



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

Goodbye 2024, Hello 2025

The beginning of a New Year is a good time to look back over the last year's activities and to look forward to the plans for the coming year.

The Passing of Glenn Tunnock



In September, our association and the wider regional environmental and planning community lost a major supporter with the sudden passing of Glenn Tunnock. In the five years in which Glenn was President of this association, he brought a previously unavailable level of professional planning experience to the association programs that added considerably to our ability to address water and watershed-related issues. He will be greatly missed by our association, as well as the wider area environmental community, for his immensely valuable contribution. A program to recognize this is presently under consideration.

Your support for FOTW through a membership is good for the calendar year January to December 31

One of the benefits of membership is the chance to win a gift certificate to Maximilian Restaurant!

You can become a supporter by joining FofTW or renewing your membership, and/or making a donation at <https://taywatershed.ca/association.php>

NEW! You can also now renew your membership by e-transfer to 'Friends of the Tay Watershed' at transfer@taywatershed.ca

Maximilian Gift Certificate Presented to David Poole of Perth

Maximilian Restaurant co-owner Kevin Van Dusen (left) presents a \$50 gift certificate to David Poole (centre), winner of the recent draw for Friends of the Tay Watershed membership recipients, assisted by Taro Alps, Membership Chair. (right)

Renewals for 2025 memberships are now due, and will be eligible for another \$50 gift certificate to be drawn at the association AGM on March 27th, at Perth Legion. The annual membership fee is just \$20 single; \$40 family and includes many interesting online and in-person events throughout the year.



2024 in Review

Water Guardian Bursaries Awarded



Friends of the Tay Watershed Board members Carol Dillon, left, and Judy Buehler, right, and President, Glenn Tunnock, centre, recently awarded a much deserved \$1,000 Water Guardian Bursary to both Orria Nielsen, second from left and Clara Misener, second from right, of Perth and District Collegiate Institute.

The Friends of the Tay Watershed congratulate Clara and Orria and wish them much success in their studies, future careers, and continued interest in the environment.

Clara is planning on studying Bioengineering and Life/Biomedical Sciences at McGill. While attending PDCI, Clara was a member of the Youth Climate Circle, Climate Network Lanark Youth Climate Action Group as well as the David Suzuki Foundation's Butterfly Way Project.

Orria is attending Trent University to study Archeology. She was also a volunteer with the Youth Climate Circle, Butterfly Way Project, Guatemala Stove Project, local music festivals and summer camps.

Every year, since 2011, the Friends of the Tay Watershed have extended an invitation to students at local high schools, and, recently, university students who attended a local high school, to submit applications for this Bursary. Candidates wishing to apply should watch for notices from the Association's web site, taywatershed.ca or next Spring in local papers and high schools for application requirements.

Environmental Awards

We would like your input for our 2025 Environmental Awards. If you know of a person or organization that has done exceptional work to improve the health of the environment or our watershed, please nominate them. The categories for nomination are shown below.

A list of the previous winners can be found on our website:

Control Click on: <https://www.taywatershed.ca/documents/Past-Winners-2021.pdf>

A couple of paragraphs outlining the accomplishments of the nominee and any supporting documentation that you choose to include is all that's required. **The winners will be announced at our Annual General Meeting on Thursday, March 27, 2025.**

Deadline for submissions: Thursday, Feb. 27

Send nominations to: Larry Sparks, Nominations Committee, **Control Click on:** sparkslarry53@gmail.com

Categories:

1. Contribution to the Tay Watershed (contribution to water resources specific to the watershed)
2. Contribution to the General Environment (a local person or organization whose activities are aimed at the environment but impact on our water resources)

Tay River Walk

This was a new initiative for the Friends and it proved to be such a success that plans are to do it every other year.

Under the leadership and hard work of Adrienne McKay, Annie Dalton, Board members and friends, there was a steady stream of people doing the walk, talking to our experts and learning a great deal about the Tay and its intimate connection to our town.

The success of this project was shown by the high level of engagement of the participants with the presenters. People left with a wealth of new knowledge. The feedback was 100% complimentary and reflected the obvious participant enthusiasm. This fulfilled our objective of raising public interest in, and the profile of, our watershed.



Photo: Donna Walsh

Meaghan McDonald of RVCA explains their Shoreline Naturalization Program to some of the visitors to her table.

Our thanks goes to the 6 presenters and their set up of display stations along the route

Wetlands Diversity – Shaun Thompson
 Watershed Conservation – Glenn Tunnock & Brady McGlade
 Tales of the Tay – Susan Code McDougall
 Industry on the Tay – Colin Stephenson
 Water Quality & Benthic Invertebrates – Haley Matschke & Amanda Lange
 Shoreline Naturalization – Meaghan McDonald

All of the stations attracted a good number of visitors, from observations, comments and photos. In general, traffic was continuous and 2 hours was enough time to visit all 6 stations

Thanks also to:

Photographer/Videographer: Donna Walsh & David Zimmerly
 Welcome table helpers: Judy Buehler, David Taylor, Adrienne McKay, Taro Alps, and Richard Schooley
 Assistance between stations: Linda Cuthbertson
 Setup & teardown: Fred Burns
 Interviews: Glenn Tunnock,
 All of the presenters (noted above)

Your help and dedication might be unpaid, but are greatly appreciated!

T-Shirts and pins were given to special guest presenters.

Several months of planning produced great results. The most important outcome of the Walk was the high level of engagement of the participants with the presenters and their keen interest in the information presented. People left with a wealth of new knowledge. The feedback was 100% complimentary and reflected the obvious enthusiasm of the walkers.

