

FRIENDS OF THE



TAY WATERSHED



**2017
ANNUAL
REPORT**

Tay Rapid Restored



We All Live Downstream



The Friends of the Tay Watershed Association

President's Message

Our Annual Report for 2017 again presents good news for your association, with an increase in the number and range of our activities and programs over the previous year, and the addition of valued new partnerships. However, the good news is accompanied by serious uncertainties and challenges for our watershed.

In 2017, our association's program increased 23%, to a record of 37 delivered or supported activities. The increase was spread equally over all four of our program objectives - Watershed Protection, Outreach & Education, Partner Support, and Association Capacity Building. This would not have been possible without the dedicated work of our Executive Committee, Board of Directors and Advisory Panel, and members – and the invaluable support we receive from our Sustaining Members.

Many of our activities are delivered in cooperation with, or in support of, our watershed partners, and, over the past year, we partnered with a record of 49 organisations, representing private companies, lake associations, schools, NGOs, community festivals, and departments and agencies of all levels of government.

Examples of these cooperative activities included the interpretive signage for the Tay River Pathway, the rocky ramp installation at Perth's Haggart Island Dams, the Tay Sub-Watershed Report update and Kidfish. We also added the Lake Networking Group Page to our website, and supported Farren Lake on a potentially precedent-setting waterfront protection issue.

The major activities organised directly by our association have continued successfully, including our Environmental Awards Program, Watershed Discovery Day, Watershed Guardian Bursary,



Partnered with the Lanark County Municipal Trails Corp. and Lanark Lodge Council of Family and Friends to produce and install the pathway interpretive sign

Stewart Park Festival, and the periodic Tay Canal Paddle.

Towards expanding the association's delivery capacity, our newsletter series played a major role, and our brand was significantly updated in 2017, exemplified by the revised website Home Page, the domain transfer to 'Taywatershed.ca', and the acquisition of new displays.

The challenges to the watershed mentioned in last year's report have increased through 2017. This will influence the direction of certain association activities in 2018. Most notably, the impact of climate change has created serious problems for water management, between the drought in 2016 and disastrous flooding last spring. To help provide early warning, the association is organising a volunteer network along the Tay waterway, the 'Tay Net', to be in place for the spring of 2018.

In the longer-term, there is a fundamental need to build public understanding of the role that wetlands and proper development and planning practices play in flooding and drought management, and, no less, in the protection of our essential groundwater and lakes. This calls for a resolute commitment in the coming year to public and policy-maker education, which our association will be pursuing.



Learning about the Tay at Kidfish

David Taylor

Some 2017 Activities

Considerable investment of effort was made in education and outreach. Included were:

- Stewart Park Music Festival
- Watershed Discovery Day
- Water Guardian Bursary
- Paddle the Tay
- Presenting Environmental Awards Booth at Kid Fish
- Contributed Interpretive Sign to Tay Trail
- Continued Newsletter Series
- Supported Perth & District Heritage Fair



We present the watershed annually at the Stewart Park Festival



David Taylor presents 2017 Bursary to Nick Nadeau

This year, announcement of the Watershed Guardian Bursary drew six applicants of impressive quality. President David Taylor presented the \$1000 Bursary to Nick Nadeau of Smiths Falls at this year's Watershed Discovery Day. Nick is a graduate of the Smiths Falls and District Collegiate Institute and will use the bursary to begin his studies in Environmental Science and Resource Management at Trent University.

This bursary is made possible by the support of the Little Stream Bakery of Glen Tay, through their "One Percent for the Environment" Donation. Thank you.



We presented Annual Environmental Awards for 2016

The recipient of the first category 'Contribution to the Tay Watershed' was won by 'Kidfish' – Dan & Karen Sisty, Kathy and Lannie Lowry.

The second category 'Contribution to Water Resources at the Provincial, National or International' level was won by the Lanark County Stewardship Council.

There was a tie for the third category, 'Contribution to the General Environment'. The winners were the Mississippi Madawaska Land Trust – Wild Child Initiative and the Lanark, Leeds and Grenville Health Unit/Dr. Paula Stewart – Nature for Life Program.

