



Coalition for
Equitable
Water Flow

**Submission to
The Panel on the Future of the Trent-Severn
Waterway
By
The Coalition for Equitable Water Flow
(CEWF)
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They are Depending on YOU

PREAMBLE

To date, the TSW has managed water throughout the entire Trent River watershed for the sole purpose of maintaining water levels within 3 cm of the normal navigational level along the main canal system. The implication of this practice causes some of the reservoir lakes to drop as much as 4.4m (13 ft.). The reservoir and flow-through (RAFT) lakes are now the home of many seasonal and permanent residents, and tourist, marina and resort commercial operators and these inequitable water management practices result in social and environmental impacts that affect local communities and their economies. Through this public process, the Federal panel has an opportunity to review this inequitable practice, understand its effect on people, fish and wildlife and improve the balance to obtain an Equitable Water Flow for everyone throughout the watershed.

The CEWF wishes to thank the staff of the TSW for their encouragement and cooperation in carrying out our participation in this historic review of the Trent Severn Waterway.

We also wish to thank the Panel for their efforts and diligence in undertaking this most important mandate to set a new course for the TSW early in the 21st century.

Advisory Committee

Bonnie Fleischaker – Founder & Chair
Bill Cornfield, P. Eng. – Vice-Chair
Carole Russell, B.A., Treasurer
Stephen Foster, M.L.S., Ph.D.
Martin Rist, P. Eng.
Roger Cunningham, B. Sc.
Chris Riddle, Ph.D.

Resource People

Lorraine Land, Legal Advisor
Olthius Kleer Townshend

Randy French, Planner Advisor BES,
M CIP, RPP
French Planning Services

Reservoir and Flow-through (RAFT) Lakes Represented by the CEWF

Kennisis	Hawk Lakes (2)	Kushog
Redstone Lakes (2)	12Mile/Little Boshkung	
Gull	Red Pine	Halls
Percy	Eagle	Horseshoe
Moore	Nanikani	Trout
Haliburton	Maple	Bob
Cranberry	Pine	Green
Beech	Boshkung	Saskatchewan (2)
Lake St. Nora	Mountain	Drag
Loon	Grace	Long
Canning	Koshlong	Contau
Miskwabi	Glamor	White
Grass	Soyers	Salerno
Kashagawigamog	Crystal	Bottle
Mississaugaqua	Catchacoma	Beaver
Gold	Gold	Cold
Wolf	Eels	Jack's

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Equitable Water Flow: *The Coalition is seeking the implementation of an equitable water management policy for the TSW 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 TSW communities where the policy applies to safe navigation, access to waterfront property, economic sustainability and the avoidance of negative environmental and economic impacts.*

CEWF'S Vision on the Future of the TSW

- 1) The water management policies are legally required to **balance the navigation needs** in the entire system (including the reservoir lakes).
- 2) There is need for a **federally/provincially owned and funded integrated water management entity** for the entire system operated by a stand-alone governance body. That body would have full authority on all matters relative to the water, lake and river beds which may require the resolution of outstanding uncertainties regarding the jurisdiction and use rights conferred by the 1905 Order in Council.
- 3) Watershed management should **sustain and enhance a healthy ecology and environment.**
- 4) **Water level management for power generation** would be **secondary** to flood control, safe navigation and environmental issues throughout the system including on RAFT lakes. We support expansion of micro-hydro generation using untapped water energy to provide new sources of electrical power and revenue, however new power generation projects must not alter existing water regimes, cause on site or off site environmental issues or affect navigation.
- 5) **Prioritize needs** and produce a comprehensive “water budget” accordingly
- 6) The arbitrary ‘**equal percentage**’ **drawdown of reservoir lakes should be abandoned** in favour of a management plan based on individual lake ecology and corresponding drawdown regimes.
- 7) **The issuance of water taking permits would immediately cease** until such time as, in accordance with the **Precautionary Principle**, it can be proven that sufficient water is available in excess of that required to supply the demands noted in Item (4) above.
- 8) An **immediate infusion of major funding** is needed to bring infrastructure up to safe, modern, efficient standards and provide adequate staff for operation and maintenance.
- 9) **Open, timely and proactive communication**, including education with stakeholders and the general public is a must. Partnerships with private sector organizations such as FOCA, angler and hunter publications, lake associations, The Haliburton Trails and Tours Network, and the Frost Institute etc. could be significant public awareness channels.



