



**2011 General Meeting  
Member Representatives  
Coalition for Equitable Water Flow**

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**CEWF Mission**



The Coalition is seeking the **implementation of an equitable water management policy for the Trent watershed** that accords equal consideration, along with fair and just treatment, to everyone in the entire Trent River Watershed. Reservoir and Flow-Through (RAFT) lake communities should be considered equally with all other communities where policies apply to **safe navigation, access to waterfront property, economic sustainability and the avoidance of negative environmental and economic impacts.**

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## CEWF Objectives



1. Continuing to promote **an integrated approach to water management at the watershed level** that will improve water conservation throughout the Trent-Severn system without jeopardizing water levels or flood controls in either the RAFT lakes or the canal lakes;
2. Continuing to promote approaches to ensure safe navigation, access to waterfront property, economic sustainability and the avoidance of negative environmental and economic impacts for residents on the RAFT lakes.

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## TSW Water Management Strategy

Main Objectives of WM in the TSW (per AECOM):

Achieving an Equilibrium between:

- How much water to release/hold from a reservoir to **maintain minimum depths for navigation in Waterway**
  - Flow release from the 46 headwater reservoirs,
- Optimizing the enjoyment of the water in the headwater reservoirs,
  - **Flow release limited to required minimum**
- Manage flooding, protect environment, etc.

## Panel on the Future of the TSW (I)

- ... the waterway is really a vast water management system with a navigation channel running through it. 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.
- **We see a future that is rooted in the equitable sharing of the water throughout the watersheds within the context of a strong conservation ethic**, one subscribed to by all users.
- We believe that all government agencies involved in the management of water should have the goal of fostering an **integrated approach**.

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## Panel on the Future of the TSW (II)

- ... we believe that the **responsibility for water management is not an appropriate job for Parks Canada**. Parks Canada does not have the mandate, legislative and policy instruments or the resources and expertise to do that job well. Moreover, with its responsibility for navigation, Parks Canada should be viewed as a single water user among many.
- Improve management of water by creating and appropriately funding **an independent water management agency**, reporting to the federal Minister of Natural Resources, to assume responsibility for managing water storage, flows, allocation and use in the Trent and Severn watersheds.

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## Cottage Life – October 2011

Triage on the Trent-Severn by John Lorinc

- **Ottawa's moves fall well short of the expert panel's 26 recommendations**
- The TSW is a delicious example of the law of unintended consequences
- **Provincial water rules tend to be conservation oriented, but the TSW's regulations are a holdover from the waterway's industrial past.**
- "At the end of the day," concedes (MP) Bruce Stanton, "the Government of Canada has to pony up and get this system back to the point where it can provide the benefits of which it is capable".

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## CEWF Advisory Committee



Coalition for  
Equitable  
Water Flow

- |                                   |                      |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|
| • Chris Riddle, Co-Chair          | Kennisis Lake        |
| • Martin Rist, Co-Chair           | Drag Lake            |
| • Roger Cunningham, Sec/Treasurer | White Lake           |
| • Ted Spence, FOCA Liaison        | Catchacoma Lake      |
| • Stephen Foster                  | Loon Lake            |
| • Bruce McClennan                 | Gull Lake            |
| • Bill Cornfield                  | Horseshoe Lake       |
| • Carole Russell                  | Halls and Hawk Lakes |

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## 2010 – 2011 The Year in Review



## Highs and Lows of 2011



Pic. 8 denotes another wheeled dock. Four days prior had an additional 20cm's of water which covered the wheel assemblies. Note: more fish habitat that is being degraded due to low and rapid water depletion.  
N 45 04 591 W79 47 590 Elev 316M  
26th August 2011  
10:15:26  
Canon Powershot SX10 IS  
1/500s focal length 5.0mm f/4.0 ISO 80



## Key Activities 2010-2011



- Providing Advice to TSW through the Water Management Advisory Council
- Participating in pre-budget consultation process re TSW infrastructure funding
- Providing Input to AECOM Water Management Model Review for TSW
- Research & Analysis:
  - Climate Change Impacts per AECOM Report
  - Content of MOU with Ontario signed in 2011

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## Other Activities 2010-11



- Monitoring TSW Actions
- Regular Liaison Meetings with TSW
- Participating in TSW Leaders Forum
- Responding to Press enquiries e.g. Cottage Life
- Liaison with other organizations
  - Voices for the TSW
  - Parks Canada Internal Audit
  - MNR re MOU, Fish Habitat

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## ... but above all .....