The Friends of the Tay Watershed thank the winners for all they do to recognize the importance of our water resource and what is required to build awareness and stewardship of our natural environment.



More 2017 Activities

Outreach and Education



Locking thru Upper Beveridge

Photo: D. Taylor

One of our most successful projects for Community Outreach and Education was our Canada 150 “Paddle on the Tay. On a lovely September Saturday, 37 paddlers, in 24 canoes and kayaks, made up a flotilla and travelled from Perth’s Last Duel Park to Beveridge Locks on Lower Rideau Lake. In addition to enjoying a guided tour, with commentary by biologist Shaun Thompson and Rideau Canal expert Ken Watson, the convoy picked up 4 1/2 kgs of garbage, for the association's participation in International Coastal Cleanup Day. Thanks to organisers David and Sheila Kroetsch, Judy Buehler, Frank Roy and David Taylor.

Productive Partnerships

Working with partners, and with grants and donations from agencies and members, our organization contributed to the care and protection of the watershed. With a grant from Fisheries and Oceans Canada’s Recreational Fisheries Conservation Partnerships Program we were able to partner with the Town of Perth and the RVCA in replacing the Haggart Dam with a more fish friendly rocky ramp. (See cover page)

Again, with the support of the Perth Community Foundation and other donors, we partnered with the Lanark Lodge Council of Family and Friends, Lanark County Municipal Trails Corporation and RVCA to provide an interpretive sign for the Tay River Pathway. (Photo at right)



Pictured beside the panel, are Association Directors and Advisory Panel Members, from the left, Larry Bowen, Jim Graff, Annie Dalton, David Taylor, Derek Matheson (Manager, RVCA Rural Clean Water Program), Frank Roy, and Judy Buehler.

Association Capacity

Maintaining our association’s capacity to deliver is essential, and efforts continued on several fronts in 2017. We have adopted a new domain address - www.taywatershed.ca (clicks to the old domain, tayriver.org, will be re-directed). In addition, the design and branding for the website has been updated and this was carried over into our promotion and displays. A new website section has been added to provide online information for the Lake Networking Group. And we have transferred our e-mail address to friends@taywatershed.ca (E-mails to the former friends@tayriver.org will be re-directed). The Board held four formal meetings last year in addition to Executive and Special Meetings

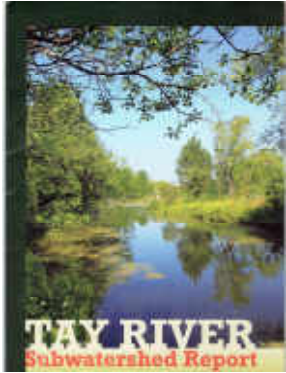
Monitor and Comment



Mill St. swimming area in flood

The occurrence of flood conditions in April and May of 2017 following the drought conditions of 2016 gave new focus on the need to monitor climate change and its impact on water management. One initiative launched in this direction has been to begin the organization of a network of volunteers to observe and report on water levels and flows along the Tay waterway. It is expected this “Tay Net” will be operating this spring of 2018.

Our Association was invited to meet with RVCA Staff to review the Tay Sub Watershed



Working with the RVCA in preparing the latest Tay River Subwatershed Report

Report 2017 Update. Following a productive meeting process, a number of comments and suggestions were submitted in contribution to the preparation of the Report.

Communications with Parks Canada monitoring the replacement of the Bobs Lake Dam at Bolingbroke have been on going, and include recent comments on the Impact Assessment Report.

We Propose another busy program for 2018

Provision of Community Outreach and Education Activities:

- *Stewart Park Music Festival* booth (July 13-15)
- *Watershed Discovery Day (WDD)* (August 18, Perth Farmers' Market)
- Award of *Water Guardian Bursary* to a local student
- Financial (& volunteer) support to *Perth & District Heritage Fair*
- Display at *Kid Fish Day, Perth* (mid-June)
- Cooperate in the development of *Source Water Information Panels* (Glen Tay area)



KidFish Day at the Basin



Canoeing is fine!

