

FRIENDS OF THE



TAY WATERSHED



Photo: Frank Roy

2019 ANNUAL REPORT

www.taywatershed.ca

friends@taywatershed.ca

Our Mission

The Friends of the Tay Watershed deliver activities, and cooperate with other organizations with complementary interests, to ensure the health of the water and related natural resources of the Tay Watershed for present and future generations.

and Strategic Directions

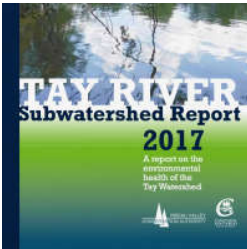
Education and Outreach

To encourage public interest and participation in the protection of water resources and the Tay Watershed's natural environment, through the provision of information and the delivery of supportive events.



Studying Watershed Map

Photo by Carol Dillon



Watershed Care and Protection

To contribute to the development of the information base and infrastructure required for the understanding and protection of the Tay Watershed.

Cooperation with Partners

To build partnerships with community organizations and government departments and agencies for the production and delivery of effective programs for the care of water resources

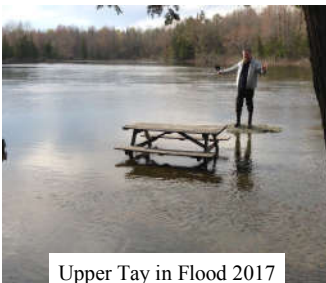


Display at Lake Links

Photo by David Taylor

Maintenance and Expansion of Association Capacity

To maintain, and expand where possible, the association's capacity for delivering programs and responding to new opportunities, and initiating action to address policy, structural or resource needs.



Upper Tay in Flood 2017

Photo by G. Gregoire

Climate Change

To be aware of global climate studies and anticipate how the effects of climate change impact the Tay Watershed.

President's Message

As I watch a dozen blue jays and a half-dozen white tailed deer at the feeder this morning on the shoreline of our property on Otty Lake, I can't help but reflect on how fortunate we are to enjoy the diversity of wildlife and flora that prevail along the lake and river corridors of the Tay Watershed. As an organization, Friends of the Tay Watershed advocate our mission to sustain and enhance or restore the attributes of the watershed and its ecosystems through our program initiatives and through the interest and support our members continue to express. As the new chairperson, I am humbled by the energy and enthusiasm of our Board Members and those eco-minded members and the public at large that support our initiatives. Thank you all and in particular thanks to David Taylor whose leadership and diligence has served us well for many years.

There is however, still much work to be done. Our Association continues to sponsor a menu of activities such as Kidfish Day, the Stewart Park Festival Exhibit, Watershed Discovery Day etc., all of which are designed to foster an informed understanding of our relationship to the natural environment and the measures needed to sustain the environment as it relates to the Tay Watershed. We will continue to focus on youth and their growing concern about the environment and the impact of climate change. Climate change is an evolving focus of our association as we reach out to support the initiative of Lanark County and member municipalities in the development of climate action plans. We are also partnering in the development of an online best practices manual for shoreline management.

I look forward to the challenges of 2020 and for your continued support for the Friends of the Tay Watershed.

Glenn Tunnock

Folks we partnered with in 2019 for a healthier watershed.

Christie Lake Association	Perth Farmers' Market
Drummond/North Elmsley Township	Pike Lake Association
Fisheries and Oceans Canada	Perth Legion
Greater Bobs & Crow Lakes Association	Perth Regional Heritage Fair
KidFish Event	Rideau Environmental Action League
Lake Links	Rideau Valley Conservation Authority
Lanark County Climate Action Network	Rural Clean Water Program
Lake Networking Group	Source Water Protection ProgramC
Ontario Ministry of Environment	Stewardship Council of Lanark County
Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources & Forestry	Stewart Park Festival
Ottawa Riverkeeper	Tay Valley Township
Parks Canada, Waterways Unit	Tay Valley Township Green Energy & Climate Change Working Group

Summary of 2019 Activities

Education and Outreach

To encourage public interest and participation in the protection of water resources and the Tay Watershed's natural environment, through the provision of information and the delivery of supportive events.

2018 Environmental Awards

The Friends of the Tay Watershed Environmental Awards were presented at our last AGM, 29 March, 2019. (Photos by Colin Stephenson)



Graham Beck and the Little Stream Bakery
for, as a member of the international organization "1% for the Planet", has, for some time, been quietly providing supporting grants to local non-profit environmental associations



Noelle Reeve
Planner, Tay Valley Township
for her unwavering diligence in finding planning solutions which promote the sustainability of the township's 26 lakes and rivers, and which protect them for the use of all.



