

Internal Waves

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October 27, 2014

The Friends of the Tay Watershed Association

Quilt Ticket Sale Deadline November 15

Christmas Draw on November 24

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

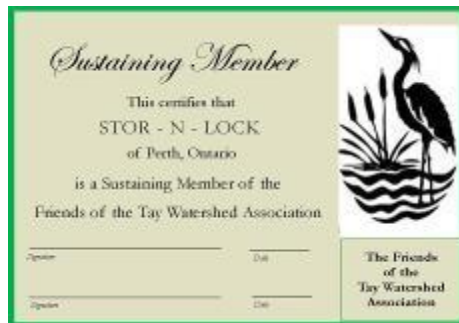
The November 15 deadline for ticket sales is fast approaching on our quilt lottery fund raising project. The winning ticket will be drawn on 24 November, in time for Christmas. The proceeds will go to placing benches at selected viewpoints in the Tay Watershed.

Your help would be

greatly appreciated in selling tickets for this beautiful quilt which was created by members of the Lanark County Quilters Guild. Tickets are \$2.00 each, or three for \$5.00, and ten for \$15.00, and may be purchased online at www.tayriver.org, or by calling 613 264 0094.



You can't win the Quilt if you don't buy a ticket !!



Sustaining Members Recognized

Sustaining membership certificates have been presented recently to two local companies, Little Stream Bakery of Glen Tay and Stor -N- Lock of Perth for their on going support to our Association. Thank you, to Graham Beck and Brian Donaldson, for this valuable assistance.

Trillium Grant Funds Algae and Aquatic Plant Study

Responses to a 2013 survey of river and lake users indicated that an increase in algae and aquatic plant growth was being observed. With our Association as the Lead Applicant, a consortium of RVCA, MVCA, Carleton University and ourselves was formed to seek funding to investigate the causes of the observed increase in plant growth, even though nutrient concentrations do not appear to be increasing. Since re-

ceiving a Trillium Grant on 1 April this year, the consortium has begun a two year project of research and communication with the community with the intention that this communication between the researchers and the community will continue well beyond that two years.

On the research front, 20 lakes, 10 in each of the Rideau and Mississippi Watersheds have been selected. Bottom core samples have

been taken and are being analyzed for historical environmental conditions. Bathymetry and water quality also are being measured.

On the community communications front, a citizen science site, has been set up, <http://www.citizenwaterwatch.ca/> As well, displays and papers have been presented at community events and workshops.

A full description of the project is found at

http://rvca.ca/programs/algae_watch/index.html

WDD - a Day of Discovery for All



Discussing RVCA's Critters

Watershed Discovery Day, held this year on August 16 at the Farmer's Market in Perth, is our annual effort to increase public awareness of our watershed and showcase the many projects underway in

the community to maintain and protect our water resources. From the attendance and the interest shown, the event was a big success, thanks to the quality of displays, and the expertise available, from

the Town of Perth, Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA), Rideau Environmental Action League, Centre for Sustainable Watersheds, Ottawa Riverkeeper, Perth & District Union Public Library, and the Friends. The children's area was again popular, with the Library's Story Hour, our Fish Pond and Wetland Display, the RVCA's Critters Table, and the Riverkeepers Sturgeon Banner. Thank you to the RVCA, Town of Perth and the Farmer's Market for your financial and in-kind support. Our partners make this discovery of our watershed the great event that it is. It will be back next year with some new attractions.



PWR dock now in place

New dock at Lock 5 is an inviting day trip for boaters



Paddlers on the Tay Canal will be happy to see that the observation site at the Perth Wildlife Reserve has been given a new life, with the installation of a dock and picnic area, thanks to Rideau Valley Conservation Authority. This interesting and beautiful site, the location of Lock Five of the original Tay Canal, is a most inviting day trip destination, by water or trail.

New link with Ottawa Riverkeeper

On August 5th, in Stewart Park, the Friends of the Tay Watershed participated in a T-shirt exchange with the Ottawa Riverkeeper, formalising the Friends' joining of the River Watch Program. This is a logical partnership for both the FoTW and the Ottawa Riverkeeper: as our association's T-shirts say – 'We all live downstream!' The River Watch Program consists of almost two dozen 'watchers' in the Rideau-Ottawa River basin. The aim of the 'watchers' is to monitor developments, natural or otherwise, that have potential for impact on the streams.



