



### **Who We Are**

The Coalition for Equitable Water Flow (CEWF) is a volunteer organization that was formed in August 2006 to represent the interests of approximately 40,000 Ontario taxpayers who own residential shoreline property on the 41 reservoir and 20 flow-through lakes within the Haliburton Sector of the Trent River watershed. The sub-watersheds in the Sector are associated with the following rivers and creeks: Gull River, Burnt River, Mississagua River, Nogies Creek, Eels Creek, and Jack Creek.

Membership in the Coalition is open to Lake Associations, or equivalent organizations, in the region, of which there are known to be over 35. Each Member association appoints a representative to CEWF and 6-10 of those representatives sit on the CEWF Advisory Committee which manages the day to day operations of the Coalition.

The Coalition was formed because our members were concerned with the increasing impact of poor water management decisions on a growing number of shoreline residents on the reservoir and flow-through (RAFT) lakes. It was felt that there was a lack of interest at the TSW relating to operational issues that affect the RAFT lake communities and that a coalition would enable issues of mutual interest to be effectively presented to the TSW for action. Members were especially concerned that low water levels on some of the reservoir lakes, coupled with rapid drops in the water levels during September, were resulting in a curtailed navigation season as well as an increased frequency of beached boats and docks. In addition there was concern that fluctuating water levels were causing significant ecological damage, and that the deteriorating state of the TSW infrastructure was a public safety issue.

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

Our approach was endorsed in the 2008 Report of the Panel on the Future of the TSW, which stressed the need for an integrated approach to water management for the entire Trent River Watershed. To this end the Coalition liaises with TSW management to ensure that they are aware of our concerns and a member of the CEWF Advisory Committee also has a seat on the TSW Water Management Advisory Council.