Paddling the rapid at Glen Tay

About the Tay River

Beginning above Crow Lake and Bobs Lake – the Tay River flows 95 km through Christie Lake to the Town of Perth and into the Lower Rideau Lake.

There are numerous shallow rapids which may require fast maneuvers in higher water or wading during low water. ***Always scout rapids before running.*** There are many bridges and some may require a lift over depending on water levels.

In early spring the water levels are usually high and the water dangerously cold. Rapids will be fast and powerful, and the lakes could have ice cover. Late spring expect to see lower water levels. In mid to late summer low water levels could require wading on the upper Tay River. Autumn is an excellent time to paddle the Tay River with beautiful fall colours.

This brochure will provide information about access points, portages and things to see. There are lots of opportunities for photography, swimming and fishing. Please respect private landowners property and don't litter.

The Friends of the Tay receive enquiries regarding the possilities for canoeing, kayaking and paddling in the Tay watershed.

Access points

Crow Lake Village
Bobs Lake public boat launch on Steele Road
Hanna Road access
Menzies Munro Side Road
Noonan Side Road swimming section
Glen Tay Beach
Mill Street (at Rocky Ramp, Perth)
Last Duel Park boat launch (Perth)
Beveridges Locks boat launch

What to Bring

- All paddlers must have a personal flotation device (PFD)
- hat and sunscreen
- watershoes or runners
- bailer or pump
- whistle
- heaving line – 15m (50ft)
- spare paddle
- map and compass
- drinking water

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Topo Maps:

- Crows Lake and Bobs Lake: 031C10
- Bolingbroke: 031C15
- Perth: 031C16

For more information:

www.taywatershed.ca/canoeing.php
www.rideau-info.com
mvfn.ca/lanarkcountypaddlingguide

We All Live Downstream...
taywatershed.ca

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Welcome to the Tay River and watershed. You will see mills, wildlife, undeveloped sections, historical communities and the Tay Canal which is part of a UNESCO World Heritage site.

This brochure is not intended to provide specific navigational direction through this waterway. The Friends of the Tay Watershed Association ('Association') does not monitor or maintain any portion of the waterway with respect to its recreational use, nor validate the safety of the waterway for watercraft use. Tay River waterway users understand and acknowledge that they do so at their own risk, and with acknowledgment that there is no responsibility nor liability for the Association, with respect to bodily injury, death and loss of personal property.

The graphics in this brochure are a compilation of materials from various municipal and Conservation resources, and not prepared by the Association.

Paddling the Tay

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Paddling the Tay – Description

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Crow Lake and Bobs Lake

Launch at Crow Lake village, heading south through the narrows to access Bobs Lake. You can also access Bobs Lake from the public boat launch on Steele Road. Bobs is a large lake with many bays and islands. It can get windy. ***There currently is no designated portage around Bolingbroke Dam*** so there isn't any way to access the Tay River directly from Bobs Lake.

Hanna Road to Perth

Begin at Hanna Road boat launch and follow the river to Christie Lake. The open lake can be windy. Below the lake, the river flows through rural country side until you arrive at the Menzies Munro Side Road.

Portage #1: Below this road the Brady rapids (at the old campground) can be portaged on the right side of the river.

Portage #2: Shortly after this is a mandatory portage around **Ritchie-Adams Mill**, on the left side. Cross the bridge and follow the road a short distance and launch at the Noonan Side Road swimming hole (avoiding very shallow rapids).

Fast water and shallow rapids continue and require some maneuvering or wading: depending on water levels.