- Responding to Member issues e.g.
  - Aggressive log pulls
  - Extreme/Rapid water level fluctuations
  - Lack of Timely data and information from TSW
- Repeatedly stressing to TSW and government the need for:
  - up-to-date water level data – as provided in 2009 & 2010
  - weekly water level forecasts during the draw-down period from early August to Thanksgiving (as provided in 2009 and 2010)
  - An end to extreme and rapid water level fluctuation
  - Better monitoring of the TSW water level gauges for malfunctions

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## Member Lake Associations



- |   |                           |                   |
|---|---------------------------|-------------------|
| • Canning   | • Horseshoe               | • Mountain        |
| • Cavendish Rate Payers<br>(Mississagua,<br>Catchacoma et al) | • Jack                    | • Percy           |
| • Crystal   | • Kashagawigamog          | • Redstone        |
| • Drag & Spruce   | • Kennisis                | • Salerno/Devil's |
| • Esson   | • Koshlong                | • South Bob       |
| • Fortescue   | • Kushog                  | • Soyers          |
| • Glamor  | • Little Glamor           | • White           |
| • Gull  | • Loon                    |                   |
| • Halls & Hawk (Big and<br>Little)                            | • Maple/Beech/<br>Cameron |                   |
|   | • Miskwabi                |                   |
|   | • Moore                   |                   |

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## CEWF's Current Focus



- Promoting an Integrated Approach to Water Management at the Trent Watershed level
- Proposing Specific Enhancements to Water Management on the RAFT Lakes through our "Preferred Water Levels" project

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## What is Integrated Water Management?

- Integrated Water Resource Management is a cooperative, ecosystem-based approach that considers all water uses (environmental, economic, and social) and stakeholders in the water management decision-making process in order to protect the health of the ecosystem as land uses change. **Water demand-management and water conservation are an essential part of an integrated approach to water resource management.**

Source: Infrastructure Canada & Environment Canada

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## Conservation Ontario *quotes*

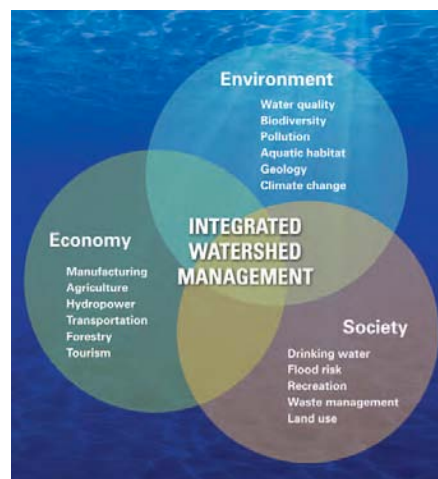
*“Ontario’s water resources are at particular risk from climate change. Rising temperatures and changing precipitation patterns have already reduced river flows, warmed surface waters and dried out wetlands”*

*“IWM allows us to address multiple issues and enables us to plan within a very complex and uncertain environment” – [it provides a more effective response than dealing with individual issues].*

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## Why is Integrated Management of Water at the Watershed Level important?

(Graphic attributed to Conservation Ontario)



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### Possible Impacts of Climate Changes on TSW WM For 30 Year Period 2041-2070

- **Spring freshet: Peaking 17 days earlier**  
May require addition of stop-logs earlier during winter months, or modification of winter stop-log settings
- **Summer-fall runoff volume reduction of ~7 %**  
May lead to difficulties feeding the waterway with current reservoir lakes storage capacities

• Source: AECOM Conference Presentation

### Parks Canada Commitment

- Through the appointment of a Water Management Advisory Council, Parks Canada has committed to developing **a shared vision for a balanced approach to water management** in the Trent and Severn watersheds, including a more transparent decision-making process regarding water allocation decisions.

Source: September 2009 News Release and Backgrounder

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## Integrated Water Management Next Steps

- Demand that the **Federal Government** live up to its commitments for a more balanced approach to water management and with adequate funding to maintain the water management infrastructure in the Trent watershed
- Encourage the TSW to embrace the concept of IWM and demonstrate this through its actions
- Seek prompt and meaningful action from the **Ontario Government** in implementing key water management initiatives under the MOU with the federal government.

