

FRIENDS OF THE



TAY WATERSHED



Photo: Desmond Devoy, Perth Courier

New bench offers front row view of the beautiful Tay
at Perth's Last Duel Park

Friends of the Tay Watershed unveiled new bench on May 27, 2022

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

www.taywatershed.ca
friends@taywatershed.ca

We All Live Downstream



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.

President's Message

This last year has not been friendly to the environment. The ravages of climate change have inflicted severe weather events both in Canada and around the world. While the Tay Watershed has not been affected in a significant way, we have experienced changes in our local weather patterns that give us cause for concern. Fortunately, most municipalities in Lanark County, as well as the County itself, have drafted climate change action plans and Friends of the Tay Watershed have worked in tandem with Climate Network Lanark to encourage adaptive and mitigating measures to offset the impacts. Our webinar on this subject is indicative of our intent to keep our audience informed of needed climate change actions.

Bill 23, *The More Homes Faster Act* has significant negative implications which invoked our Association to respond to the province on the loss of site plan control in sustaining healthy shorelands as well as limiting the powers of conservation authorities in providing technical advice on planning applications. Friends of the Tay have worked closely with Watersheds Canada this past year in developing a resource package for municipalities to equip them with the knowledge and the tools to conserve and restore shorelands in the natural state. We will continue to work with the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority and Watersheds Canada to provide educational materials of value to municipalities and the public.

An important story this year is the ongoing removal of toxic rail ties by CP Rail near Glen Tay triggered through a joint lobby with Tay Valley Township and the Town of Perth. Our concern, which we expressed several times over the last decade, was the potential toxic impact of creosote on domestic drinking water supplies. Also, with respect to water supply, Friends of the Tay have provided input on water taking permits to ensure that

supply volumes do not exceed provincial environmental approvals.

A notable event this past year was an excursion by boat and by bus across the watershed with Parks Canada and RVCA. This provided an important opportunity to exchange information on common concerns for water levels, water volumes, wetland and wildlife conservation and the cultural heritage of the Tay Canal. This improved our ability to inform the public along the watershed on water management, such as potential flooding events.

Working with our youth continues to be an important focus. We continue to offer our Water Guardian Bursary to inspire eligible students to pursue post-secondary studies in the natural sciences. We currently are offering two bursaries valued at \$1,000 each. We have also worked with students in PDCI on two projects: investigating the impact of sewage effluent on the Tay River, and measuring tree canopy cover and the value of canopies to sustaining natural habitat.

Our annual Watershed Discovery Day in August provides an opportunity to raise the public awareness on measures to sustain a resilient and healthy watershed. This event is held in partnership with other organizations and in 2022, participation included local Indigenous communities.

This past year we donated a park bench to the Town of Perth which was installed in the Last Duel Park in a strategic location overlooking the Tay River.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of our Board of Directors and Advisory Panel for their continued support; to our corporate sponsors for their financial assistance, and our members who both support our programs as well as providing financial assistance through fees and donations.

Folks we partnered with in 2022 for a healthier watershed:

Rideau Valley Conservation Authority – Educational Sessions
 Town of Perth – Rocky Ramps Advisory Committee; Last Duel Advisory Committee
 Watersheds Canada – Interactive Online Resource Package for Planners and Municipalities
 Tay Net Program Volunteers/Christie Lake Association - Eyes on the river
 Climate Network Lanark – Land Use Policies and Strategies for climate change mitigation and adaptation
 Citizen Scientist – Phragmites Invasive Species Mitigation
 Parks Canada – Water Level/flows Control Monitoring
 Tay Valley Township
 Drummond/North Elmsley Township Lake Networking Group
 Upper Canada School Board and PDCI
 Local First Nation communities.

Another Busy Year in 2022

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.

2022 Virtual Webinars

Virtual meetings continue to be the conventional tool for organizations to conduct meetings and seminars. Friends of the Tay Watershed conducted a series of virtual educational webinars in 2022 for our audience.

February 24, 2022. Spongy Moths

In our first webinar of the year, Eric Boysen, New Leaf Forest Services enlightened us on spongy moths, formerly know as gypsy moths. This invasive species, cyclical in nature, was first detected on Wolfe Island in 1969 and has progressively moved eastwardly covering as much as 1.8 million hectares in 2021. Extensive defoliation of many tree species occurs. Hardwood trees usually recover but conifers may not. Although there are few natural predators, cold winters and a virus or fungus have lethal consequences. Spraying and the destruction of egg masses also helps.



March 10, 2022. Jebb's Creek Embayment Project

Jennifer Lamoureux, Aquatic Fish Habitat Biologist, Rideau Valley Conservation Authority and Reid Kilburn of the Otty Lake Association informed us of the construction of a wetland on Jebb's Creek designed to create fish habitat and improve the food supply for aquatic and terrestrial species.