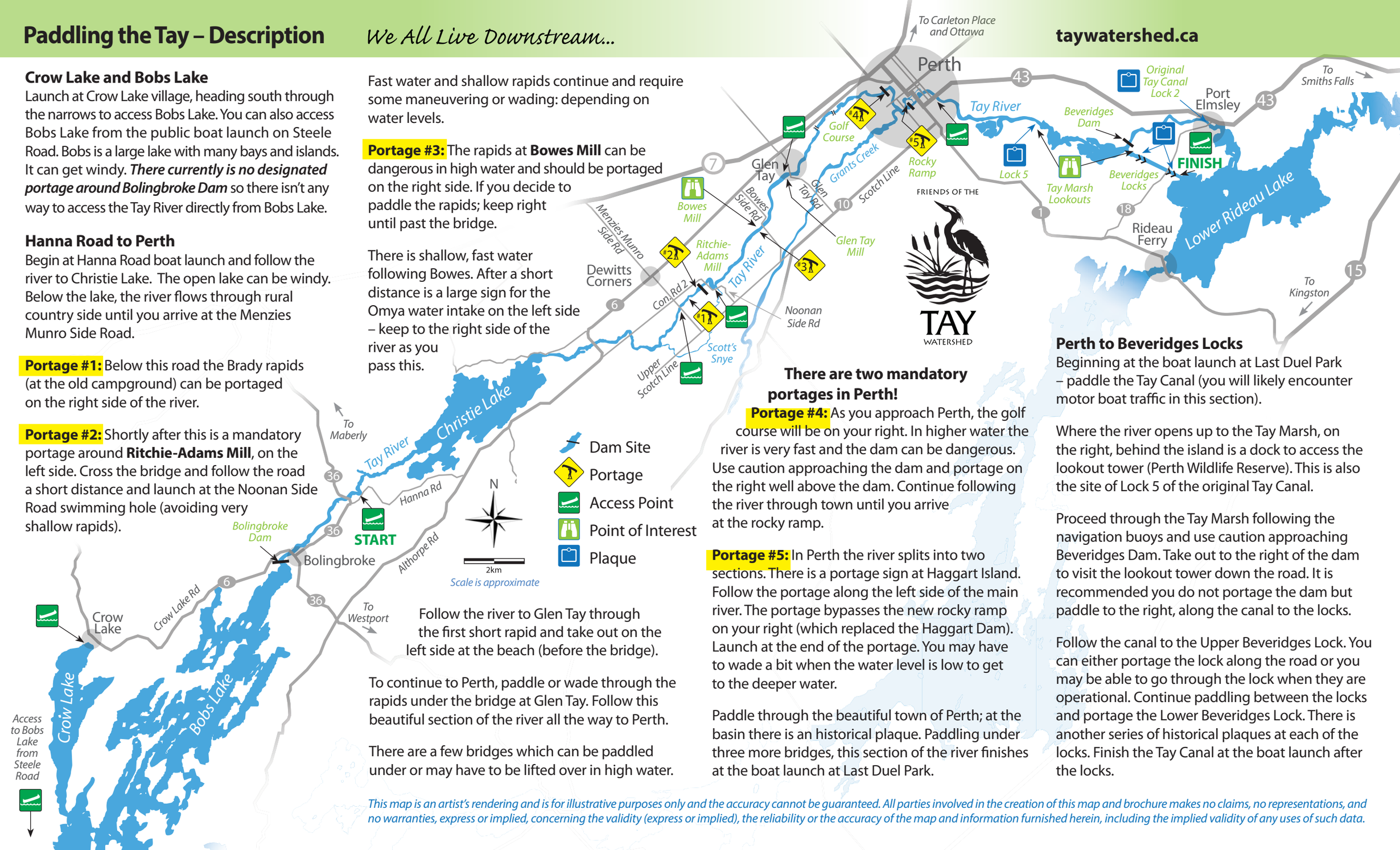
Portage #3: The rapids at **Bowes Mill** can be dangerous in high water and should be portaged on the right side. If you decide to paddle the rapids; keep right until past the bridge.

There is shallow, fast water following Bowes. After a short distance is a large sign for the Omya water intake on the left side – keep to the right side of the river as you pass this.

Follow the river to Glen Tay through the first short rapid and take out on the left side at the beach (before the bridge).

To continue to Perth, paddle or wade through the rapids under the bridge at Glen Tay. Follow this beautiful section of the river all the way to Perth.

There are a few bridges which can be paddled under or may have to be lifted over in high water.



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There are two mandatory portages in Perth!

Portage #4: As you approach Perth, the golf course will be on your right. In higher water the river is very fast and the dam can be dangerous. Use caution approaching the dam and portage on the right well above the dam. Continue following the river through town until you arrive at the rocky ramp.

Portage #5: In Perth the river splits into two sections. There is a portage sign at Haggart Island. Follow the portage along the left side of the main river. The portage bypasses the new rocky ramp on your right (which replaced the Haggart Dam). Launch at the end of the portage. You may have to wade a bit when the water level is low to get to the deeper water.

Paddle through the beautiful town of Perth; at the basin there is an historical plaque. Paddling under three more bridges, this section of the river finishes at the boat launch at Last Duel Park.

Perth to Beveridges Locks

Beginning at the boat launch at Last Duel Park – paddle the Tay Canal (you will likely encounter motor boat traffic in this section).

Where the river opens up to the Tay Marsh, on the right, behind the island is a dock to access the lookout tower (Perth Wildlife Reserve). This is also the site of Lock 5 of the original Tay Canal.

Proceed through the Tay Marsh following the navigation buoys and use caution approaching Beveridges Dam. Take out to the right of the dam to visit the lookout tower down the road. It is recommended you do not portage the dam but paddle to the right, along the canal to the locks.

Follow the canal to the Upper Beveridges Lock. You can either portage the lock along the road or you may be able to go through the lock when they are operational. Continue paddling between the locks and portage the Lower Beveridges Lock. There is another series of historical plaques at each of the locks. Finish the Tay Canal at the boat launch after the locks.

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