Introduction

The Coalition for Equitable Water Flow-Haliburton Sector, TSW (CEWF) was formed in August 2006 to represent the interests and concerns of residential property owners on RAFT lakes (estimated to be 40,000+ Ontario taxpayers) within the Trent Watershed. The work of the Coalition has been undertaken by a volunteer Advisory Committee with additional support from consultants. (See Appendix 1).

Our submission focuses on “equitability” for the RAFT lakes within the Haliburton Sector of the Trent Severn Waterway. However, the points made with respect to many of the issues may also be applicable to the Severn River Watershed.

The CEWF has reviewed and appreciates the recognition given to the RAFT lakes in the six-part Ecoplans “*A Study of the Past, Present and Future of Water Management on the Trent-Severn Waterway National Historic Site of Canada*”. The Study has also helped us to appreciate the complexities of operating the TSW and the challenges facing the TSW in working with multiple stakeholders. In general, we endorse the observations, conclusions and recommendations in the Study and thank Parks Canada for being its sponsor.

Since last fall, the CEWF delegates, its Chair, Vice-Chair and Advisory Committee have dedicated hundreds of hours researching the issues as well as educating property owners and the public in general on the impact that the management of the water flows has on our communities and on the environment.

Summary of Relevant Background

As of July 31st, 2007, CEWF includes delegates from 39 of the 41 reservoir lakes and 11 of the 20 flow-through lakes, representing approximately 40,000 Ontario taxpayers. Our constituency is frustrated by the lack of progress to date following a decades-long effort to be heard by Parks Canada/TSW. RAFT lakes are barely mentioned in the background and discussion papers made available to the Panel or in the presentations and written submissions to the Panel to date.

The Ecoplans Study created a rare opportunity for residential shoreline property owners to provide any significant input into TSW operations. We believe this was the first step in being recognized as “significant” stakeholders in the water flow management of the TSW and we are grateful for that opportunity. The CEWF has been told that another discussion paper soon to be released entitled “Sustainable Communities” will include data from the source water region of the Trent River as well. The appointment of the Panel on the Future of the TSW is seen as our hope for the future of this region of Ontario containing so much fresh water.



A survey conducted by the Coalition in the fall of 2006, which generated an astonishing 90% response, resulted in the following recommendations going forward in our submission to Ecoplans Limited:

- Define acceptable water levels in reservoir and flow-through lakes sufficient for access, safe navigation and environmental sustainability¹ and making these objectives part of the water management process.
- Recognize shoreline residents as important stakeholders with interests equal to those along the Waterway.
- Establish a transparent and efficient management structure for the TSW.
- Increase the regulation of water consumption by industry.
- Re-evaluate the role of the TSW in light of shifts in residential and economic activity over the last decades.

Position on Ecoplans' Recommendations

In general, we endorse the observations, conclusions and recommendations in the Ecoplans report "*A Study of the Past, Present and Future of Water Management on the Trent-Severn Waterway National Historic Site of Canada*". As the Ecoplans study notes, water is regulated and apportioned by the TSW using the primacy of marine navigation on the main channel of the Waterway as the overarching principle. We believe this has to change to reflect current realities versus historical interests.

In particular we note that Ecoplans Study concludes that:

- ✓ the TSW is neither able to fulfill its mandate nor meet the needs and expectations of its client groups because (in part) the mandate is too narrowly defined;
- ✓ the mandate should embrace the philosophy of integrated watershed management

We also appreciate the reported policy proposal to the effect that:

- ✓ equal priority be given to navigation on the TSW system itself and to safe navigation on and between reservoir lakes.

We also support ALL of the Governance Recommendations in the Ecoplans Study.

In their Observations and Conclusions document, Ecoplans focuses on nine issue statements. We offer our comments on these statements to demonstrate the breadth and depth of our support for Ecoplans findings:

¹ Environmental sustainability pertains to the ability of lake ecology to survive and thrive despite what compromises are made to accommodate TSW water management objectives.