Ontario Nature
for leading the charge that resulted in the removal of the Schedule 10 "open for business" bylaws from Bill 66, (Restoring Ontario's Competitiveness Act, 2019), which would have undermined years of progress in safeguarding the environment and the health of communities across Ontario.
*Award accepted by Cathy Keddy,
Ontario Nature's Regional Director for Ontario East.*

2019 Water Guardian Bursary

Presentation of the Water Guardian Bursary for 2019 was made to Amanda Miller on Saturday, August 17th, by Graham Beck of Little Stream Bakery and President Glenn Tunnock, in a ceremony at the Perth Farmers' Market on the Association's Annual Watershed Discovery Day.

Miss Miller is a graduate of the Perth and District Collegiate Institute and a student at Queen's University in Kingston. The \$1000. bursary will help her continue with her program of major in Environmental Science and minor in Geography.

The Water Guardian Bursary is made possible through the generosity of Graham Beck and the Little Stream Bakery of Glen Tay.



Photo by David Zimmerly

Graham Beck, Amanda Miller, Glenn Tunnock

Public Education

We met a number of young people and their parents at Kid Fish



Photo by David Taylor

We shared information about the Watershed at the Stewart Park Festival and at the Perth Farmer's Market



Photo by Carol Dillon

Canoe Adventure

Text & Photos by David Kroetsch



Friends of the Tay Watershed invited 29 canoeists and kayakers to join a fun paddle down the Tay River and Canal, on Saturday, September 14. This guided tour, with commentary on the flora, fauna and history of the area, started at Perth's Last Duel Dock, at 10:00am, for this 10 km. paddle to Beveridge

Locks on Lower Rideau Lake. Thanks to Shaun Thompson a retired Ecologist for his excellent commentary (especially the information on the Stink Pot Turtles).



Thanks to the volunteers that prepared and set up the lunch, ferried people around the locks and back to Perth and helped with the logistics and success of this paddle.

Refreshments and post paddle get-together were enjoyed at the lower Beveridge Lock and transportation was available back to Perth to pick up vehicles. This year there was a fee for the paddle as a Fund Raiser for the FOTW and we raised almost \$500.

Thanks to all who participated! And thanks also to whoever was in charge of the weather because it was Grand !

Watershed Care and Protection Programs

To contribute to the development of the information base and infrastructure required for the understanding and protection of the Tay Watershed taking climate change into account in our programs

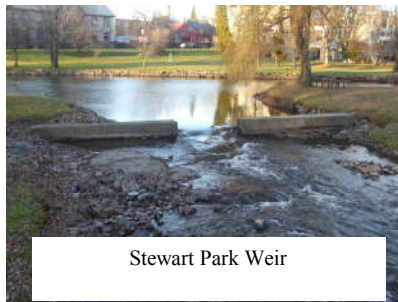
Tay Waterway Reporting Program

Our association's "Tay Net Program" provides reporting on conditions and water levels along the Tay waterway between Bobs Lake, in Tay Valley Township, and Port Elmsley in Drummond/North Elmsley Township on the Lower Rideau Lake. In 2019, the program was expanded with the addition of two new reporting sites, at Bowes Bridge, on Bowes Sideroad, in Tay Valley, and Rogers Road Bridge, in Perth. Reporting on water levels and conditions is

now provided at 12 sites along the waterway. Of these, eight locations are monitored by volunteers, and four have online electronic water level or streamflow gauges, by Parks Canada.

In August 2019, Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA) surveyed each of the volunteer reporting sites, establishing their elevations and GPS locations. The information developed by the Tay Net Program is now available, with one easy click, on the association's website Home Page at www.taywatershed.ca. The section "Flood & Drought Forecasting and Warnings" provides a link to a summary statement on the waterway, at times of significant changes in conditions. Also available on this page are live links to the four online electronic gauges, which list current water levels at Bolingbroke Dam, Christie Lake, and Upper Beveridge Lock, and streamflow at Haggart Island in Perth.

More information on the Tay Net Program, and a list of the monitoring sites, is available at <http://www.taywatershed.ca/documents/TayNet-description.pdf>.