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## CEWF's Current Focus



Coalition for  
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- Promoting an Integrated Approach to Water Management at the Trent Watershed level
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## The Impact of Fluctuating Water Levels and Flow Rates

- **Water levels ‘too high’**
  - Flooding, shoreline erosion, ice damage, wetlands swamped
- **Water levels ‘too low’**
  - Navigation and access restricted, wetlands dry out
- **Flow rates ‘too high’**
  - Shoreline erosion, boating unsafe
- **Flow rates ‘too low’**
  - Shorelines exposed on shallow and flow-through lakes, fish habitat degraded

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## Enhancements to Water Management of the RAFT Lakes

- As a first step we believe that efforts should be made to **conserve water** so as to protect the environment and **reduce the magnitude of water level fluctuations**.

We propose that TSW:

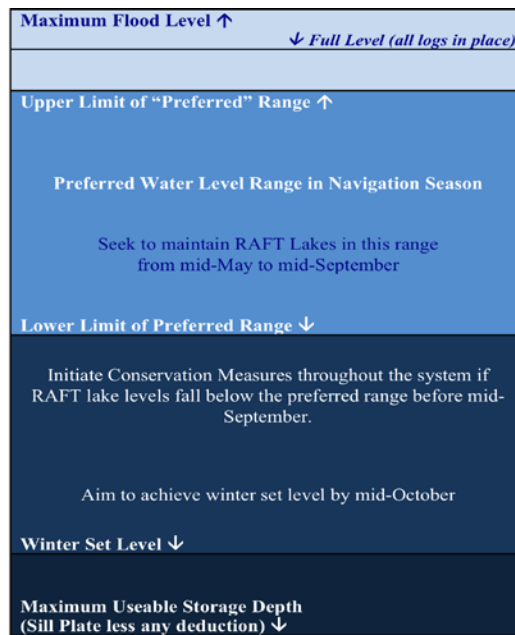
1. review **the ‘extent’ of the drawdown** and the **winter-set levels** on each lake;
2. review the **timing of the draw-down**, especially in ‘wet years’; and
3. be prepared to make allowances for lake-specific navigation and access issues if these can be clearly established by the appropriate lake communities.

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## Enhancements to Water Management on the RAFT Lakes (cont).

- CEWF is aware of several examples of unique challenges facing individual Reservoir and Flow-Through (RAFT) lakes that cause significant hardship in terms of restricted water access, unsafe navigation, shoreline erosion, or damage to habitat.
- We believe that it is time for the TSW to reflect the most serious of these challenges in their water management model which is currently being updated.
- CEWF is promoting the concept of a lake-specific “Preferred Water Level Range” during the principal navigation season from mid-May to mid-September.

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### **Enhancements to Water Management on the RAFT Lakes (cont).**

- The current 'equal percentage draw-down' approach used by the TSW would remain the underlying water management operating principle but with some enhancements.
- For example, in early spring it might be appropriate to have a linear drawdown on all lakes in order to achieve the **upper limit of the preferred range** and minimize shoreline erosion.

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### **Water Management Enhancements (cont).**

- In **wet years** the subsequent drawdown would be designed to **take only the water needed** for TSW to meet its mandate, maintain adequate flows through the flow-through lakes, and protect the RAFT lakes from shoreline flooding and erosion.
- In **dry years** the drawdown would be designed to **incorporate appropriate conservation measures** throughout the system if water levels fall below the **lower limit of the preferred range** while maintaining adequate flows for the TSW to meet its mandate and to protect public health.

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## Principles of TSW Watershed Management

- respect for the legislated mandate of the TSW;
- acceptance of the need for integrated water management at the watershed level;
- water conservation and protection of habitat;
- flood control including protection of shorelines from erosion;
- adequate water flows to sustain water quality; and
- safe navigation and access to waterfront property on all navigable watercourses including the reservoir, flow-through and canal lakes by seeking to maintain the historic navigation water levels established over the past 20 years.

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## Progress to Date re PWL

- Kennisis **Position Endorsed by KLCOA**
  - 4ft fluctuation rather than 5-6 ft
- Redstone **Position Endorsed by RLCA**
  - 5 ft fluctuation rather than 7ft
- Drag In Process
- Gull In Process
- White In Process
- Catchacoma et al In Process
- Halls Lake In Process
- Hawk Lakes In Process

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# Closing Remarks

## Key Challenges/Issues Revisited

### Integrated Water Management:

- TSW approach needs to be updated or responsibility transferred to another agency
- Timing, rate and extent of drawdown needs to be reviewed

### TSW Communications:

- Need for timely water level data, forecasts and advisories

### TSW Capital and Operating Funding Shortfalls:

- Deteriorating infrastructure - higher costs/ public safety
- Inadequate Operating funds/staffing for IWM

[www.cewf.ca](http://www.cewf.ca)