

Province, federal government joining forces on TSW

Kennedy Gordon
Special to the *Times*

The province will play an enhanced role in the operations of the Trent-Severn Waterway, Peterborough's MP announced Thursday in a ceremony near the Lift Lock.

Dean Del Mastro and MPP Jeff Leal signed a memorandum of understanding that solidifies a long-term agreement involving cooperative management of the waterway.

"In the past, this has been thought of as a federal (property)," Del Mastro said. The waterway is administered by Parks Canada.

"Traditionally, Ontario hasn't been a player in this," Del Mastro continued.

"But it belongs to all Canadians, and all Ontarians, so Ontario should have a role to play in this."

The agreement came from recommendations made by the Panel on the Future of the Trent-Severn Waterway in 2009.

"One of the things that came out of that panel report was the need for the province and the federal government to work together," said Dawn Bronson, Parks Canada's field unit superintendent for Central Ontario.

As part of the process, a round table was held in January at Trent University, involving more than 150 people rep-

resenting communities and organizations with ties to the waterway.

The agreement outlines the roles to be played by the federal and provincial government in managing the waterway and its resources, Del Mastro said.

From tourism to fish habitats, cooperative management of the waterway benefits both levels of government, he said.

Leal and Del Mastro said the two levels of government will work together via the offices of Peter Kent, the federal environment minister, and Linda Jeffrey, Ontario's minister of natural resources.

Author of *Providence Island* to speak at R.D. Lawrence Place

Len Pizzezy
Special to the *Times*

Aspiring local writers, or readers keen to know how a novelist pursues his art, will get that chance next Wednesday, July 27 at the R.D. Lawrence Place in Minden.

As part of an ongoing series coordinated by curator Sheryl Loucks, Toronto author Gregor Robinson will read from his recently published novel, *Providence Island*.

Set in a fictional town in cottage country, the novel has dark psychological undertones, although it also partly a romance.

In a recent interview published on the website Open Book Toronto, Robinson has this to say about his novel, which was published by Dundurn Press earlier this year:

"*Providence Island* is about Ray Carrier, who returns to the resort community of Merrick Bay, where he spent his summers as a boy, to bury his father."

While there, visions start coming back to him of two summers he spent in the community, triggered while he is looking into the strange circumstances around his father's death.

"I think it's a love story" Robinson said, "but quite a dark one."

A full time writer, the novel is Robinson's second. He also has had a short story collection published.

He has been nominated for the Journey Prize for short-story writing three times, and has had stories nominated for the Edgar Allen Poe Award, the Arthur Ellis Award, and the National Magazine Awards.

Loucks said Robinson's reading and discussion of his work is part of the R.D. Lawrence Pace mandate to mentor local writers. It gives people a chance to meet published authors and learn more about where they find inspiration and how they work, Loucks said.

R.D. Lawrence Place is located at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre. The event begins at 7 p.m.

Take precautions during heat wave

The Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit is strongly recommending area residents take precautions given the extreme heat and hazy conditions that persist in Ontario.

Humidity and hot temperatures can take a toll on the health of people, especially those most vulnerable to heat-related illness such as infants and young children, older adults, people with chronic medical conditions, and individuals who work outside.

"Beat the heat is the order of the day," says Anne Alexander, director of environmental health with the health unit. "Watch what you do over the next few days, since extreme heat can be harmful to your health."

Heat-related illness can occur when a person's body is unable to compensate for the heat and properly cool. Cramping and exhaustion may result, as can heat stroke. Symptoms of heat stroke include headache, dizziness, confusion and fainting. Skin can also become hot and dry, or there may be sweating due to high body temperature. This is a medical emergency that can prove fatal if not treated, so it is essential to seek immediate help from a health care provider, Alexander warns.

Prevention is the best remedy to avoiding heat-related illness. That is why the health unit advises people to:

- Drink plenty of water and diluted natural fruit juices through the day to stay cool and hydrated. Avoid consuming alcohol, coffee, cola and other drinks that can cause dehydration.
- Eat light, cool foods, and avoid using the oven, barbecue or other hot appliances.
- Avoid going out in the blazing sun or heat when possible. Doing strenuous activities such as mowing the

lawn or using other gas-powered equipment on very hot and humid days is not recommended. If you must go outside, stay in the shade as much as possible.

- Wear light, loose fitting clothes. If outside, wear a wide-brimmed hat to cover your head. Always remember to apply sunscreen (with Sun Protection Factor of 15 or higher).
- Stay in air-conditioned rooms, either at home, a friend's place or public places such as malls, libraries, movie theatres, community centres or specially designated facilities. To find out if there are "cooling centres" in your community, call your local municipality.
- Keep window shades or drapes drawn and blinds closed on the sunny side of your home.
- Consider going to the basement or opening up some windows to try creating a cross breeze, especially early and later in the day.
- Use fans to draw cool air into your home at night, but do not rely on fans as the primary cooling device during extended periods of excessive heat.
- Take a cool bath or shower periodically or cool down with cool, wet towels.
- Never leave a child or pet in a parked car, or sleeping outside in direct sunlight.
- Regularly check up on friends, family members and neighbours who may be alone and at high risk during a heat wave. This is especially important if these people are older or have mobility issues.
- Keep emergency supplies such as water and canned goods on hand in case of power outages.

For more information, call the health unit at 1-866-888-4577 or visit www.hkpr.on.ca.

Tire recycling raises money for children's charity

Ontarians turned in more than 48,000 used tires at the end of May 2011, helping to raise nearly \$125,000 for the Sunshine Foundation Children's Charity in the process.

The weekend recycling blitz was organized by Ontario Tire Stewardship (OTS) and the Ontario Automotive Recyclers Association (OARA), asking drivers to drop off their used tires at 64 of the 130 OARA professional auto recycler locations around the province.

If stacked, the tires would make a pile 13.3 km high, or more than 24 times the height of the CN Tower (553.3 m).

The collection raised \$123,725 for the Sunshine Foundation of Canada, starting with the collection allowance OARA members receive for each tire dropped off. The association matched each member's donation and tire hauler Liberty Tire Recycling made an additional contribution.

The Sunshine Foundation of Canada makes dreams come true for children living with severe physical disabilities or life-threatening illnesses.

Through the Used Tires Program, OTS tracks and manages how the approximately 12 million tires sold in Ontario every year are handled once they reach the end of their

service life, diverting them from burning and landfill.

The OARA represents 130 professional auto recyclers across Ontario who recover and recycle end-of-life vehicles for their parts reuse and materials recycling.

Go to autonet.ca for more auto news.

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