



The Coalition for Equitable Water Flow (CEWF) is a volunteer organization that was formed in August 2006 to represent the interests of the more than 30,000 Ontario taxpayers who own residential shoreline property on the 35 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, Eel's Creek, and Jack's Creek.

Membership in the Coalition is open to Lake Associations, or equivalent organizations, in the Sector. In 2016, there were 32 member associations in CEWF and those associations represented 91% of the reservoir water storage in the Trent-Severn Waterway (TSW) system. The operations of CEWF are handled by a 9 person Executive Committee which speaks for CEWF in dealings with TSW and with Municipalities.

The Coalition was formed in 2007 to provide input into the work of the Panel on the Future of the Trent-Severn Waterway. Coalition members were concerned with the impact of water management decisions on a growing number of shoreline residents on the reservoir and flow-through (RAFT) lakes. It was felt that there were a number of TSW operational issues that affected the RAFT lake communities, and that a coalition would enable issues of mutual interest to be effectively presented to the TSW for consideration and action. Members were especially concerned that low water levels on some of the reservoir lakes, coupled with rapid drops in the water levels in August and September, were resulting in a curtailed navigation season. In addition, there was concern that fluctuating water levels were causing significant ecological impacts, and that the deteriorating state of the TSW infrastructure was potentially a public safety issue.

The primary goal of the Coalition is to promote integrated water management across the entire Trent River watershed. This approach was fully endorsed in the 2008 *Report of the Panel on the Future of the TSW*. CEWF liaises with appropriate federal, provincial and municipal authorities as exemplified by TSW/Parks Canada and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry. CEWF maintains regular dialogue with TSW management through frequent contact with the water management engineer and through quarterly in-person meetings with the Director of the Ontario Waterways Unit of Parks Canada and her senior water management staff. A member of the CEWF Executive Committee sits on the Water Management Advisory Council of TSW. The CEWF promotes shared information and understanding of water management issues and practices through its website (CEWF.ca) and through presentations to lake associations and other groups. The CEWF focus is on approaches to ensure safe navigation, access to waterfront property, economic sustainability and the avoidance of negative environmental and economic impacts on the RAFT lakes.

CEWF believes that after working closely with TSW management over the last 10 years, we have seen water management that is more responsive to the interests of all stakeholders in the watershed

including the interests of the reservoir and flow-through lakes. In 2016, the CEWF joined with the six local municipalities in Haliburton and northern Peterborough Counties to form a new group, the Upper Trent Water Management Partnership (UTWMP). This group will complement CEWF's efforts to represent the interests of the RaFT lakes area in dealings with Federal and Provincial agencies on watershed issues.