Meaghan Murphy, River Watch Coordinator, standing fourth from left, is joined by the Friends' Board of Directors and Advisory Panel. She exchanges T-shirts with President David Taylor

More information on the River Watch Program may be seen at: <http://ottawariverkeeper.ca/>

Perth Connections Strong

The Friends, Town of Perth and Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA) have continued testing, and sharing information on, river water quality in Perth.

A joint review of E-Coli sampling in 2013 by all three agencies confirmed that the river is generally safe for swimming, except after rain, and that this is most likely due to the influx of untreated storm water. This was a pattern noticed after the first set of testing by the Friends in 2012, carried out in accordance with local health unit standards. Subsequently, Perth Council approved an extensive three year water quality testing program, and the RVCA has continued testing as well.

In September 2014, the Friends' testing focused on determining the length of time

that elevated E-Coli levels remain following a rain. Five samples were taken from sites adjacent to the Wilson and Gore Street storm drain outfalls, and downstream of the town at Last Duel Park. Sampling was done within an hour of the start of rainfall and again 24 hours after the rain had stopped. The data showed that just after light rain had begun, there were seriously high levels of E-Coli for samples taken very near the outflows, but much less downstream at Last Duel Park. All levels dropped to near normal, swimmable counts within 24 hours after the rain had stopped. These results are being shared with the Town.

Board members were invited to a tour of the Perth Water Treatment Plant and a briefing on the Town's geotube tech-

nology for the separation of organic material and flocculants from the settling tank backwash water. The discharge of these materials into the river has been of concern. At our August Board meeting, Audrey Crampton, Perth's Superintendent of Utilities, Water Treatment Plant, reported on the satisfactory results of the evaluations; geotubes will be in operation by the end of November. Audrey also provided a briefing on the SAGR (Submerged Activated Growth Reactor) technology to be installed at the Perth sewage lagoons in 2015. These reactors, through the addition of aeration and bacteria, will increase the capacity of the Perth lagoon system in the order of 1/3, and reduce phosphorous discharge.

Lake Links Workshop 2014

Your association staffed an information table (and quilt display) on October 25th, at the 13th Annual Lake Links Workshop, in Perth's Civitan Hall. As in

the past, this event provided excellent presentations on current issues facing regional lake associations, and an opportunity to inform partners of our activi-

ties. One of the themes this year - lake planning - was of particular interest, given FoTW's early work in launching this in the Tay watershed.



A Tay Great Blue Heron looks on

Photo—David Zimmerly

a logical partnership
for both the FoTW
and the Ottawa
Riverkeeper.

the Ottawa is the
eventual destination
for anything found in
the Tay River.



Black Tern preening on a buoy in the Tay Marsh

Photo—David Zimmerly

Coming Events

October 30

FoTW will have two representatives at the Resilient Rainwater Management Workshop in Ottawa, October 30 - 'Across Canada Workshop Series on Stormwater Management and Adapting to a Changing Climate'.

November 15

FoTW will have a table to sell Quilt Raffle tickets at the Christmas Sale, Pentecostal Glad Tidings Hall, 160 Wayside Drive, Perth.

November 18

FoTW third-quarter Board meeting

November 24

Draw of the winning ticket for the Tay Quilt

Memberships

An active, paid-up membership is the life-blood of any organization. The support of our members is very much appreciated.

In order to simplify the management of the membership data base, it has been decided to adopt an annual membership, with renewal due on 1 January. Memberships taken out from now to year end will be good for all of 2015 .

Please consider renewing your membership now. The annual fee for individuals and families is \$10 . Donations are always welcome. Thank you for your support!

Since our last newsletter, we have also:

- **staffed a booth at the Perth Antique Fair, held at the Perth Legion, July 5/6, 2014**, to promote our Quilt Raffle and, more generally, the Friends' programs (thank you, Bill Dobson, for your welcome),
- **attended the Open House** on the *Haggart Dam Reconstruction Proposal*, at the Perth Town Hall, July 17,
- **staffed a very successful booth**, again, at the 2014 Stewart Park Festival, July 18-20,
- **attended annual general meetings** of Otty Lake Association, July 12; Christie Lake Association, July 25; and Greater Bobs & Crow Lakes Association, July 27 (thank you, Taro),
- **re-built and updated our mailing list** of members and partner organisations,
- **continued the updating of our website**; visit us at www.tayriver.org.

FRIENDS of the TAY WATERSHED Association

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