



Summer 2018

Open Letter to: Candidates in the 2018 Municipal Elections for:
Algonquin Highlands; Dysart et al; Havelock-Belmont-Methuen;
Highlands East; Minden Hills; North Kawartha; and Trent Lakes.

**Issues facing Voters in the Upper Trent River Watershed as Identified by the
Coalition for Equitable Water Flow**

The Coalition believes there is an opportunity for municipalities to take further action and to demonstrate continuing support on a range of water management issues. As a candidate for municipal office you are invited to respond to the following questions so that we can advise our membership with regard to your position, and your personal commitment on these issues.

Questions to Candidates from the Coalition

1. Do you agree that municipalities have a role to play in working to improve water management in the Haliburton Sector of the Trent River watershed? If so, are you personally committed to continued municipal support for the *Upper Trent Water Management Partnership*? (see background information on next page).
2. What would you do to strengthen the flood control and mitigation provisions of your municipality's Official Plan? For example, would you support initiatives to provide better flood plain mapping and flood mitigation planning as the basis for decision-making?
3. Do you agree that municipal governments should work with local lake associations, the Trent Severn Waterway (TSW) and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) to further improve water management operations on reservoir and flow-through lakes and the connecting rivers? For example, are you in favour of:
 - a. urging water conservation to support recreational use of the reservoir lakes; and
 - b. the acquisition of lake-specific data with regard to the location and depth of trout spawning beds to improve and protect fish habitat?

Please note that a summary of responses will be posted at www.cewf.ca starting in early September.

Ted Spence, Chair, Coalition for Equitable Water Flow

Background Information

The Coalition for Equitable Water Flow (CEWF) 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 lakes and 20 flow-through lakes within the Upper Trent River watershed located in Haliburton and northern Peterborough counties. With 32 member-lake-associations, the Coalition represents the interests of lake communities associated with over 90% of the Trent-Severn Waterway (TSW) reservoir water storage capacity. The property owners in these lake communities contribute approximately 80% of the municipal tax base and expect to see this reflected in local decision-making.

Three levels of government share responsibility for a range of issues facing shoreline property owners in the Upper Trent watershed, with no single level of government taking a clear leadership role – making it difficult for voters to get clear commitments from government – but equally important for all levels of government to be engaged and to work together.

The federal government through Parks Canada and the TSW is currently responsible for the operation and maintenance of the waterway (canal) system as well as water management policy for the watershed.

The Ontario government's responsibilities include the development of policies relating to climate change as well as integrated watershed management through conservation authorities, where these exist, and through the MNRF in the rest of the Province, including in Haliburton and Northern Peterborough counties.

At the county and municipal level, local governments are on the front line with regard to the protection of local infrastructure from climate change and extreme weather events. With that in mind, in 2016 CEWF, with support from the County of Haliburton, formed the Upper Trent Water Management Partnership (UTWMP) to advance the concept of integrated water management for the benefit of all communities in the Trent watershed.

The Partnership aims to engage in an ongoing consultation process about water resource issues and management that includes Parks Canada, the four southern Conservation Authorities and MNRF.

The Partnership members include:

- the Township of Algonquin Highlands (Haliburton County);
- the Municipality of Dysart et.al. (Haliburton County);
- the Township of Minden Hills (Haliburton County);
- the Municipality of Highlands East (Haliburton County);
- the Township of North Kawartha (northern Peterborough County);
- the Municipality of Trent Lakes ,(northern Peterborough County): and
- the Coalition for Equitable Water Flow.

The work of the Partnership is especially important given that most of the upper Trent watershed lacks a conservation authority to monitor and advise on watershed conditions.