April 21, Forest Bathing, Healthy lives through Healthy Forests

Forest Bathing has been shown to have recuperative value for both physical and mental health. Joanna Kowalczyk, a local GIFT certified guide shared her passion for Forest Bathing with us emphasizing the merits of retaining a natural forest canopy.



May 19, 2022 OUR Turtles

Tam MacKenzie, founder/operator of [OUR Turtles](https://www.facebook.com/ourturtles) and who was an exhibitor at our Watershed Discovery Day, provided a comprehensive overview of the life cycle of indigenous turtles in the Tay Watershed and the measures that can be undertaken to protect turtle eggs and hatchlings from predation. Tam had secured a research grant for the production of some 200 + nest protectors to be installed, with the aim to bolster evidence supporting the use of the style of protector and to examine the effects of substrate types on the successful emergence of hatchlings. For more information, check out <https://www.facebook.com/ourturtles>

2022 Environmental Awards

The Friends of the Tay Watershed Environmental Awards were presented at our virtual AGM, 24 March 2021

1. The Environmental Award for Contribution to the Tay Watershed was awarded to Leah Craig, of Tay Valley Township, for taking the initiative to clean up the trash in the Tay River by directing her school's community service program obligation to this very worthwhile project. Her initiative is an outstanding example of a young person who recognized and acted upon the need to help her environment.
2. The Environmental Award for Contribution to Water Resources at the provincial, national or international level (person or organization, either local or outside area, whose activities have an impact on water resources on a wider basis) was awarded to Climate Network Lanark for their commitment to connect, co-ordinate, facilitate, initiate and support collaborative efforts and actions to address the impacts of climate change in Lanark County. These initiatives will also be crucial to the preservation of water resources not only within the Tay Watershed but also at the provincial, national, and international level.
3. The Environmental Award for Contribution to the General Environment (a local person or organization whose activities are aimed at the environment but impact on our water resources): was awarded to Rob Rainer, Councillor, Sherbrooke Ward, Tay Valley Township Council. By publishing 'Rob's Report', he shows his commitment to educate and inform the residents of Tay Valley Township on issues that come before Council, and what the environmental significance might be by including links to related research or environmental science. Rob is always an advocate for measures that have a positive environmental impact.
4. The Environmental Award for Contribution to the Friends of the Tay Watershed Association was awarded to Frank Roy for his many years of support, mentoring, time and talent to the Friends of the Tay Watershed Association



Left, David Taylor, Past-President; Rob Rainer, Sue Brandum, Frank Roy, Judy Buehler, Director

2022 Water Guardian Bursary

The Friends of the Tay Watershed once again offered support to students in the Watershed who are interested in the environment through our annual Water Guardian Bursary program. Each year, thanks to the sponsorship of [Little Stream Bakery](#), we offer a \$1,000 bursary to a deserving student from our watershed.

Unfortunately there were no applicants for the 2022 Bursary. The Bursary Committee undertook a review of procedures to better communicate with students through the Watershed High Schools, including use of our new Facebook page.

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 Net Program Update - Volunteer Monitoring of the Tay Waterway

David Taylor

Monitoring the health of the watershed is ongoing and our Tay Net Program volunteers monitor the Tay water conditions and concerns that can impair the ecology of the Tay River. More “eyes on the river” means greater care of this vital waterway through our communities, including removing garbage that pollutes the waterway.

The *Tay Net Program* received two significant additions this past year - the installation of an electronic water level gauge at a new waterway location and updated geodetic measurements for the eight volunteer monitoring sites. The new gauge will provide real time water level readings for the Tay River at a site near Bolingbroke for which data was not previously available, downstream of the Bobs Lake Dam. The gauge is owned and managed by Water Survey of Canada. The water level data is presented by RVCA, with a link on our website at <https://www.taywatershed.ca/documents/streamflow.php>.

In the fall of 2022, RVCA’s Engineering Services Division carried out the geodetic re-measurement of our association’s eight monitoring sites along the waterway between Bobs Lake and Port Elmsley. The remeasurements confirmed and updated the original geodetic base readings taken when the program was launched in 2019. At these sites, our ‘Tay Watchers’ record the water levels at times of unusually high, or low, flow along the waterway, complementing data available from seven manual or electronic flow and level gauges.



RVCA’s Justin Roberts takes a geodetic site reading for the Port Elmsley Bridge, with volunteer Denis Myers and Board Member Taro Alps.

For more information on the Tay Net Program and periodic reports on the waterway, visit the web page at the above link.

Source Water Protection

Carol Dillon



Image: trentsourceprotection.on.ca

The two issues that we addressed in 2022 were concerns about adequate attention to effects on groundwater from two events: the ongoing storage of rail road ties in Glen Tay and the proposed new dumping area for production waste at the OMYA plant. The concerns were for the cumulative effects of these two commercial endeavors plus the waste site in Glen Tay all within a small radius of one another. Source Water Protection is mandated for municipal water, not private wells, and in the watershed area, more concerned with surface water as that is the source for the Town of Perth. Thus advocacy to draw attention to possible threats to groundwater was promoted.

