

The Friends of the Tay Watershed Association

ANNUAL REPORT 2015

Photo by: David Zimmerly



Here is 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.



Presenting Algae and Healthy Lakes Project at Watershed Discovery Day



Meeting the 4th Perth Scouts

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.



Collaborative receives an OTF Grant

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)



President David Taylor chairs a meeting

Maintenance and Expansion of Association Capacity

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

Monitor and Comment

To be aware of reviews, reports and proposed changes at the provincial level that may impact on the Tay Watershed.



The Friends of the Tay Watershed Association

President's Message

Looking back at our 2015 environment, the words of Bob Dylan's 1960's song come to mind - 'The times they are a' changing'. We only had to glance out the window over the past year to know that there is something underway in the weather, with an impact on the environment. More widely, there are indications of growing awareness on the part of the public and some governments of the consequences of our society's activities. This has resulted, in the best of examples regionally and across North America, in urgent action to repair broken 'systems' - be they in policies or in infrastructure, including septic, storm water and water services. Coincidentally, unfortunately, government resources are insufficient to meet the required need, leaving a gap in the capacity and, sometimes, even the will to place a priority on them. Our Association's programs in 2015, and continuing into 2016, aim to help address these changes, opportunities and gaps, at least at the watershed level.

Elsewhere, this Annual Report reviews the industrious program delivered by your association in 2015. These results could not be achieved without the dedicated work of our Executive committee, Board of Directors and Advisory Panel - aided by the valued support of our Sustaining Members.

Those who know the 'Friends of the Tay' are aware of the depth of commitment to protecting the watershed's resources and general environment. Our objective is to maintain them in pristine condition within a continuing well-managed framework, for future generations. On behalf of the Board, thank you to the community for all of the support provided toward achieving this.

Organizations and folks we've partnered with during 2015 Having fun and working toward a healthier watershed

Christy Lake Association	Otty Lake Association
Drummond/North Elmsley Township	Parks Canada
Eagle Lake Property Owners Association	Perth & District Union Library
Farren Lake Association	Perth Farmers' Market
4 th Perth Scout Group	Pike Lake Association
Greater Bobs & Crow Lakes Association	Perth Regional Heritage Fair
KidFish Event	Queens University, Water Research Centre
Lake Links	Rideau Valley Conservation Authority
Lanark County Quilters Guild	Stor-N-Lock
Little Stream Bakery	Tay Valley Township
Maximilian's Restaurant	TD Friends of the Environment Founda- tion
Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority	The Factory
Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources & Forestry	Town of Perth
OMYA Canada	Watersheds Canada
Ontario Environmental Network	Royal Bank Blue Water Day
Ontario Federation of Anglers & Hunters	University of Ottawa
Ontario Trillium Foundation	Ottawa Riverkeeper

We All Live Downstream

Executive Committee

David Taylor
President
Frank Roy
Vice President
Carol Dillon
Secretary
Sarah Anderson
Treasurer

Board of Directors

Taro Alps
Judy Buehler
Robert Cosh
Annie Dalton
Ashley Edwards
Jim Gra

Advisory Panel

Susan Brandum
Matt Craig
David Crowley
Karen Hunt
Doug James
Barb King
Andrea Kymko
Dale MacEachern
Richard Schooley
Colin Stephenson

Sustaining Members

Little Stream
Bakery
Stor-N-Lock
The Factory
Maximilian's
Restaurant
TD Friends of the
Environment
Foundation.

2015 — The Year in Review

Education and Outreach



Learning about the Tay at KidFish



We present the watershed annually at the Stewart Park Festival



Partners, including Watersheds Canada, joined us at Watershed Discovery Day

The Friends of the Tay Watershed had a very busy time with Education and Outreach this past year. Our members set up information booths or tables or otherwise reached out to the community almost every month of the year at these events.

Heritage Day (donated prize money)
June - Royal Bank's Blue Water Day
June - KidFish

Antiques Fair (selling quilt lottery tickets)
July - Stewart Park Music Festival
August - Watershed Discovery Day

October - Harvest Festival
October - Lake Links
November - Beavers and Cubs



Beavers and Cubs study the Water cycle

TD Friends of the Environment Foundation (TD FEF) provided support to WDD in 2015.