Stewart Park Weir

Cooperation with Partner Organizations

To build partnerships with community organizations and government departments and agencies for the production and delivery of effective programs for the care of water resources

During the year, we continued to cooperate in the delivery of various activities and events managed by other organisations. In addition to ongoing cooperation with the Lake Networking Group, Lake Links, Kid Fish, and the Source Water Protection and Rural Clean Water Committees, the association participated proactively in the review of municipal environmental management documents and provincial policy changes and initiatives. These included letters of comment on the Town of Perth Infrastructure Master Plan for the Western Annex, as well as on removal of Schedule 10 “open for business” bylaws from the Ontario Government proposed Bill 66, (Restoring Ontario's Competitiveness Act, 2019), We are also actively engaged with other conservation and environment groups in discussion and comment on proposed changes to Ontario's Conservation Authorities Act.

We continued with Bobs & Crow Lakes and Christie Lake Associations, the Town of Perth, Tay Valley Township and RVCA in discussions with Parks Canada on waterway management for the Tay.

Maintenance and Expansion of Association Capacity

To maintain, and expand where possible, the association's capacity for delivering programs and responding to new opportunities, and initiating action to address policy, structural or resource needs.

The past year of 2019 saw the Friends of the Tay Watershed review and update our by-law to clarify the terms of office, procedures for the election of officers and other administrative matters. We were pleased to successfully recruit Glenn Tunnock to take over as President of the Association, thus allowing long time President David Taylor to take a well earned rest from those duties.

The Association participated in the Giving Tuesday Movement at the beginning of December last year by sending a specific fund raising appeal to all members. The effort met with some success and the association is indebted to the members and public who have supported it.

Climate Change

The association actively supported the establishment of the Lanark County, Smiths Falls and Region Climate Change Network.

We partnered with the CFUW in the film presentation of the climate documentary Anote's Ark to students at PDCI and adults at the Perth Legion.

Comments noted on the Town of Perth Infrastructure Master Plan for the Western Annex were largely focused on future effects of climate change.

As noted under the heading of Watershed Care, our Association continued its focus on mitigation of climate change impact with the development of the 'Tay Net' volunteer program to provide monitoring of significant water level changes along the Tay.

Full Program Planned for 2020

Community Outreach and Education Activities:

- **Annual General Meeting** (March 26)
- **Stewart Park Music Festival** booth (July 17-19)
- **Watershed Discovery Day (WDD)** (August 15, Perth Farmers' Market)
- **Annual Environmental Awards** - continue Program
- Continue our focus on youth through *Kids Fish Day*, Perth (June 20) and the annual *Water Guardian Bursary* award to a qualified student interested in environmental studies
- Assist Town of Perth and partner agencies in resolving water flows in the Tay River Canal
- Develop online shoreline management resource package in partnership with Watersheds Canada, local municipalities and the RVCA
- Expand Tay Network in monitoring health of the Tay Watershed
- Review riverkeeping role of the Friends of the Tay Watershed



Watersheds Canada Display at

Delivery of Watershed Stewardship Programs:

Friends of the Tay Watershed are committed to a collaborative approach to the wise stewardship of a water resource important for its ecological resources and habitat, as a source of water, as a tourist destination, as a recreational attribute and as the waterfront for many property owners. Our stewardship program includes such measures as

- Creating a greater public awareness of the ecological attributes of the watershed through an extensive menu of educational activities
- Daily monitoring of the health of the watershed, notably water quality, water levels and water flows
- Undertaking written reviews of policies, programs, activities and organizational changes of government and other agencies whose work affects the sustainability and stewardship of the watershed
- Advocating and participating in inter-agency partnerships
- Networking with industry leaders to achieve a better understanding of best practices and to foster more informed decision-making
- Monitoring changes to legislation that affect the watershed
- Working with residents and property owners to maintain the health of the watershed

Cooperation with Partner Organisations:

- **Support complementary activities** of watershed lake associations, environmental organisations, businesses and government departments and agencies
- Partnering with Watersheds Canada to develop online watershed management best practices resource package
- Monitor & support *Parks Canada* programs to protect the managed Tay River system and Tay Canal, Rideau Corridor and Management Plan Renewal
- Working to mitigate impacts of climate change through partnerships with Lanark Climate Action Network and area municipalities
- Maintain website section for the *Lake Networking Group*
- Provide support to, amongst others, *Source Water Program, Rural Clean Water Program, Ottawa Riverkeeper, Lake Links 2020; Perth Heritage Fair*
- Recognise our corporate community support from **Little Stream Bakery, Stor-N-Lock, The Factory, Maximilian's Restaurant and the Perth Farmers' Market.**

Addressing Climate Change:

- Work with area municipalities and Lanark County to develop and implement climate change action plans
- Maintain a policy of taking climate change into account in our programs
- Support programs to identify and mitigate impact of climate change on the environment.



