

Internal Waves

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The Friends of the Tay Watershed Association

Grant for Stormwater Treatment Improvements

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

The high levels of e-coli contamination entering the Tay from the storm sewer outfalls during and after rainfall has been well established. Water samples taken by ourselves and others over the past few years have tested well above levels considered safe for swimming, especially within 24 hours of a significant rainfall.

As a follow on to these observations, an agreement was recently signed with the Town of Perth. This summer, the Friends of the Tay Watershed, with oversight by town staff, will take water samples for analysis from five storm water outlets on Wilson Street as they empty into the storm sewer pipeline during rain events. This program is focused on determining where contaminants are coming from that enter the Wilson Street West storm sewer system and are conveyed to the storm water outfall at the Tay River

at Herriott and Wilson Streets. Our Water Quality Person, Peggy Land, reports that collection bottles, equipment, and people are all lined up to begin this work as soon as appropriate rain conditions occur.

The Friends are further encouraged in this work by the announcement on 9 July that the Town of Perth has been successful at obtaining a \$1.54 million grant for an infrastructure rehabilitation opportunity *to improve the natural environment by means of treating storm sewer discharges to the Tay River*, rerouting of sump pumps from the sanitary sewer systems, and *reducing impacts to the Tay River from residential, commercial, and agricultural sources*. The municipality will be equal partners with the federal and provincial governments with each group providing \$772,000 towards these projects.

Water Guardian Scholarship Award

The Friends of the Tay Watershed Association, in partnership with the Little Stream Bakery of Glen Tay, announced this week that the \$1000 Water Guardian Scholarship was awarded to Mr. Brady McGlade, a graduate student of St John Catholic High School in Perth.

Brady intends to use the scholarship to continue post-secondary study at the University of Waterloo, School of Planning. Brady notes that today cities and towns are growing very quickly. Being able to utilize land in a strategic manner while looking after watersheds and waterways has become very important. Following his further studies, Brady hopes to return to home and contribute to planning for a sustainable future for our community.

The Water Guardian Scholarship was initiated in 2011. In the last two years, with the generous support of the Little Stream Bakery of Glen Tay, the decision was taken to award a single scholarship of \$1000.00. The annual scholarship is open to graduates of a high school in the Tay Watershed who intend to follow a full-time, post-

secondary (college or university) diploma or degree program in Environmental Sciences or a related discipline.



Graham Beck (left) of Little Stream Bakery, Glen Tay and Frank Roy (right) of The Friends of the Tay Watershed Association join in the presentation of the 2015 Watershed Guardian Scholarship to Brady McGlade, a graduate of St John Catholic High School in Perth

Photo—David Zimmerly

Ask an Expert at WDD

Planning is moving forward for our Annual Watershed Discovery Day, taking place at the Perth Farmers' Market on Saturday, August 15. The main focus for the Day will be "Ask an Expert". The day will be a sort of "one stop shop" where public interest and questions about the watershed can be expertly addressed over a wide range of topics.

A highlight will be an Anniversary Cake and ceremony at 11 o'clock! The several Lake Associations that have taken up Lake Management Planning since the Ontario Trillium Fund grant of 10 years ago will be invited to set up displays and talk to the public about their experience with lake planning.

Several popular attractions for the children are also planned. The Paddling Puppeteer will be there with his river stories and songs. The



Want to know about all those bugs??

Perth Library will have a story time and there will be an ol' fishin' hole.

Remember !! WDD, 15 August!!

Watershed
Discovery
Day
15 August
at the Perth
Farmers'
Market
8 am to 1 pm

TD FEF
helps fund
WDD

Join the fun at
the Stewart
Park Music
Festival.

Put in an hour
or two at our
booth.

TD Bank Supports WDD



TD Friends of the Environment Foundation (TD FEF), one of Canada's longest-serving environmental charities, has funding available for environment and wildlife projects

We are happy to report that our Watershed Discovery Day project has received support

funding from TD FEF to the tune of \$520.00. The major portion of the grant will pay for the instructive, effective and popular 'Paddling Puppeteer', who uses music and puppets to deliver the environmental message. Remaining grant funds will be used to purchase environmental handout materials, including a Watershed Day poster.

Come Join in at the Stewart Park Music Festival



Once again this year, the friends have taken a booth at the Stewart Park Festival. The weekend of July 17 to 19 gives us a great opportunity to meet our public, share our message and enjoy some great music. We are always looking for volunteers to staff our booth, so come spend some time at the festival. Call Judy Buehler at 613 264 8856 and book some time, one hour or as long as you like.