Celebrating the 10th Anniversary of Lake Planning at WDD 2015

Once again, with the contribution from our Sustaining Member, Little Stream Bakery of Glen Tay, we were able to offer a \$1000 Water Guardian Scholarship to a graduating student from our four watershed high schools. Mr. Brady McGlade, a graduate student of St. John Catholic High School in Perth was the chosen recipient. Since arriving at the University of Waterloo in the fall, Brady has changed his major from Urban Planning to Geography and Environmental Management. He decided that this will allow him to explore the physical geography, in which he is most interested. The Geography and Environmental Management program is a one-of-a-kind in Canada that focuses on hu-



Graham Beck of Little Stream Bakery, left and Frank Roy of The Friends, right, present Brady with the scholarship.

man and physical geography and the interactions between the two. "I have been extremely happy with the program thus far and hope to finish this year on the dean's list" says Brady. "I would like to thank the Friends of the Tay members and supporters and Graham Beck and the Little Stream Bakery for the support I have received in attending university. Since my studies I have realized just how important the work of the Friends of the Tay and similar organizations are. Having an organization focused on preserving and improving waterways, as well as educating the public on the benefits of maintaining and improving watersheds is vital in ensuring the health of watersheds and the habitats that rely on them."

More 2015 Activities

In 2015, our Board achieved 99% of the planned watershed activities - no small feat given the number. The only program activities not delivered were an initiative to gain acceptance for OMYA's water intake data in the official Canadian Water

Survey, and a second to review the need for expanded watershed groundwater information; both are carried forward to 2016.

Watershed Care and Protection Programs:

- **People, Green Algae and Healthy Lakes**

Work continued in collaboration with the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority, Carleton University and other partners on our 24 month program to conduct and share research on the causes of algae growth in the Rideau River System. While this program will formally end with submission of final reports in



July this year, the results will influence best management practices in the years ahead. This program is supported by a grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation

- **Storm Water Testing 2015**

This summer's testing by the Friends of the Tay Watershed in collaboration with the Town of Perth focused on the Wilson Street storm water corridor. We chose this corridor because its outlet discharges into the Tay at Stewart Park have been shown to have high *E. coli* levels after rain in previous years. The analysis of test samples showed very high *E. coli* levels at some points, which indicates a need for a more detailed study to determine the sources, and, also, an examination of the other storm water lines. A report on the test results was completed in February this year and will be tabled before Perth Council for further action.



The Future View from the Bench

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 landscaping by the new "Rocky Rapids". 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

- **Monitoring and Commenting** on events, local, provincial and federal that may impact on the Tay Watershed Discussion papers are posted on the Environmental Bill of Rights website and comments from interested parties are invited. In 2015, two submissions were made on behalf of the Friends of the Tay:

- Response to the Conservation Authorities Act Discussion Paper, (EBR Ref # 012-4509)
- Response to Wetland Conservation in Ontario Discussion Paper.

In addition Association commented on the Tay River Dams recommendation presented to Perth Committee of the Whole on 9 December, 2014. Please refer to: http://tayriver.org/documents/Little_Tay_Flows.pdf

- **Maintenance and Expansion of Association Capacity**

Maintaining our association's capacity to deliver is essential, and efforts continued on several fronts in 2015. Draws for three \$50. Gift Certificates, donated by **Maximilian Restaurant**, provided a needed boost to our summer and fall membership campaign. The board held four formal meetings last year in addition to Executive and Special Meetings



And Here is our Proposed Program of Activities for 2016

Provision of Community Outreach and Education Activities:

- * *Stewart Park Music Festival* booth (July 15-17)
- * *Watershed Discovery Day (WDD)* (August 6, Perth Farmers' Market)
- * Award of *Water Guardian Scholarship* to a local student
- * Financial & volunteer support to *Perth & District Heritage Fair*
- * Participate in *RBC Blue Water Day*
- * Participate in Perth *Kid Fish Day*