1. The 18,000 km² landscape must be managed in an integrated way that ensures the long-term ecological, economic, and social sustainability of the waterway.

We agree, on the understanding that this statement includes the RAFT lakes.

2. Jurisdictional ownership is not clear and should be clarified through an exchange of legislation or reference to the courts.

We agree, especially with regard to the public right of navigation, riparian rights and ownership of the lake and river beds in the RAFT lakes region

3. The TSW's status as a National Historic Site does not adequately reflect the complexity of the challenges and expectations with which it must deal.

We agree.

4. The TSW has neither the mandate nor the resources to meet the challenges and expectations beyond those strictly related to navigation and the two nationally significant features.

We agree, except that TSW is not meeting expectations regarding navigation on the RAFT lakes.

5. The current Management Plan and the expectations of stakeholders cannot be met without the commitment and cooperation of all levels of government.

We agree, and would add that inter-departmental cooperation at each level of government is also required.

6. Decision-making is too centralized with little or no involvement of stakeholders. It is also not sufficiently responsive to non-navigation issues.

We agree, except to say that there is a lack of responsiveness to navigation issues on and between the RAFT lakes.

7. The Federal Government through Parks Canada is obligated to protect public safety and maintain the integrity of the Waterway by maintaining the water management structures, yet infrastructure repairs are undercapitalized.

We agree.

8. An open, timely, and responsive electronically-based communications program is essential but cannot be effectively delivered within the current organizational structure because of a lack of resources and the Federal Government's communications rules.

We agree with the need for improved communications and recognize that a wide range of approaches is required to effectively engage all people.



9. A system as complex as the TSW requires modern water management tools including: automated gauges; automated gates; modern models; dedicated weather forecasting; and a management information system.

We agree on the need for modern water management tools.

Governance

Jurisdiction is a navigational nightmare at the present time. It needs to be consolidated into one agency (Board/Commission as proposed by Ecoplans) through which all matters relating to the water, river and lake beds of the entire system (including the source watersheds) may be coordinated.

- There is a need, perhaps even a “requirement” for resolution of outstanding uncertainties regarding the jurisdiction and use rights conferred by the 1905 Order in Council.
- Waterfront development must remain under the jurisdiction of municipal (local) governments. The board/commission should provide clear guidelines with respect to waterfront development.
- CEWF supports Ecoplans’ governance recommendation (4f) that a formal stakeholder advisory committee be established and that this committee has standing before the Board/Commission and is treated as a partner in the decision-making process. Furthermore, the Coalition believes it is imperative that residential property owners on RAFT lakes be a part of such a committee and is ready, willing and able to become involved in that process.

Funding and Investment

Funding for TSW capital expenditures, maintenance and operation must come from the senior levels of government. Unless there is a change to federal/provincial jurisdiction for the TSW, funding should come from the Federal and Provincial Governments.

It is beyond the mandate of the CEWF to provide suggestions to the Panel as to how the revenue from governments can be increased or those derived from lock/canal fees and power generation companies. However, we would support the generation of “fees” from operations under the Board/Commission’s control to offset operating costs.

We recommend that immediate, initial investment be targeted to:



- 1st minimize or eliminate leakage
- Modernize controls at dams to have maximum control to trap precipitation and manage its release
- Automate data collection and apply a real time system computer model to assist in water management
- Provide adequate resources in terms of staff and equipment.

Water Management

The Mandate

The current mandate of Parks Canada for the TSW does not provide for an "integrated water management plan" in that no consideration is given to the modern day requirements of the source water regions. No provision is made for public safety in the navigation of RAFT lakes or to water-only access properties. In addition, the infrastructure is in disrepair-potentially a disaster in waiting! The current decision-making process does not include input from many major stakeholders.

The Mandate must address the required balancing (or "equitable" assessment) of the navigation and riparian rights in the entire system (including the RAFT lakes).

It is un-equitable and totally unacceptable that the main line TSW lakes are maintained within 3 cm of their normal navigational level while the navigational levels in the RAFT lakes can drop as much as 4.4m (13') during the summer season.