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 (we currently have partnership arrangements with 31 organizations and events)

Student Water Quality Assessment Project

Students from PDCI undertook a water quality assessment of the Tay River above and below Perth's sewage treatment plant earlier this year. Further to that project, the students did a presentation to Perth Town Council on June 17, 2022 in the Council Chambers, along with their advisor Evan Barr. A number of FOTW Board members attended as well to reinforce our support for our youth and for a healthy river. The students were all presented with Friends of the Tay Watershed t-shirts for their good work.



Tay River Trash Clean-up Project

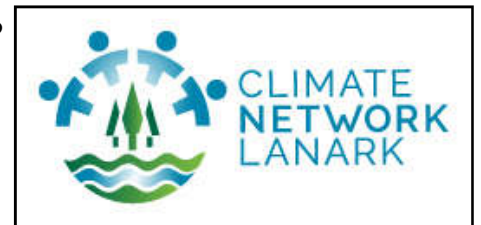


Perth Councillor, Friends of the Tay member, and ardent paddler, Gary Waterfield (back) describes the Association's Tay River trash clean-up program to Judy Brown, Perth Mayor, and John McNeil, river-side resident.

Addressing Climate Change

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

FOTW is represented on the Climate Network Lanark (CNL), an organization devoted to working with area municipalities, the agricultural community and the public on recognizing the significance of climate change and developing policies and programs to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change. All of the municipalities in Lanark County are in various stages of reviewing their official plans as is the County and CNL is working to encourage municipalities to adopt policies that will establish a framework for climate change activities. CNL is also working directly with the County in the development of a climate change mitigation plan. While we are blessed that we have not encountered severe weather events (i.e., flooding, fire), Lanark is not immune from the impacts of climate change. The reduction in green house gas emissions is a contribution members of the public and organizations can and must make to minimize global warming, and something as simple as planting more trees is part of the solution.



Friends Facebook Page

Friends of the Tay Watershed recognize the value of Facebook as a social media tool designed to reach out to our membership and the public at large to share photos, videos and experiences with nature and the natural environment. Our Facebook was launched over a year ago and also provides an opportunity for our association to post notices of upcoming events. Some great photos have been shared and we encourage the public to post photos and stories of interest to sustaining a natural and healthy environment.

To view our Facebook page, go to our web site <https://www.taywatershed.ca/> and click on the logo to the right, which also appears on the left side of almost every page of this website below our "Donate Now" button.



Plans for 2023

Provision of Education and Community Outreach Activities:

Annual General Meeting -Friends of the Tay Watershed Association will host the Annual Meeting through a virtual format starting at **Thursday, May 11th, 2023 2:30 – 5:00 PM**. The business meeting will be followed by an educational webinar on “**Shoreline Stewardship**” by Watersheds Canada

Educational Program—Webinars:

April 13, 2023 – Climate Change

Sue Brandum, Director with Climate Network Lanark, provided a comprehensive overview of the climate change planning in Lanark County in answering the question: Can Lanark County Pull its Weight. The County is the only county in eastern Ontario to have a comprehensive Climate Action Plan with projected targets for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. Climate change action depends on the actions of individuals, the community and municipal government to be successful. Glenn Tunnock provided a high level overview of the role of an official plan in implementing the climate action plan.

May 11, 2023 – Shoreland Stewardship

Robert Pye, Executive Director, Watersheds Canada, will provide a summary of the resource materials developed by Watersheds Canada over the last two years designed to assist Planners and municipalities with measures to protect and restore natural shorelands. Glenn Tunnock will provide a complementary overview of the available planning tools.

May 25, 2023 – Bill 23 and Conservation Authorities

Conservation authorities’ staff will provide an information session on the changes to the Conservation Authorities Act and the Planning Act arising from Bill 23, **The More Homes Faster Act**.

Community Outreach Program:

Annual Environmental Award - recognizing citizens who have made significant contributions to sustaining our natural environment

Water Guardian Bursary - financial awards to students aspiring to careers in environmental management. Awards will be made at the Watershed Discovery Day

Watershed Discovery Day Saturday, August 12th, 8 am -1 pm at the Perth Farmer’s Market, Crystal Palace – annual environmental exhibition for all generations featuring exhibits by conservation organizations, a youth education and discovery program.

