



*Internal waves are gravity waves that oscillate within, rather than on the surface of, a fluid medium.*

## Welcome to 2024

Looking ahead to a New Year, the Friends of the Tay Watershed are continuing to keep an eye on what's happening in the watershed, and what we can do to ensure its health and sustainability. More details on some of these projects follow in this newsletter.

However, the first order of business is...

### Membership Renewal

Your membership keeps you in the loop and connected with our efforts to preserve and protect this beautiful Tay Watershed. To join Friends of the Tay Watershed, or renew your present membership, fill out our online membership form at <https://www.taywatershed.ca/documents/membership.php> The individual annual membership fee is just \$20 and includes many interesting online and in-person events throughout the year.

**Membership is the calendar year January to December 31.**



O'Brien Lake

### For Members Only - The 2024 Tay Walk

Whether you are new to Perth or have lived here all your life, we invite you to come and learn more about the Tay as an ecosystem and the special role it has played throughout history.

Become a Friend of the Tay Watershed and join us in May 2024 for a fascinating guided tour along the river through downtown Perth. Bring your family, walk at your own pace and meet local history, ecology, geology and indigenous experts who will share their knowledge of the Tay.

All members will receive an email notice of the Tay Walk with specific date, time and registration details early in 2024.

*All photos: Friends of the Tay Watershed*

## Welcome to the Board

We are pleased to welcome Adrienne MacKay as a new Member of the Friends of the Tay Watershed Board. Adrienne and her husband are new to the watershed and they have jumped in to help the

Friends on several projects :  
The Tay Walk and the Tay Cleanup Event in September and also volunteering in the Tay Net Program.

## Items on our agenda

2024 promises to be another busy year for our Association. We will, of course, carry on with our core projects, Tay Net and Watershed Discovery Day, Then there are the Educational and Outreach projects, including the Water Guardian Bursaries, Annual Environmental Awards, and evolving development of environment programs with our local schools.

Over the years we have tried to keep on top of happenings in the watershed. Are those railroad ties leaching creosote into the groundwater? Is this group taking too much water out of the Tay during the dry season? Every year there are new issues to research.

We partner with the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority on some projects: Source Water Protection, Groundwater Protection and the Rural Clean Water Program. RVCA is in a transitional planning stage given the adjustment to recent changes to the Planning Act and the Conservation Authorities Act. Our Board of Directors will be working closely with RVCA in transmitting information to our members and the public and in working jointly on a consultation process. Stay

tuned for upcoming webinars we will be hosting to provide for a greater public awareness on the implications for the watershed. Members of our Board sit on the organizing committees for the fall Lake Links conference and participate at the



Lake Links Display

annual Lake Networking Group meeting. We are fortunate to have expertise on our Board which can provide support to municipalities on some issues.

If you have expertise in a certain area that you could offer us, please touch base with our President, Glenn Tunnock at [gtunnock@tunnockconsulting.ca](mailto:gtunnock@tunnockconsulting.ca)

## Many Thanks to Tay Valley Township

The Friends of the Tay Watershed work closely with our local municipalities on many different issues. Recently, we received a generous donation from Tay Valley Township which will help us with the continuing conservation of the natural environment. We look forward to a continued and mutually strong working relationship with TVT.

## Follow us on Facebook



Thanks to Board Member Annie Dalton, you can now follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/374269914506765>

This Facebook page shares early watershed event notices, updates, and quick reports and photos on events and activities. We hope you will feel free to add your posts and pictures.



## Environmental Awards

The **2022 Environmental Award for Contribution to the Tay Watershed** was presented at the AGM. The award went to the **PDCI 2022 Grade 8 Science Students** under the leadership (mentorship) of Mr. Bell, Mr. O'Neill, Mr. Anderson, and Mr. Barr for their project evaluating the water quality of the Tay River, both up and downstream from Perth's sewage treatment lagoon. Mike Bell spoke on the project and how meaningful it was for the students to be part of the project and to be able to be on the water in canoes. There were no awards for other categories for 2022.



The Friends have also worked with students at PDCI on a project to measure tree canopy cover and the value of canopies to sustaining natural habitat. A new partnership with the Upper Canada District School Board has enabled Friends of the Tay Watershed yet another avenue to work with the youth of our community.

## Watershed Guardian Bursaries Awarded

The Friends of the Tay Watershed are pleased to announce the recipients of two \$1,000 bursaries to assist graduating Tay Watershed high school students or an alumnus pursuing post-secondary studies. This year the winners are Faith Marsh of PDCI and Gillian Szijarto of St John's.