Policies and Principles

The water management policies should meet the needs and respect the rights of all people throughout the entire watershed on *a fair and just* (equitable) basis. For example, the access/availability of safe navigation for recreational boating and water access properties should be the same for any individual or business in the system.

It should be formally recognized that while the predominant type of boating within the TSW watershed is recreational, there are many properties throughout the RAFT lakes that are only accessible by water and that these property owners depend directly on navigable waters for primary access and emergency services.

Overriding principles should be:

- Maintain minimum flood risk for all shoreline properties
- Provide for optimum navigational access and maximum navigational safety



- Provide for environmental sustainability.

Operational policies should:

- Be based on a comprehensive integrated water management plan. The resource (water) appears to be in diminishing supply compared to demand. There is need for a comprehensive and dynamic “water budget” for the watershed that quantifies all water that is available and how it is allocated to the various uses. Such a plan would identify if and how more of the spring runoff could be retained.
- Emphasize CONSERVATION of water. The availability of assured quantities of fresh water is coming into question due to global warming trends. Conservation can be achieved at the very least by lowering the draught in the canal in the parts of the navigation season before and after the peak summer boating months of July and August if not across the entire season.
- Recognize that boating in the system is for recreational and transportation purposes. Commercial operations that do exist offer services for recreational purposes.
- A drawdown regime based on individual lake ecology. Such a plan would identify if and how water can be more effectively and equitably managed
- Balance the needs of residents and businesses within the watershed with the needs of visitors. Priority should be given to good water quality, access to properties, provision of emergency services, quality boating experiences (both power and non-power) and quality recreational experiences.

Navigation and Riparian Rights

All waterfront residents throughout the Trent Severn watersheds, including those in the RAFT lakes depend on their rights to navigate the waterways adjacent to their homes, and exercise their riparian rights to the flow of the river in many cases. It is the ability to exercise navigational and riparian rights that led current owners to purchase properties in these lakes in the first place, and which in turn fuels local businesses and economies.

The public right to navigate in the RAFT lakes is impeded, however, by the current water management mandate of the TSW which does not adequately balance navigational rights in the TSW itself with those in the RAFT lakes. This inadequate and unintegrated water management is leading to escalating problems in the RAFT lakes, including navigational hazards, property damage and the decreased ability of riparian owners to use the flow of the water for access and domestic purposes.

There are many unresolved legal questions regarding water rights and ownership in the TSW and we support the Ecoplans recommendation that jurisdiction and ownership



questions (including lake bed title and the scope of the water rights in the RAFT lakes conferred by Ontario to Canada in 1905), should be clarified through an exchange of legislation or reference to the courts.

There is one paramount concern, however, which is legally unambiguous even without clarification by the courts or legislature; namely, the public right of navigation which is an ancient and fundamental element of the common law, and takes precedence over other public and private rights (including power generation and water taking for industrial purposes). It prevents anyone including the Crown, from making use of a river or waterway in a manner that interferes with navigation.

Riparian rights include such things as the right to access for swimming, boating and fishing; the right to wharf out to a point of navigability the right to erect structures such as docks, piers, and boat lifts; the right to use the water for domestic purposes; the right to accretions caused by water level fluctuations; the right to view and protection of view. Riparian rights also depend upon “reasonable use” as it relates to other riparian owners to ensure that the rights of one riparian owner are weighed fairly and equitably with the rights of adjacent riparian owners.

Seasonal and Continuous Needs

The CEWF has the following comments with respect to managing the needs:

Seasonal needs – RAFT lakes can accommodate varying water levels based on the time of year. Improved operational data and water controls would improve the ability to meet all seasonal needs.

- Recreational boating (June 1 to September 30th) needs consistently high levels.
- Flood control (by March) requires lowest levels to accommodate spring melts and rains.
- Fish spawning water level needs vary by species and lake. (Note: The CEWF understands that the Ontario MNR will be addressing the panel in detail on matters such as fisheries.)

Continuous needs – primarily require constancy of flow and confidence in lake levels by season.