Tay Paddle Day - featuring a guided paddle down the Tay River from Perth to the Beveridge Locks

Delivery of Watershed Care and Protection Programs:

Promote understanding, on the part of the public and policy-makers, of the importance of the targeted issues (listed in ‘Outreach’), of the work of **Conservation Authorities**, and of the need for maintaining a priority for **protection of the environment and water resources in economic development programs**

- Participate in *Source Water Protection Committee & RVCA Rural Clean Water Program*
- Participate in **Perth Climate Change Action Clean up Event** – with association display building community awareness for maintaining a clean Tay River (April) to have a comprehensive
- Participate in *Lake Links 2023* organisation & delivery (October 22)
- Continue to monitor stream flow data sources as related to Tay waterway management with Parks Canada
- Review status of Parks Canada **groundwater information base** and research in Tay watershed area
- Maintain ‘**Tay Net**’ waterway monitoring network; expand ‘*Riverwatch*’ component
- Consider participation in *National Clean Up Day/Ocean Conservancy* (mid-September)
- Partnership with Watersheds Canada in the development of a resource package for Planners and municipalities on Sustaining Natural Shorelands
- Partnership with the Federation of Cottage Associations (FOCA) on healthy lakes and shorelands

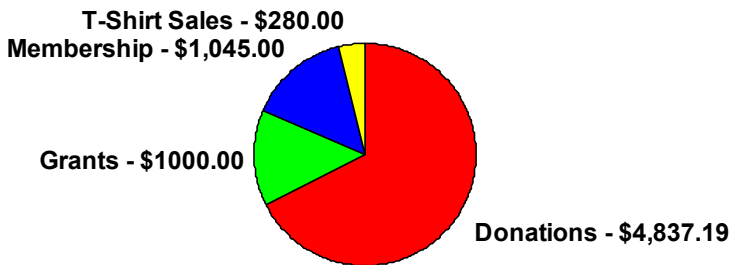
Financial Summary (Unaudited) Year Ending December 31, 2022

ASSETS	2022	2021
Bank Acct	\$ 12,089.73	\$10,436.42
GIC	0.00	0.00
Petty Cash	23.15	23.15
Other Assets	703.48	450.40
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 12,816.36	\$10,909.97
LIABILITIES	0.00	0.00
NET WORTH	\$ 12,816.36	\$10,909.97

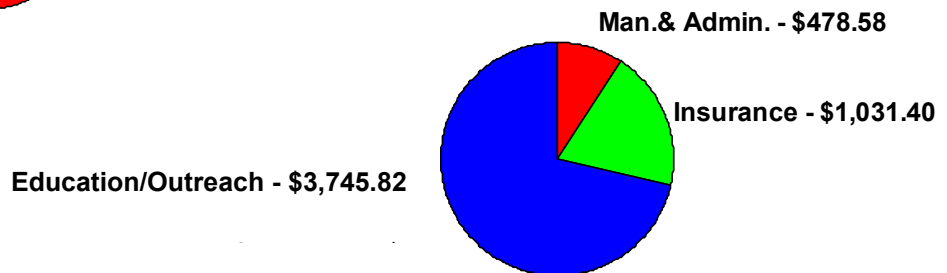
REVENUES	2022	2021
Donations	\$ 4,837.19	\$5,935.05
Memberships	1,045.00	1,125.00
Other Income	1,000.00	25.00
T-Shirt Sales	280.00	190.00
TOTAL	\$ 7,162.19	\$ 7,275.05

EXPENSES	2022	2021
Education/ Outreach	\$3,745.82	\$1,988.93
Bursary	0.00	2,000.00
Insurance	1,031.40	1,001.16
Admin & Mgmt	478.58	1,639.98
TOTAL	\$5,255.80	\$6,630.07

Total Revenues 2022
\$7,162.19



Total Expenses - 2022
\$5,255.80



BOARD OF DIRECTORS for 2022

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
David Kroetsch	Perth
Colin Stephenson	Glen Tay/Webmaster
Donna Walsh	Christie Lake Association

ADVISORY PANEL

Susan Brandum	Port Elmsley, Past Board Member
David Crowley	Perth, Past Board Member
Karen Feeley	A/External Relations Mgr., Ont. Waterways Unit, Parks Canada, Peterborough
Karen Hunt	Perth, Lake Networking Group, Past Board Member
Doug James	Perth, Past Board Member
Derek Matheson	Mgr., Rural Clean Water Program, R.V.C.A.
Brady McGlade	Planner, Drummond North Elmsley Twp.
Robert Pye	Executive Director, Watersheds Canada
Frank Roy	Perth, Past Board Member
Alyson Symon	Watershed Planner, M.V.C.A., Past Board Member

SUSTAINING MEMBERS

H & R Block, Perth, Smiths Falls, Arnprior, Renfrew
Little Stream Bakery of Glen Tay
Stor - N - Lock, Perth
The Factory, Perth
Maximilian Dining Lounge, Perth
Perth Farmers' Market
Lake 88.1, Perth

Some Scenes from Watershed Discovery Day 2022

Photos by
Donna Walsh