Faith Marsh with Carol Dillon and Judy Buehler

In her application, Faith wrote: "With climate change causing more natural disasters and biodiversity in the decline, nature is left unable to achieve its natural processes that keep everything balanced. I have always known that I would end up pursuing a future in which I can help transition our society into a more sustainable future."

Gillian Szijarto wrote, in part, "I was lucky enough to grow up in the country and experience nature very close-by, so the importance of helping our environment and sustaining local water resources is that much more important to me. ...I care about the environment because it is my home, ... it provides life, and builds and sustains the ecosystem which houses each of us."



Gillian Szijarto with Judy Buehler, Carol Dillon and Glenn Tunnock

Thanks to our Bursary Committee Chair, Carol Dillon, and her team Judy Buehler, David Kroetsch and Frank Roy.

## Tay Net Program Update 2023 - Monitoring of the Tay Waterway

Contributed by David Taylor

Due to reduced precipitation in 2023, the Tay waterway experienced extremely low water levels in most sectors, the most significant of which were at Perth and Christie Lake. Tay River flow through Perth remained almost continuously below the historic average from June – and, by late fall, had dropped to 20% of normal flow. In the same period, water level for Christie Lake was consistently at or close to the lake's historic minimum average level. Bobs Lake water levels fell below normal for two months in the summer and again in late Fall. During this time, our association's eight 'Tay Watcher' volunteers were again active, measuring water levels as needed and reporting on waterway



conditions at our ten monitoring sites between Bobs Lake and Port Elmsley. This year, the *Tay Net Program* was pleased to welcome a new volunteer and site, located in Glen Tay, adding monitoring capacity close to Perth. The list of our Tay Watchers and their sites may be seen at <https://www.taywatershed.ca/documents/streamflow.php>

We take this opportunity to thank the Tay paddlers picking up trash while out enjoying 'a day on the Tay', including one of the most ardent, Perth Councillor Gary Waterfield. In 2024, the association will be presenting an organised River Clean-up Day, mentioned in this newsletter.

## The 2024 Tay Cleanup Event

Contributed by Adrienne MacKay

In conjunction with National CleanUp Day on Saturday, September 21, 2024, Friends of the Tay Watershed will be hosting a Tay Cleanup event between 9 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. We will be picking up trash along the river bottom and shoreline from Glen Tay through to the rapids in Perth and along the canal to Last Duel Park. Note: A Cleanup paddle for the lower Tay Canal will be organized on another day.



launch sites along the river. If you do not have your own watercraft or equipment, we can find some for you. You can collect as much or as little trash as you like and we will have members stationed at various points along the river to help you.

If you or your group would like to participate in another area of the watershed, we will be sure to offer you whatever support we can.

We invite you, your family, your local community group or business to join us for a bit of cleanup teamwork and a whole lot of fun on the water, followed by a free celebratory picnic lunch in Last Duel Park.

Bring your canoes, paddleboards, kayaks or any other watercraft that can navigate the river in low water level conditions and join us at designated

If it happens to be cold and rainy on the 21<sup>st</sup>, we will delay the event until Saturday, September 28.

Watch our Friends of the Tay Watershed website at <https://taywatershed.ca/>, our Meta (Facebook) page and other local media for more information and registration details. Come see us at our display on Trashure Day and on Watershed Discovery Day, August 17 at Perth Farmers Market.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

<b>President</b>	Glenn Tunnock	<b>Executive Committee</b>	
<b>Past President</b>	David Taylor	<b>Treasurer</b>	Marion Letts
<b>Secretary</b>	Judy Buehler	Member	Carol Dillon
		Member	Richard Schooley

### Directors

Taro Alps	Upper Tay Watershed;	Adrienne McKay	Perth
Annie Dalton	Perth	Colin Stephenson	Glen Tay/Webmaster
David Kroetsch	Perth	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
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,	Hourglass	Perth
	Arnprior, Renfrew	Maximilian Dining Lounge,	Perth
Stor - N - Lock,	Perth	Perth Farmers' Market	
Little Stream Bakery of Glen Tay		Lake 88.1,	Perth

## Get Involved with the 'Friends'

You are cordially invited to join us in our many activities!

- Check out our website at [www.taywatershed.ca](http://www.taywatershed.ca) to keep up with all the news
- Take out, or renew, your membership or make a donation to one of the projects
- Join us staffing a festival booth, or pursue a watershed study or project

- Provide photos for the website or share with our Facebook, especially water-related subjects. Please include a caption and location, and send your contribution to [friends@taywatershed.ca](mailto:friends@taywatershed.ca) Photos will be attributed.

**Looking forward to meeting you our next event**

For ongoing information on our activities and the watershed, remember to check our website at <http://taywatershed.ca>