Tay Bench All Arranged

Our Tay River bench, funded by our Quilt Lottery Project, has been bought and paid for. The site chosen for installation is at the upstream end of Haggart Island by the Rainbow Bridge. Installation will follow completion of the "Rocky Rapids" replacements of the Haggart Island Dams. It will carry a simulated bronze plaque with the following inscription:

Bench donated by
Friends of the Tay Watershed and Lanark County Quilters Guild
to mark the 200th Anniversary in 2016 of the
PERTH MILITARY SETTLEMENT

KidFish -- A Busy Day

Story and photos by Carol Dillon

Saturday morning on the 20th of June, there was a hive of activity at the Perth Basin. The annual KidFish event draws many youngsters and families to the shores of the Tay River behind the Legion, the Crystal Palace and the Basin.



That looks like a Sun fish to me.

This event is an occasion for youngsters to fish, or learn to fish with lots of experienced volunteers to help with worms, casting techniques and caught lines. All fish are released after weighing and measuring. This is a wonderful opportunity for young people to connect with the environment, and to learn a life long, low-impact activity.

For the second year, the Friends of the Tay participated in this event by having an information booth set up alongside the river with information about the Tay watershed and the importance of protecting its natural habitats. Over 200 fishy colouring books donated by

Fisheries and Oceans Canada were distributed to participants. The books contained coloured drawings of local fish specimens and these were especially helpful for youngsters to identify the fish they caught. The Friends also provided a colouring table for younger participants that kept many youngsters occupied while older siblings continued to fish.

KidFish is an annual event organized by Dan and Karen Sisty and is held on the Saturday before Father's Day every year in June. The event is free, provides a kid's



Here's where our farm is in the watershed

lunch and prizes and is an opportunity for the Friends of the Tay to share information about the watershed and to promote its continued well being.

Welcome Improvements from Parks Canada

On June 1, 2015, Minister Aglukkaq announced new infrastructure investments totalling \$39.4 million in the Rideau Canal National Historic Site. Of this, \$3.1M is directed to the reconstruction of Bobs Lake Dam. Mike McLay, P.Eng., the Parks Canada Engineer, has given the Friends a full update on the project in a letter of 10 July. See our website tayriver.org for the full report.

The new dam will be constructed upstream of the existing structure between shore line property owned by Parks Canada. It will not be feasible to rehabilitate the existing dam due to its current state and challenging geotechnical conditions.

Meanwhile, at the downstream end of our watershed, Parks Canada has installed some oTENTik campsites at Lower Beveridge Lock. These units offer a unique blend of



homey comfort and a taste of outdoor adventure. A cross between a tent and a rustic cabin, this type of accommodation is the perfect way for families, friends and couples of all ages to discover the joys of camping without all the muss and fuss.

Lots going on in town!

Parks Canada invests in the watershed

Coming Events

July 17-19

Stewart Park Festival

July 26

Greater Bobs & Crow Lakes AGM, Bedford Hall

July 28

FoTW Board Meeting, 3rd Quarter

August 15

Watershed Discovery Day, Perth Farmers' Market

October 24

Lake Links, Perth, Civitan Hall

Since our last newsletter, we have:

- **awarded the Water Guardian scholarship** to Brady McGlade of St. John Catholic High School, Perth
- **continued our discussions** with the town about both the storm sewer discharge and dams.
- **given Financial support** to the Perth Regional Heritage Fair
- **finalized arrangements for a commemorative bench** on Haggart Island where the river forks
- **renewed memberships** in the Ontario Environmental Network and the Council of Canadians
- **participated in KidFish** (thanks to Carol Dillon and family)
- **attended several lake association AGMs**
- **continued support of the Aquatic Plants Program at RVCA**
- **welcomed new Board member and Treasurer, Sarah Anderson**

Join the Fun

Members are always invited to volunteer some of their time helping at our booth at a festival, help at WDD or get involved with a favourite research study or project such as storm water sampling or rain garden design.

We also invite photos for our website. They don't have to be professional, but of water related subjects, low water, high water, problems, beautiful water scenery, people enjoying water, water animals, fish, flora, water structures such as bridges, dams, locks and docks. Include a caption and location if possible and send your contribution to friends@tayriver.org. All photos will be attributed.

FRIENDS of the TAY WATERSHED Association

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Little Stream Bakery of Glen Tay
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Be sure to check our website www.tayriver.org for the most recent news