- Water supplies for consumption -Municipalities (usually some is returned through waste water plants), private abutting land owners.
- Continuous flow to maintain water quality.



- Power generation – The CEWF agrees with the current TSW policy on power generation utilizing “run of the river” flow only. Excess water not required to meet the needs of the waterway or RAFT lakes may also be available for the production of power. However, power companies must be mindful of downstream consequences when releasing large volumes of water; the Gull River in the village of Minden is an example of drastic and frequent fluctuation of water flow. Flooding increases the influx of land-locked pollutants, erodes river banks causing uprooted trees and other debris that contribute to impeded water flow.

Seasonal and continuous needs should be reviewed annually due to changing circumstances including the environment.

Water taking permits - The issuance of water taking permits should immediately cease until such time as it can be proven that sufficient water is available, in accordance with the Precautionary Principle. Fresh water comes from one source, therefore the CEWF questions the frequently used term “renewable”.

Environment

There are widespread concerns amongst waterfront property owners about the environmental status of the Raft lakes given the stated objectives of TSW water management policies. These concerns are with respect to fisheries, shoreline erosion, weed growth, and water quality, but include adjacent wetlands and wildlife as well.

The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources along with other organizations in the public and private sectors (e.g. the Haliburton Highlands Outdoors Association) has attempted to implement fish and wildlife management programs as a part of their mandate requirements. The results have been mostly positive. However, annual water fluctuations in the RAFT lakes tend to undermine the efforts to create a healthy ecology and sustainable environment.

Although the Ministry has a Fish Summary for many lakes, it appears to be incomplete because a number of the RAFT lakes are not included. Furthermore, the observations with respect to each reported lake assume continuation of the current TSW water management policies and do not indicate the potential maximizing of opportunities available for improving fishery population. Any alteration of the water management policies and practices will have a direct impact on the fish population and must be fully considered.

The current scheduling of water drawdown combined with overall climate change may impact fish habitat. This is as a result of both increased water temperatures and pollution due to shallow waters and increased turbidity. Delaying the drawdown would not only



reduce pollution but allow for additional use of the lakes by property owners and visitors provided it does not interfere with fishery spawning requirements. Therefore, CEWF requests that the maximum drawdown target be extended from mid-September to mid-October. Furthermore, there should be a review of policies regarding preferred² water levels during the whole year, so that maximum benefits may be obtained from a perceived diminishing water supply. The Coalition appreciates the effort of the MNR fisheries program and recognizes the importance of its success. We reiterate our understanding that the Ontario MNR will address the Panel in great detail on this matter. Climate change has manifested itself by an increase in water temperatures. Combined with water drawdown, this is a factor contributing to the appearance of new types of weeds and their growth in many of the RAFT lakes. Weed growth not only inhibits pleasure boating and swimming on the lakes by property owners and visitors, but it has a significant impact on the habitat of wildlife and fish of the lakes.

Currently, Lake Stewardship groups exist on many RAFT lakes in order to try to address many of these environment and water quality issues. These groups come together with a common purpose and intent under the auspices of the Federation of Ontario Cottagers Association programs. The CEWF urges that they, the proposed Gull River Stewardship Council, and others, be part of the communication flow between the RAFT lake property owners and the governing body of the TSW.

The CEWF has learned through many conversations with marina owners that there appears to be a significant increase of interest in electric and solar powered vessels. We view this observation as a very positive step in the right direction to environmental preservation and protection for future generations.

Sustainable Community Economic Development

It is the opinion of the CEWF that the Haliburton Sector connection to the TSW creates opportunities for economic sustainability but at the same time puts limits on what we can presently achieve. This section of our submission will explore the implications of this relationship in the context of the issues and ideas that are presented in the Panel's Discussion Paper #4: The Waterway's Contribution to Sustainable Community Economic Development.³

The "Communities Map" on the following page indicates the extent and significance of the lake communities within the Haliburton County portion of the Haliburton Sector of

² Preferred water levels takes into consideration historical water levels, the needs of fish, wildlife and various ecological communities and the needs of lake residents, all determined on a lake-by-lake basis.