- Investigate production of a newspaper series on targeted watershed issues
- Promote public use of, and information on, the Tay River and Canal
- Expand website capacity for delivering association information (see 'Capacity')
- Maintain the Association's **newsletter** series
- Continue the Association's *Annual Environmental Awards* Program
- Promote expanded information on Tay watershed components that provide water to Rideau Canal system
- Investigate cooperation with *Envirothon*

Delivery of Watershed Care and Protection Programs:

- Review **website** format and content for providing watershed information
- Provide increased focus on dissemination of information on **groundwater, wetlands and water level management**
- Participate in *Source Water Protection Committee & RVCA Rural Clean Water Program*
- Participate in *Lake Links 2018* organisation & delivery (October 20)
- Monitor *Bobs Lake/Bolingbroke Dam* re-construction and related water management
- Review status of groundwater information base and research in Tay watershed area
- Complete formation of the '**Tay Net**' waterway monitoring network
- Consider participation in *National Clean Up Day/Ocean Conservancy* (September 15)



The New Perth Rapid

Cooperation with Partner Organisations:

- Support complementary activities of watershed lake associations, environmental organisations, businesses, and government departments and agencies
- Participate in selected lake association *annual general meetings*
- Monitor and support *Parks Canada* programs to protect the managed Tay River system, Tay Canal and *Rideau Corridor*
- Invite partner participation in association activities; eg. *Watershed Discovery Day*
- Maintain website section for the *Lake Networking Group*
- Provide support to *Lake Links 2018; Perth Heritage Fair*
- Consider areas for possible cooperation with *Ottawa Riverkeeper* and Riverwatch
- Recognise our corporate community support from *Little Stream Bakery, Stor-N-Lock, The Factory, TD Trust, and Maximilian's Restaurant*; and expand partnerships where appropriate.



Upper Beveridge Lock

Addressing Climate Change:

- Maintain the association policy of taking climate change into account in our programs
- Support *Perth Task Force on Local Climate Change* and *Tay Valley Township Green Energy & Climate Change Working Group*
- Support programs to identify and mitigate impact of climate change on the environment

Maintenance and Expansion of Association Capacity:

- Complete update of Association branding and display materials
- Continue expansion of website capacity for delivery of watershed information
- Consider addition of a Facebook, additional capacity in delivery of notices, photos etc.
- Continue membership promotion and updating of the Association's membership list
- Maintain contact and cooperation with partner organisations
- Encourage volunteer assistance for selected roles (eg. office succession; mailings; membership list; displays; coordination of website input)
- Recognise individuals and organisations providing special assistance to the Association
- Expand provision of information to Advisory Panel
- Investigate more sustainable, long-term archives system
- Hold minimum of four Board meetings in 2018.



Our Display Image Matters!

Financial Summary *

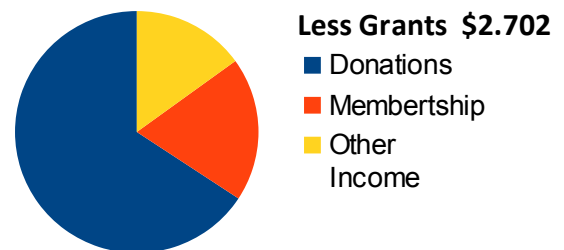
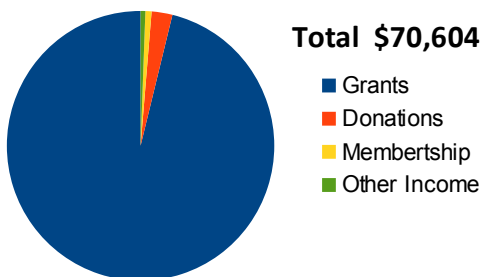
Year Ending December 31, 2017

ASSETS	2017	2016
Bank Acct	\$2,510.74	\$4,261.36
GIC	5,139.02	6,113.15
Petty Cash	23.15	23.15
Other Assets	342.42	451.87
TOTAL ASSETS	\$8,015.33	\$10,849.53
LIABILITIES	0.00	0.00
NET WORTH	\$8,015.33	\$10,849.53

