



November 2009 Update

Earlier in November, members of the Advisory Committee met with Peter Froot the Superintendent of the Trent Severn Waterway, Barry Devolin, Federal Member of Parliament for Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock, and Rick Johnson, Member of the Ontario Parliament for the provincial riding of the same name. The following is a synopsis and consolidation of those meetings, as well as more recent information.

1. TSW Water Management Program Advisory Council

In a recently distributed document, Parks Canada outlines that it is seeking to "manage levels and flows of water throughout the Trent and Severn River watersheds, with the objective of achieving an appropriate balance." They have stated a number of general goals for achieving this objective.

To assist Parks Canada, and reporting to Peter Froot, a TSW Waterway Water Management Program Advisory Council is being formed. Its mandate is "to provide expert and stakeholder advice on how Parks Canada can best carry out its responsibilities."

Membership on this Council will consist of a Chairperson, 3 water management experts from federal and provincial government departments, 2 representatives from selected industry organizations, and 3 stakeholder representatives, one each from the Haliburton reservoir lakes area, Kawartha lakes region, and the Trent River watershed area.

The Advisory Committee of CEWF has been given the opportunity to nominate a representative to the Council for which a name has been provided to represent the Haliburton interests. The first meeting of the Council is expected to be in January.

We are extremely pleased with this recognition, and the importance of the RAFT lakes to the whole watershed.

2. Infrastructure Investments

The federal government's 'one-time' stimulus package for the TSW amounts to \$20 million per year for capital projects over 2 years. Many small and larger projects are underway. Among them include:

- The purchase of new fir stop-logs for each Haliburton sector dam. These have been bought and are expected to be installed systematically over time.
- Monitoring stations are being installed at a good pace, with more to be completed in 2010. However a few small lakes, White and Contau, and lakes with very few shoreline residents, Nunikani and Sherborne, will not get these stations in this phase.

3. Memorandum of Understanding, (MOU)

The federal government announced that it wants to obtain a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Government of Ontario. Parks Canada is understood to be working with a number of other federal departments as well as with the Ontario Government for which the lead Ministry is Natural Resources with the goal of achieving an agreement by March of 2010.

The Advisory Committee of the CEWF is working to engage the Ontario government with regard to ensuring watershed-wide water management is given priority, and that the scope of the MOU includes a full range of issues including jurisdictional and governance issues as identified in the March 2008 Report of the Panel on the Future of the Trent-Severn Waterway "It's All About the Water".

4. Water Management Study

Preparations for a significant study are well underway with the drafting of the specifications and the requirements for a Request for Proposal from technical experts. This study is expected to be completed in March 2011. The results are expected to provide the Parks Canada water management personnel with modern and sophisticated tools to assist in the water management decisions.

5. Hydro

Currently, the TSW receives annual income from hydro generation in various locations in the system. More generating stations are expected to be built in the future to provide additional income from 'green power' projects. The CEWF is concerned that this mandate for expansion of micro-hydro plants has the potential to derail efforts to promote water conservation and may have a negative impact on sound water management practices thereby affecting both the RAFT lakes and the canal.

6. Watershed vs. Waterway

There is mounting evidence that the broader "watershed" concept is beginning to take hold with not only those at the TSW, but also others in the political field. The CEWF will continue to promote an integrated approach to water management at the watershed level.