³ Prepared without the benefit of the yet to be completed "Sustainable Communities" Study. The CEWF is looking forward to this report which we expect to adequately address the RAFT Lakes area communities. Following our review of this report CEWF will provide the Panel with our comments in writing.



the TSW represented by CEWF.



Communities Map

Very large file not suitable for transmission to dial-up service.



In the Past

One must surmise that the decision to proceed with the Order-in-Council that saw control of the dams and of the water behind them transferred to the Federal Government in 1905 was advantageous to the TSW. It made possible the passage of larger vessels through the Waterway than was previously possible given the water resources available in the Kawartha lakes and the rivers between. A new steady and reliable water source undoubtedly had a positive effect on community economic sustainability in that region.

The Province made the exchange without receiving any compensation in return and only securing the commitment from the Federal Government that some, but not all, of the dams would be kept in good repair in perpetuity. The realization of any significant improvement in community economic sustainability in the Haliburton Sector communities did not happen until many years later when the RAFT lakes began to open up for cottage development.

Current Situation

For over 100 years, the RAFT lakes in the Haliburton Sector have provided, on average, 2.7 feet of water to a Waterway whose minimum draught is six feet over the lock sill (Reference Ecoplans WMP page 12). By virtue of providing that water, the Haliburton Sector has made a substantial contribution to the growth and development of the “lifestyle economy of housing developments, commerce and industry that has grown up in the communities to the south because of proximity to the Waterway”. Furthermore, the Haliburton Sector consistently delivers water to various hydro-electric stations and the water pumping stations of communities such as Lindsay and Peterborough. Both draw their unprocessed drinking water out of the Waterway and return treated effluent to it.

The Haliburton Sector’s contribution to economic development of the communities in the Kawartha region has been made with little direct economic benefit or compensation for the Sector. Haliburton County itself has one of the lowest standards of living in the Province. There are expenditures associated with repairs and renovations to the dams and other water control structures and salaries for staff engaged in water management activities. But at the same time, Coalition members have been subject to the loss of property enjoyment as the result of problems precipitated by unannounced water fluctuation and the costs associated with the apparent damage to shorelines and fish and wildlife ecology resulting from poor water management practices. Lost opportunities for boating, fishing and fewer resident days resulting from low water levels must be mentioned as well. The bottom line is that poor water management practices on the RAFT lakes tend to diminish Haliburton Sector prospects for community economic sustainability.



The growth of lifestyle communities around lakes and, more recently, conversions to permanent residency have helped the local economies to grow with the creation of well-paying jobs in real estate, health care, home building, insurance, building supply, renovations and so on.

However, basing an economy on servicing such communities has its negatives. First, there is a limit to the development the lakes can absorb before there is a negative impact on water quality, natural habitat, scenic character and public access. Second, the economy is too narrowly based. Cottage ownership and use is discretionary and much affected by the state of the general economy. When a downturn triggers local job losses, alternative employment opportunities are few indeed.

Future Prospects

Rather than be taken for granted as an uncompensated source of water, the Coalition is looking for a new deal with the Trent Severn Waterway and the communities along the main stem. For far too long, the TSW has done little for the regional economy while focusing its efforts on water delivery to the economic benefit of the communities and power stations off the Canadian Shield.

Equitable water flow, as promoted by the Coalition, is just one way of attempting to diminish this inequity. Holding more water in the Haliburton Sector creates opportunities to develop new commercial ventures built around enhanced visitor experiences. For instance, ecotourism opportunities may be promoted if water resources are available to accommodate boat movement in the river stretches between lakes.

Deferring the drawdown period into mid-October could provide an opportunity for a much-needed economic boost to the Haliburton region in the shoulder seasons.

An integrated watershed management plan based on careful management of resources is sought by the Coalition to give the Haliburton Sector more of an equal opportunity for sustainable growth in line with what is evident along the TWS.

In Closing

The CEWF acknowledges and takes responsibility for the need to balance economic sustainability with environmental preservation. There are many avenues to accomplish that balance including groups such as Environment Haliburton and the Frost Institute Centre. Those of us, who live, work and visit the “land between” do so to experience the natural beauty of the area. We do not want to become another “GTA”.