KidFish Day at the Basin

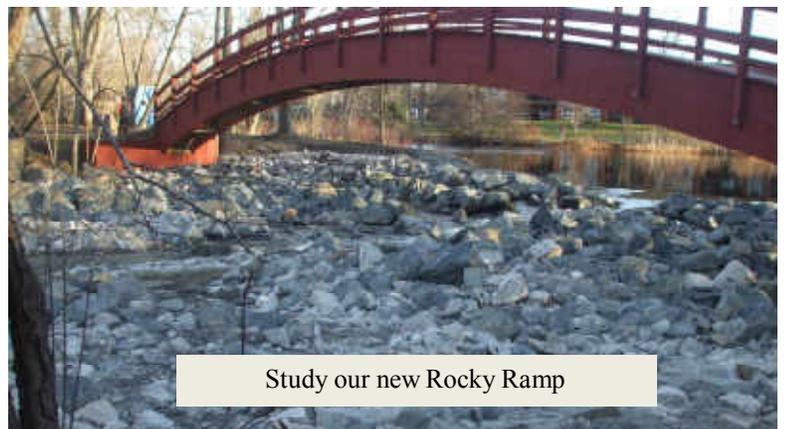


Canoeing is fine!

- * Install the public '*Viewpoint Anniversary Bench*' (on Haggart Island, Perth)
- * Promote public access to and use of the Tay River and Tay Canal
- * Expand website reach for delivering association information
- * Maintain the newsletter series
- * Continue the Association's *Annual Environmental Awards* Program
- * Deliver a '*Paddle on the Tay*' day for the 200th Anniversary Year
- * Provide water and watershed presentations for youth organisations (eg. Scouts)

Delivery of Watershed Care and Protection Programs:

- * Finalize *People, Aquatic Plants, and Healthy Lakes Study*, and pursue opportunity for extending the program
- * Deliver report to Perth Council on '*Wilson Street Storm Water Testing Program*' (and cooperate with the Town in developing a program to address issues uncovered by it)
- * Monitor lagoon enhancement project for Perth
- * Continue participation in *Source Water Protection Committee*
- * Participate in *Lake Links 2015* (October 22)
- * Monitor *Bobs Lake/Bolingbroke Dam* re-construction
- * Cooperate in assessing results of '*Rocky Ramp Project*' on Little Tay, in Perth
- * Continue participation in *RVCA Rural Clean Water Program*
- * Review status of groundwater information base and research in Tay watershed



Study our new Rocky Ramp



Upper Beveridge Lock

Cooperation with Partner Organisations:

- * Support **200th Anniversary Celebration** events in 2016 (add history theme to WDD, and an anniversary '*Paddle on the Tay*')
- * Support complementary activities of watershed lake associations, environmental organisations, businesses, and government departments and agencies
- * Participate in **Lake Links, Lake Networking Group**, and related watershed events and programs
- * Participate in selected lake association *annual general meetings*
- * Monitor and support **Parks Canada** programs to protect the managed Tay River system, Tay Canal and *Rideau Corridor*
- * Invite partner participation in association activities, such as **Watershed Discovery Day**
- * Maintain cooperation with the **Ottawa Riverkeeper**
- * Recognise our present corporate community partnerships, with **Little Stream Bakery, Stor-N-Lock, The Factory, TD Friends of the Environment Foundation**, and **Maximilians Restaurant**; expand partnerships where appropriate.

Addressing Climate Change:

- * Maintain the association policy of taking climate change into account in our programs
- * Identify climate change impact on the watershed, and take steps where practical to mitigate, adapt to, effects
- * Continue support for L-CAN in cooperating with Lanark County climate change mitigation action.

Maintenance and Expansion of Association Capacity:

- * Update Association branding and related promotion materials
- * Review and update the Association website format and content
- * Continue building the Association's membership list
- * Expand involvement of Advisory Panel in Association activities and decisions
- * Maintain contact with designated partner organisations
- * Encourage funding partner for *Watershed Discovery Day*
- * Research candidates for Board positions, with a focus on selected roles (Treasurer)
- * Seek opportunities to recognise individuals and organisations providing special assistance to the Association
- * Investigate a more sustainable archives
- * Maintain minimum of four Board meetings annually.



