

**As of May 14, Low water levels are continuing in many northern reservoirs.**

CEWF has maintained regular contact with the TSW water management team throughout the spring season. Once again, we have had very variable conditions across the Trent River basin, and TSW has had a complex task trying to bring the entire system towards full, with the goal of reaching full by the last week of May. In general, we have had quite dry conditions through the spring and on several occasions over the last few weeks we have seen major storm events pass south of Lake Ontario. More recently we have seen rainfall North of Lake Ontario but not very much over many of the reservoir basins particularly at the top of the Gull River system.

Recent rainfall events have tracked south of the reservoirs in the Trent Basin, and the Kawartha lakes and downstream now have reached close to normal water levels. The central reservoir lakes range from full to still a ways to go for some. The Burnt River reservoirs are almost all at average levels. In the Gull River system the Kennisis - Hawk chain and Kushog are still low, as is the Maple Lake feeder chain.

In the Central Lakes the large reservoirs at Mississagua and Anstruther both passed their full levels last week and TSW is actively managing logs to prevent overfilling and to restore river flows. Other central Lakes are still filling slowly, as of May 10 Eels was at 91%, Jacks at 94% and Crystal only at 84%. The good news is there are some local inflows and levels are still coming up but very slowly. So rainfall events are needed.

The Burnt River reservoirs are all at average levels with the exception of Farquar and Esson.

The lower Gull levels and flow are being managed to bring levels closer to normal for this time of year.

The upper Gull reservoirs and the reservoirs above the Maple Lake chain remain problematic and badly need rainfall events. The flow through Minden has been kept very low all spring to ensure that as much water as possible is stored in the upstream reservoirs. The low levels on Kennisis, Hawk, Halls and Kushog continue to rise slowly with some local inflows but significant rain will be necessary to allow TSW to distribute the available water and bring them closer to normal.

The reservoirs levels above the flow-through Maple lake chain are also problematic at this point. Redstone is still about 30cms below full and Eagle and Oblong also remain well below average for the date. There is some local inflow occurring. As of May 10 Oblong and Redstone were shut off, Percy was being adjusted to help with Oblong levels and Eagle was on a minimum flow. We anticipate that flow through the Maple Lake chain will be increased before the long weekend in May if possible.

So overall conditions are quite varied across our sector and a significant number of reservoirs are still well below expected seasonal levels. The Maple Lake Chain issue is looking particularly serious but TSW is certainly aware of the problem. There is no doubt that we must have rainfall from the Maple Lake reservoir chain and northward to allow TSW to establish a normal pattern of lake levels and flows as we enter the cottage season. We also need rainfall over several of the Central lakes reservoir basins.

**The *Water Management Update* reprinted below will be posted on the TSW website and gives an overview of conditions across the system.**