Quebec, as well as at other canals and waterways around the world.

Parks Canada's recently established Office of the Executive Director for Waterways has dedicated capacity to work with communities, business leaders and tourism organizations. In the coming months, Ms. Darlene Upton, Executive Director for Waterways, and Ms. Jewel Cunningham, Director of Ontario Waterways, will be arranging meetings with community leaders and tourism and heritage associations to answer questions about the upcoming operational season and begin the dialogue on opportunities for tourism development and promotion. Parks Canada will work in partnership with others to transform the Rideau Canal and the Trent-Severn Waterway into world-class sites that are vibrant and animated and that foster recreation, tourism and economic development while preserving the natural, historic and cultural environment of these waterways and the adjacent communities.

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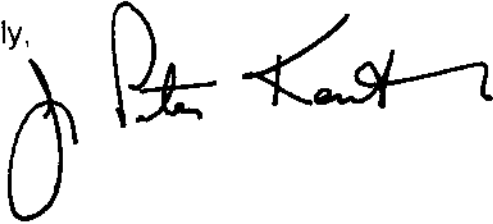
Canada



If you or your colleagues would like to engage in a more detailed conversation about issues that are of specific interest to your organizations before the meetings outlined above, I encourage you to contact Ms. Upton at [darlene.upton@pc.gc.ca](mailto:darlene.upton@pc.gc.ca), or by telephone at 613-283-7199, extension 235 (Smiths Falls) or 819-934-4709 (Ottawa).

I trust this information is helpful.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Kent". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P" and a long, sweeping underline.

The Honourable Peter Kent, P.C., M.P.