2017 Tay Flood

Maintenance and Expansion of Association Capacity:

The past year of 2019 saw the Friends of the Tay Watershed review and update our by-law to clarify the terms of office, procedures for the election of officers and other administrative matters. Expanding our network of contacts has helped us identify new opportunities for partnerships and working with property owners. The addition of a new Board member has enabled us to participate proactively in the review of municipal environmental management documents and provincial policy changes and initiatives.

Fresh ideas are always welcome and we are not shy to express our need to seek new members to join our Board and regular cash donations to support our programs.

We are in need of a vice-president, a membership chair and a website administrator. We are also always short of money to support long term projects which do not qualify for grants. It would be much appreciated if our members made a small but regular donation when they renew their annual membership.

Financial Summary *

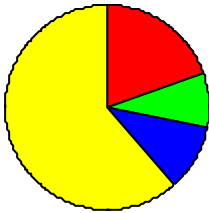
Year Ending December 31, 2019

ASSETS	2019	2018
Bank Acct	\$7,957.86	\$7,037.36
GIC	0.00	0.00
Petty Cash	23.15	23.15
Other Assets	440.45	918.58
TOTAL ASSETS	8,421.46	\$7,979.09
LIABILITIES	0.00	0.00
NET WORTH	8,421.46	\$7,979.09

REVENUES	2019	2018
Donations	\$2,379.20	\$2,453.33
Memberships	1,085.00	945.00
Grants	7,565.93	548.18
Other Income	1,269.50	280.43
TOTAL	12,299.63	\$4,226.94

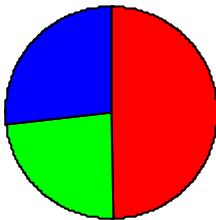
EXPENSES	2019	2018
Education/Outreach	\$2290.59	\$2,422.57
Projects	7577.17	0.00
Admin & Management	2,129.62	1,840.61
TOTAL	\$11,997.38	\$4,263.18

Revenues



Total \$12,299.63

■ Donations	\$ 2,379.20
■ Memberships	1,085.00
■ Other Income	1,269.50
■ Grants	7,565.93



Less Grants \$ 4733.70

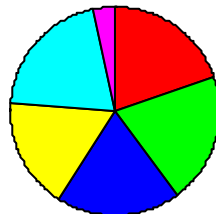
■ Donations	\$ 2,379.20
■ Memberships	1,085.00
■ Other income	1,269.50

Expenses



Total \$11,997.38

■ Bursary	\$1,000.00
■ Projects & Displays	7,940.57
■ Insurance	978.48
■ Administration	862.43
■ Advertising	1,052.95
■ Other Charges	162.95



Less Haggart Dam Funds \$ 5098.38

■ Bursary	\$1,000.00
■ Projects & Displays	1041.57
■ Insurance	978.48
■ Administration	862.43
■ Advertising	1,052.95
■ Other Charges	162.95

* not yet audited

BOARD OF DIRECTORS for 2019

Executive Committee

President	Glenn Tunnock
Past President	David Taylor
Secretary	Judy Buehler
Treasurer	Marion Letts
Member	Carol Dillon
Member	Richard Schooley

Directors

Taro Alps	Upper Tay Watershed; GB&CL Association
Annie Dalton	Perth & Tay River
David Kroetsch	Perth
Forbes Symon	Perth
Donna Walsh	Christie Lake Association

ADVISORY PANEL

Susan Brandum	Port Elmsley, Past Board Member
David Crowley	Perth; Past Board Member
Jim Graff	Perth; Past Board Member
Karen Hunt	Perth, Lake Networking Group; Past Board Member
Doug James	Perth; Past Board Member
Barbara King	Executive Director, Watersheds Canada
Dale MacEachern	External Relations Mgr., Parks Canada, Ont. Waterways Unit, Smiths Falls
Derek Matheson	Mgr., Rural Clean Water Program, R.V.C.A.
Brady McGlade	Planner, Drummond North Elmsley Twp.
Amanda Miller	Student, Queens University School of Environmental Studies
Frank Roy	Perth; Past Board Member & Vice President
Alyson Symon	Watershed Planner, M.V.C.A., Past Board Member

WEBMASTER

Colin Stephenson Past Co-President

SUSTAINING MEMBERS

Little Stream Bakery of Glen Tay
Stor—N—Lock, Perth
The Factory, Perth
Maximilian Dining Lounge, Perth
Perth Farmers' Market
Lake 88.1, Perth