



## SPRING 2009 UPDATE

Spring greetings to all!

It has indeed been a busy winter for your CEWF Advisory Committee. We have been meeting monthly by conference call.

Since many of your lake associations will no doubt be sending out newsletters soon, I thought you might like a summary of some of the things we have been working on and hear about any news regarding the water levels in the reservoir and flow-through lakes of the Trent-Severn Waterway.

- 1) Water level postings for the reservoir lakes in the Haliburton Sector of the TSW are available at the TSW Water Levels link on our website at [www.cewf.ca](http://www.cewf.ca). Many of our members have indicated that the information is very helpful. Unusually low Spring water levels in Mountain, Horseshoe and Gull Lakes have been reported to the TSW.
- 2) The Federal Budget passed under Bill C-10 contained some amendments to the Navigable Waters Protection Act that the Advisory Committee formally objected to but were unsuccessful in having them removed. We have sent a formal CEWF Position Paper to the Energy, Environment & Natural Resources Senate Committee and to the Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities, John Baird, expressing our serious concern over the passing of those amendments and the urgent need to collaborate and consult with **all** stakeholders regarding the Navigable Waters Protection Act as have other like-minded groups such as the Sierra Club, Waterkeeper Canada and Canadian Rivers Network. The CEWF Position Paper provided to the Senate Committee is on our website. The Committee is to complete public input and be ready to submit their recommendations by **June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2009**.

We are awaiting confirmation of our request for a meeting in Ottawa with the Minister, John Baird to discuss our concerns. We encourage you to write your local Member of Parliament as well. This is an extremely important issue that may seriously affect our lakes and rivers forever.

- 3) On February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2009, the Minister of Environment Canada, Jim Prentice, announced further funding of \$20 million to the TSW. We have been told by the District Superintendent of the TSW that this funding will allow the TSW to replace stop logs systematically in the dams of the Haliburton Sector, thus reducing stop log leakage. This is a step in the right direction and a small start to helping to hold the water levels. These funds are in addition to the \$63 million announced last year for infrastructure repairs, etc. We are still waiting for the MOE Canada response to the recommendations of the Panel in their report *It's All About the Water* and, in particular, the suggestion of establishing an Independent Water Management Agency.
- 4) We are trying to arrange to have the Ontario Ministers of Natural Resources and the Minister of Environment speak to us about the province's response to the Panel's report, *It's All About the Water*. We are particularly interested to know more about the

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issuance of Permits to Take Water, especially for commercial and industrial purposes. If one or both of the Ministers agree to come to Minden to speak to us, we will call a general meeting of CEWF delegates.

- 5) The CEWF does not require additional funding at this time. The current balance on hand of \$10,445 will be retained until further notice.
- 6) Although the CEWF petitions requesting the government establish an Independent Water Management Agency was rejected by the Clerk of the House of Commons, it has been handed directly to the Minister by Mr. Devolin. We need to keep pressing the government through **all** members of parliament to see the formation of such an agency to fruition

**Please be sure to tell your lake property owners about the CEWF website at [www.cewf.ca](http://www.cewf.ca) where up to date information is available. In addition, the water level postings provided by the TSW for all of the reservoir lakes can be accessed by the link provided there.**

Also, please feel free to contact the CEWF Advisory Committee at [cewfchair@yahoo.ca](mailto:cewfchair@yahoo.ca) if you have any questions or concerns. Comments or complaints about water levels should be directed to [Mike.Jamieson@pc.gc.ca](mailto:Mike.Jamieson@pc.gc.ca) or [Dave.Ness@pc.gc.ca](mailto:Dave.Ness@pc.gc.ca) Have a happy, safe summer.

Bonnie Fleischaker, Chair