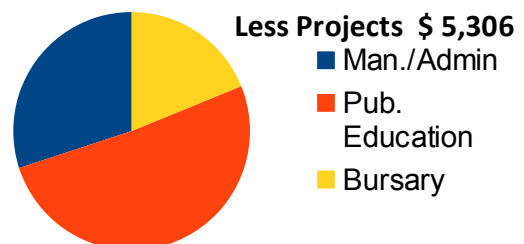
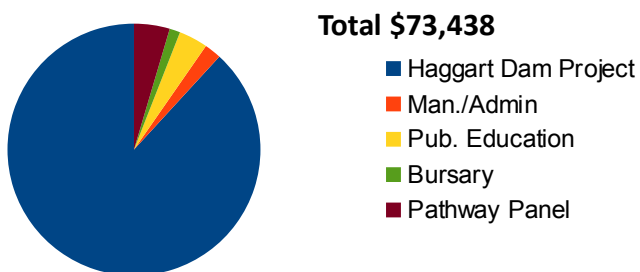
REVENUES	2017	2016
Donations	\$1,776.73	\$2,155.00
Memberships	520.00	550.00
Other Income	405.87	301.79
Grants	67,901.00	896.00
TOTAL	\$70,603.60	\$3,902.79

EXPENSES	2017	2016
Education/Outreach	\$3712.12	\$3,099.00
Projects	68,132.05	19,103.50
Admin & Management	1,593.63	2,188.73
TOTAL	\$73,437.80	\$24,391.23

Revenues



Expenses



* not yet audited

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Executive Members

President	David Taylor	Vice President	Carol Dillon
Secretary	Judy Buehler	Treasurer	Marion Letts

Directors

Taro Alps	Bob's & Crow Lake Ass'n	Larry Bowen	Christie Lake Ass'n
Robert Cosh	Otty Lake Ass'n	Annie Dalton	Tay River, Scotch Line
Jim Graff	Perth Council Rep.	David Kroetsch	Perth
Forbes Symon Perth, Director Development & Protective Services			

ADVISORY PANEL

Susan Brandum	REAL, Past Board Member	David Crowley	Perth, Past Board Member
Karen Hunt	Otty Lake Ass'n, Past Board Member	Doug James	Perth, Past Board Member
Barbara King	Watersheds Canada	Derek Matheson	R.V.C.A.
Dale MacEachern	Parks Canada, Smiths Falls	Frank Roy	Perth, Past Vice President
Richard Schooley	Tay Valley Township, Area business community	Colin Stephenson	Past President
Alyson Symon	M.V.C.A.	Darryl Whitehead	Parks Canada, Peterborough

Webmaster Colin Stephenson

SUSTAINING MEMBERS

Little Stream Bakery of Glen Tay
Store—N—Lock, Perth
The Factory, Perth
Maximilian Dining Lounge, Perth
TD Friends of the Environment Foundation

In line with one of our priority objectives of building partnerships with organisations having a common interest in the watershed, it has been a pleasure to cooperate with the 49 following community groups, businesses, and government organisations.

Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario	Ocean Conservancy (National Cleanup Day)	Rideau Roundtable
Christie Lake Association	OMYA Canada	Rideau Environmental Action League
Drummond/North Elmsley Township	Ontario Ministry of Environment	Rideau Valley Conservation Authority
Eagle Lake Property Owners Association	Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources & Forestry	Rideau Valley Rural Clean Water Program
EcoPerth	Ontario Environmental Network	Royal Bank
ECOTAY Education Centre	Ottawa Riverkeeper	Stewardship Council of Lanark County
Farren Lake Association	Otty Lake Association	St. John Catholic High School
Frontenac Stewardship Council	Parks Canada, Waterways Unit	Stewart Park Festival
Greater Bobs & Crow Lakes Association	Perth & District Collegiate Institute	Stor-N-Lock
KidFish Event	Perth & District Community Foundation	Tay Valley Township
Lake Links	Perth & District Union Library	Tay Valley Township Green Energy & Climate Change Working Group
Lake Networking Group	Perth Farmers' Market	TD Bank
Lanark County Trails Corporation	Pike Lake Association	The Factory
Leeds, Grenville & Lanark Health Unit	Perth Heritage Fair	Town of Perth, Environmental Services Department
Little Stream Bakery	Perth Legion	Upper Canada District School Board
Maximilian's Restaurant	Perth Regional Heritage Fair	Watersheds Canada