***Tay Net Program* for 2024 - Monitoring of the Tay Waterway**

This year, the *Tay Net Program* was pleased to welcome two new volunteers, adding monitoring capacity at sensitive sites, on the river in Glen Tay and immediately upstream from the Town. 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 2025, the association will be presenting an organised River Clean-up Day, mentioned in this newsletter. The list of our Tay Watchers and their sites as well as a detailed description of flows and water levels along the Tay waterway during 2024, may be seen at <https://www.taywatershed.ca/documents/streamflow.php>

Watershed Discovery Day, Saturday, August 17, 2024

Our annual *Watershed Discovery Day* was delivered again at Perth’s Crystal Palace, in cooperation with the Farmers’ Market and displays by eight expert organisations with programs to assist the public on personal water-related questions and area issues. Represented were Watersheds Canada, Ottawa Riverkeeper, Our Turtles, Climate Network Lanark, FOCA, Plenty Canada, Rideau Valley Conservation Authori-

ty, and our association, with background music by local musicians Steve Hanna and Christa Matthews. Perth Union Library provided the always popular ‘Story Hour’ for the children. An expanded program is planned for the 2025 event, featuring activities and displays by, and for, children and area youth – and the popular Paddling Puppeteer.

Rideau Canal Stakeholder Advisory Committee

The 2022 Management Plan for the Rideau Canal committed Parks Canada to establishment of a community consultation group “to more effectively engage and collaborate with partners, stakeholders, organizations and associations with shared interests along the Rideau Canal”.

The first committee meeting, held December 12 at the Ontario Waterways Rideau Canal Office in Smiths Falls, was chaired by the Director of Ontario Waterways, David Britton, assisted by Mark Brus, Manager of Operations. The Committee includes Friends of the Tay and eight other regional association, business and County representatives.

This first meeting introduced the committee’s objectives, TORs and canal management structure, and touched on the capital and maintenance plans and the Canal 200th Anniversary (in 2032).



Locking up at Upper Beveridge

Note: The Tay Canal’s 200th Anniversary is in 2034.)

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.



Looking Forward to 2025

This new year of 2025 will find us focused on 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 expanding into new activities of interest to the community ...

Planned Activities

Annual General Meeting for 2024 (Legion)	Thursday, March 27, 2025
Trashure Day, Perth (awaiting town decision)	Saturday, April 20 last year
Stewart Park Festival Display	July 18-20, 2025
Watershed Discovery Day 2025 (Perth Market)	Saturday, August 16, 2025?
Tay Clean-Up Event (Selected Tay River Sites)	Saturday, September 20, 2025

Awards Programs

Water Guardian Bursary, Environmental Awards

Activities Being Developed

Water Testing Program – PDCI Students (Tunnock Memorial Project)
 Original Tay Canal – protection of five legacy lock sites
 Update to Tay Valley Township Shoreline Model Site

In 2025, our association will continue to provide input to the discussion of development in Perth, where there is potential for impact on our water resources, and, at the provincial level, on protection of Natural Resource Systems, including our wetlands.

Upcoming changes to the Board

It was with regret that we accepted the resignation of Marion Letts as Treasurer to the Board for family reasons. We thank her for the experience and professional expertise with which she has managed our financial resources, and for her tireless contribution to the delivery of our programs over the last 8 years.

We will be pleased to welcome Jennifer Dickson, Cheryl Nash, Kara Symbolic and Larry Sparks as new Members of the Friends of the Tay Watershed Board at our upcoming Annual General Meeting.

Jennifer Dickson has a lengthy and distinguished career including being a municipal Councillor for Tay Valley Township and Executive Director of the Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada, and Founder and President of Leslie Enterprises, providing management consulting services.

Cheryl Nash has worked and volunteered in the environmental field for the past 4 decades. Her areas of expertise include energy conservation, waste reduction and recycling, climate change and local

impacts, sustainable agriculture and food sovereignty. She's the recipient of the 2014 Lanark County Award of Excellence for Business, Agriculture, Industry, Tourism. Thank you, Cheryl, for assuming our Treasurer position!

Kara Symbolic recently moved to the shores of the Tay River near Glen Tay after living in the Brooke Valley for several years. Her early work with Ontario Public Interest Research Groups, the Ontario Environment Network and the Ontario Healthy Communities Coalition helped her build skills in advocacy, community organizing, and citizen engagement. She's happiest when outdoors in nature in all weather, canoeing, hiking, biking, and skiing.

Larry Sparks is resident in Glen Tay. He is retired from OMYA Canada in Glen Tay, where he was HR Manager for 20 years. He has served as a Councillor in Tay Valley Township and is presently on the TVT Committee of Adjustment and Chair of Lanark County's Community Futures Development Corporation.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Subject to confirmation by membership at AGM for 2024

Executive Committee

President, Interim	David Taylor, Glen Tay	Executive Member	Carol Dillon, Glen Tay
Past President	David Taylor, Glen Tay	Executive Member	Richard Schooley, Tay Valley
Secretary	Judy Buehler, Perth	Webmaster	Colin Stephenson, Glen Tay
Treasurer	Cheryl Nash, Tay Valley Twp		

Directors

Taro Alps	GB&CL Assn	Adrienne MacKay	Glen Tay, Tay River
Annie Dalton	Perth	Larry Sparks	Glen Tay
Jennifer Dickson	Perth & Tay River	Donna Walsh	Christie Lake Association
	Kara Symbolic	Glen Tay, Tay River	

ADVISORY PANEL

Susan Brandum	Port Elmsley, Past Board Member
David Crowley	Perth, Past Board Member
Joel Anthony Forget,	External relations Manager, Ontario Waterways, Smiths Falls
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	Tay Valley, 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
	Foodsmiths	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 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 Photos will be attributed.

Looking forward to meeting you at our next event

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