Innuksuk by the Tay

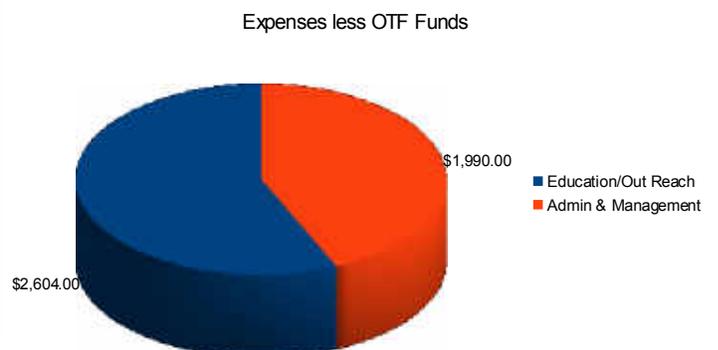
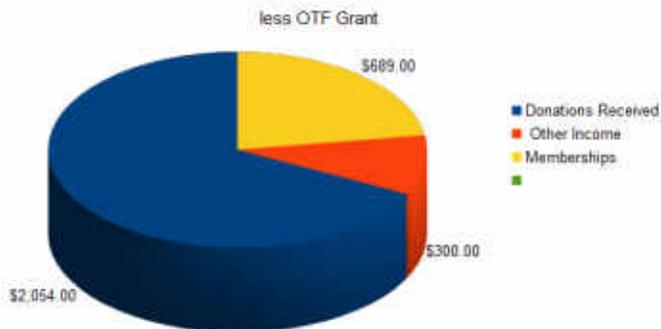
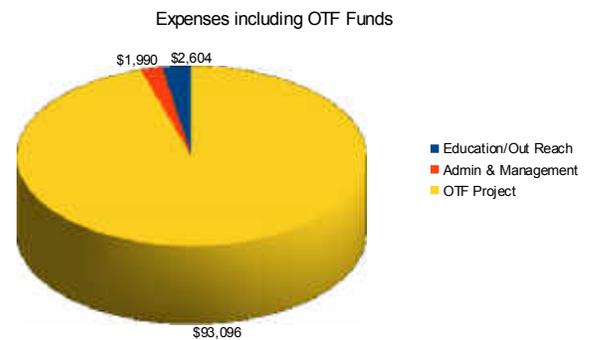
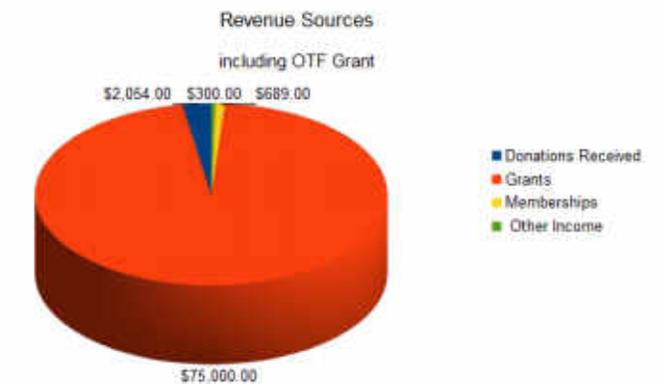
Financial Summary *

Year Ending December 31, 2015

ASSETS	2014	2015
Bank Acct	\$4,631.57	\$3,242.12
GIC	8,037.44	8,048.53
Petty Cash	29.30	13.65
Quilt Lottery	1,664.00	0.00
OTF Funds	37,200.00	19,103.50
Fixed Assets	370.87	259.60
TOTAL ASSETS	\$51,933.18	\$30,667.40

REVENUES	2014	2015
Donations	\$3,131.90	\$2,053.70
Membership	300.00	689.02
Other Income	2,169.25	300.00
Grants	75,476.60	75,000.00
TOTAL	\$81,077.75	\$78,042.72

EXPENSES	2014	2015
Education/Outreach	\$2451.45	\$2604.05
OTF Project	37,728.29	93,096.50
Admin & Management	1,785.79	1,990.25
TOTAL	\$39,112.22	\$97,690.80



• not yet audited