

Internal Waves

Volume 1, Issue 2

March 1, 2015

The Friends of the Tay Watershed Association

Annual General Meeting Scheduled

For Tuesday, March 24 at 4:00 PM

The Factory, 40 Sunset Blvd, Perth

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

Plans are well in hand for our Annual General Meeting. This is the best opportunity for members to get together to review how we spent our money in 2014 and what we accomplished. It is, as well, the time to elect a new Board of Directors and discuss plans for 2015. We also expect to have a Guest Speaker to address some matters of interest to residents in the Tay Watershed.

The meeting will be held at The Factory, 40 Sunset Blvd, Perth. Further information is available at www.tayriver.org or e-mail friends@tayriver.org.

The meeting is open to the public. Refreshments will be served so come out and bring a friend. This is the time for members to share their ideas and contribute to the Association's plans for the coming year.

Membership Renewal Time

In accordance with Bylaw 1, Article 3, the term of membership is annual. To regularize the membership lists, the Board of Directors have decided that in future the membership fee shall be due on January 1 rather than on

the anniversary date of first joining the Association.

Members are therefore encouraged to renew their membership as soon as convenient in the new year.

Lianne Merriman Wins Quilt

We are pleased to announce that the winner of the raffle for this beautiful quilt, is Leanne Merriman of Smiths Falls. The winning ticket was drawn on November 24th at Tay Valley Township Office by Councillor Susan Freeman. The quilt was presented to Leanne on December 11th, by members of the Board. Thanks again to the members of Lanark County Quilters Guild, for the gen-



Lianne happily receives the Quilt from David



While Carol & Frank hold the box Susan draws the winner

erous donation of the quilt. The proceeds from the lottery will go to placing a 'Tay View' bench in an appropriate spot along the Tay River, as one of our association's projects to mark the area's upcoming 200th Anniversary. The location of the Anniversary Bench will be announced later this winter.

2015 WDD Celebrates Lake Planning

Watershed
Discovery
Day
15 August
at the Perth
Farmers'
Market

This year is the 10th Anniversary of the Ontario Trillium Fund Grant which was awarded to the Friends of the Tay Watershed, the Otty Lake association, the RVCA and other partners to study General Lake Management Planning.

In celebration, the Friends of the Tay Watershed have decided to take Lake Management Planning as the theme for the 2015 Edition of Watershed Discovery Day. Following the great success of last year, this event will once again be held in conjunction with the Perth Farmers' Market on Saturday, August 15. The several Lake Associations that have taken up Lake Management Planning since the O.T.F. grant will be invited to set up displays and talk to the public about their Lake Association and their experience with lake planning.



Ask an Expert at WDD 2015

In addition, we are partnered with a number of other community organizations who will contribute their knowledge and expertise to making the event a sort of "one stop shop" where public interest and questions can be expertly addressed over a wide range of topics. Be sure to mark your calendar for WDD, 15 August!!

People, Aquatic Plants & Healthy Lakes

As a result of our \$149,000 Trillium Grant, the collaborative group of the Friends of the Tay, RVCA, MVCA, and Carleton University has begun to research causes of increased plant and algal growth in local waterbodies. This has become a matter of concern to people in the Rideau and Mississippi watersheds over the past few year.

Working with Dr. Jesse Vermaire at Carleton University, sediment cores have been taken on 20 lakes. Analysis of these cores will show what changes in sediment deposition have occurred over the historical time period represented by the core. This will help to determine the contribution made by climate change, zebra mussels and nutrient increases to increased aquatic plant and algal growth

Our OTF grant has benefited the community through research being conducted that will improve local knowledge on the impacts to local water bodies and provide the community with applicable tools to protect and enhance water resources. Participation by collaborative members in workshops (e.g. Lake Links) and community events (e.g. Stewart Park Festival, Watershed Discovery Day) helped raise public awareness of



Aquatic Plants — Good or Bad??

the project and promote a tool to engage citizen scientists in reporting areas of abundant plant/algal growth.

Our project will make a difference in the lake and river user community over time. By providing more knowledge of algae and aquatic plant growth to local lake and river users, the project will promote a better understanding of what an excessive growth looks like, the importance of algae and aquatic plants in an ecosystem and best management activities that they can participate in to improve the quality of their water body.

Go to
www.citizenwaterwatch.ca
to learn more about this
project or to report an al-
gae problem.