PRESERVATION, CONSERVATION AND EDUCATION ARE THE KEYS TO THE FUTURE!



Appendix 1: Biography of Advisory Committee Members

Bonnie Fleischaker - Founder & Chair

Bonnie has spent most of her life either cottaging or living in the Haliburton Highlands. A permanent resident of Minden Hills for over 17 years, she has been involved in many community activities serving on the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation Board of Directors, Minden Hospital Auxiliary, Our Lady of Fatima Church and the Haliburton Pregnancy Care Centre. She is passionate about this cause to ensure the economic and environmental sustainability of the region for her children and grandchildren.

Bill Cornfield, P. Eng. - Vice-chair & Advisory Committee

Bill has been a property owner and resident on Horseshoe Lake since 1970, his wife's family since 1915. He is the principal and owner of Corwyn Enterprises and a registered engineer in Ontario. His worldwide experience relative to watershed management includes drainage and flood control master planning, flood plain mapping, watershed management, fish and wildlife studies, erosion control, etc. In addition, he has been responsible for many special environmental projects around the world.

Carole Russell, B.A. Treasurer & Advisory Committee

Carole is an Associate Vice-President at the Toronto Dominion Bank, IT Division, where she has worked for 22 years. Carole is a long time cottager on Big Hawk Lake and is an avid canoeist and kayaker. She is the Treasurer for the Halls & Hawk Lakes Property Owners Association and is the Chairperson for the Lake Plan Committee. She spends her weekends and vacations at her boat-access, electricity-free cottage where evenings by candlelight are de rigueur.

Stephen Foster, M.L.S., Ph.D. – Advisory Committee

Stephen has postgraduate degrees in the fields of Economic Geography and Library & Information Studies. From 2000 to 2004, he served the County of Haliburton as its 9-1-1 Project Co-ordinator. He is a past director of the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust, the Loon Lake Property Owners Association and is currently a member of Environment Haliburton. He has fostered a good rapport with local politicians and municipal staff. Stephen is heading the CEWF effort to mobilize councils to support our efforts and to actively participate in the Panel process. He and his family have enjoyed all the benefits that come with property ownership on Loon Lake for almost 20 years.



Martin Rist, P. Eng. – Advisory Committee

Martin is a resident on Drag Lake. He is a retired Electrical Engineer whose interests include wilderness canoeing, hiking, world travel, photography and horticulture. He is dedicated to environmental preservation.

Roger Cunningham, B.Sc. – Advisory Committee

Back in 1920, the Cunningham family became the first “cottagers” on White Lake. Roger has been a director of the White Lake Cottagers’ Association since its formation over 18 years ago and its President for the past four years. He spent his entire professional career in two large international corporations, as well as having been engaged in a wide variety of volunteer activities including that as President of the Metro Toronto Volunteers’ Association. The issues of the Trent-Severn Waterway have been a huge topic of his interest for many years.

Chris Riddle, Ph.D. – Advisory Committee

Chris is actively involved in the development of the Kennisis Watershed and Lakes Management Plan sponsored by the Kennisis Lake Cottage Owners’ Association and is a KLCOA Director with responsibility for Lake Levels and TSW Liaison. He has some 25 years of science and policy experience with the Ontario Provincial Government and, recent experience in government liaison and working with economic and health-related non-profit corporations.

Lorraine Land, Legal Advisor, Olthuis Kleer Townshend

Lorraine is an Environmental Lawyer with the firm of Olthuis, Kleer, Townshend. She advises clients on matters such as environmental review processes, the application of environmental legislation, and organizational issues for non-profits and is a litigator. She splits her time between Toronto and the Bobcaygeon/Peterborough area.

Randy French, BES, MCIP, RPP. Consultant, French Planning Services

Randy is the principal of French Planning Services Inc. and has a wealth of experience with lake planning and Lake Stewardship Plans in the area of the Trent Watershed. His skills and thorough knowledge of crown and private land planning and information management systems enables him to deal effectively with a wide range of issues and to facilitate public processes that promote open discussion with a wide range of participants.