Water Quality Testing Continues

As reported in our last Newsletter, The Friends have been working for some time with the Town of Perth and the RVCA in water quality testing. The aims have been to establish a baseline of data from upstream to downstream of Perth and to determine pollution impacts and point sources.

Friends' data from 2014 testing has established that a major source of E Coli contamination is discharge from storm water outfalls during significant rainfalls. This was confirmed by the observation that within 24 hours after the rain has stopped, the E Coli counts drop back to safe background levels.

The obvious next question is 'what is the source of the e-coli and where is it entering the storm water system?' In January 2015, our association and the town decided to address this,

and a second level of testing has been agreed to, aimed at documenting the e-coli sources. The Wilson Street storm water system was selected for a trial program, which will begin this spring. Our association is charged with developing the sampling program, and carrying out the testing, and the Town's Environmental Services Department will provide the equipment and funding for the tests.

The Town plans to continue its river water quality testing, which is in the final year of the three year program.

This testing program has been organised and carried out in accordance with the Health Unit's Standards, thanks to the dedicated work of Board Member Peggy Land, and her team.

Further information may be found at www.tayriver.org.

The Friends are pleased to work with the Town of Perth

Friends Comment on Dams

Our association was pleased to be invited to present comments on the Tay River Dams recommendation presented to the Perth Council Committee of the Whole on 9 December last.

We expressed the opinion that the hydraulic design of the dam modifications should be aimed at avoiding localized flooding in Stewart Park, rather than to achieve a split ratio of 20/80 percent of flow between the Little Tay and the Tay as seems to be the design focus at present.

Our recommendation was to conduct further appropriate hydraulic model studies of the existing conditions with varying Rocky Ramp sill



Flood level in Stewart Park



The control structure at Drummond Street

heights to establish a split ratio which will result in the desired surface water level in Stewart Park for river flows equivalent to a return period of, say, 50 years.

As this will no doubt result in a much lower split ratio than 20/80, we recommended that consideration should be given to controlling for the target level during low flow periods by placing stop logs at the Drummond Street end of the Little Tay, as already provided for in the existing culvert design.

A complete copy of our recommendation has been posted on the website, www.tayriver.org.

Thanks to Sustaining Members

Thanks are extended to three local companies, Little Stream Bakery of Glen Tay, Stor-N-Lock of Perth and The Factory of Perth for their on going support to our Association.

Little Stream supports our Water Guardian Scholarship, Stor-N-Lock provides storage locker space and The Factory provides venues for meetings. These essential contributions are very much appreciated.

Coming Events

March 22

World Water Day

March 24

FoTW AGM at The Factory 4:00pm,
40 Sunset Boulevard, Perth

May 12

FoTW second quarter Board meeting

June

Royal Bank Blue Water Day

Kid Fish Day on the 20th

July 17-19

Stewart Park Festival

Water Guardian Scholarship

We are pleased to announce that posters and applications for the 2015 Water Guardian Scholarship have been sent to the four High Schools in the Tay Watershed. The \$1,000 scholarship is open to graduating students from a Tay Watershed high school who intend to follow a full-time, post-secondary (college or university) diploma or degree program in Environmental Sciences or a related discipline.

The main criterion for selection is a statement, of about 500 words, outlining the candidate's view on the importance of water and why the candidate has chosen to follow the chosen post-secondary program.

Since our last newsletter, we have also:

- attended the **Committee of the Whole** on the *Tay River Dams Recommendation* at the Perth Town Hall, December 9
- cooperated with **Greater Bobs & Crow Lakes and Christy Lake Associations** in reviewing the status of the **Bobs Lake-Bolingbroke Dam**
- drawn the winner of the **Quilt** and begun conversation with Perth to place a bench
- closed and reviewed the financial books for 2014 in preparation for the AGM
- attended a **Lake Links Meeting** to plan for the annual **Lake Links** on Saturday, October 24 (Thanks Judy Buehler)
- attended the **Annual OMYA presentation** on the Company's Permit To Take Water
- contributed to the **Progress Report** to the OTF Grant
- continued the updating of our website; visit us at www.tayriver.org.

FRIENDS of the TAY WATERSHED Association

P.O. Box 2065, 57 Foster Street

Perth, ON K7H 3M9

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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SUSTAINING MEMBERS

Little Stream Bakery of Glen Tay
Store—N—Lock, Perth
The Factory, Perth

