



Tayside Times



The Friends of the Tay Watershed Newsletter January 2011 ~ Volume 10, Issue 1

2010 Board of Directors

Taro Alps	Bobs & Crow
Debra Bellevue	Perth
Susan Brandum	Lower Tay
Annie Dalton	Tay River
Carol Dillon	Tay River
John Gittens	Perth
Shannon Goltz	Tay River
Jim Humphrey	Little Silver
Karen Hunt	Otty Lake
Doug James	Perth
Jim Peden	Perth
Gillian Scobie	Otty Lake
Bob Sneyd	CSW
Colin Stephenson	Tay River
Christopher Stone	Tay River
David Taylor	Tay River
Ex-officio:	
Matt Craig	Tay River
John Fenik	Town of Perth

All Directors will stand for re-election at the AGM, except for Matt Craig who will join the Advisory Panel.

Advisory Panel

Susan Brandum	Lower Tay
David Crowley	Perth
Jim Humphrey	Little Silver
Cam MacLeod	Perth
Jim Peden	Perth
Joe Slater	Bobs & Crow Lakes
Bob Sneyd	CSW

Friends of the Tay Watershed is a non-profit, charitable association of residents, associations and other organisations interested in the welfare of the Tay watershed, located in eastern Ontario, at the top of the Rideau watershed. We welcome your involvement in any of the Association's activities.

To contact us:
P.O. Box 2065, 57 Foster St.
Perth, ON, K7H 3M9
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www.tayriver.org

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Watershed Kids...

In this review of our activities for 2010, we see a trend emerging - we are making many of our events more “kid” friendly and our outreach program is focusing in on younger watershed residents. Our collaboration with RBC’s Blue Water fund and Nature Works Learning, introduced water conservation and source protection concepts to two Grade 8 classes in local schools. Likewise, we sponsored transportation to the RVCA’s Children’s Water Festival for two Grade 4 classes. Our participation at the wonderful Stewart Park Festival included our friend the Paddling Puppeteer, who charmed his audience of little ears; he came back again for our Watershed Discovery Day, which since our change of venue and time two years ago, has been attracting more families for a fun-filled day. The Friends also benefited from volunteer help from local high schools-a win-win for all involved. We are never too young (or old!) to start to learn about the wonders of water and our unique human impact and dependence on the water eco-systems surrounding us...



In Review...

Tay Watershed Times 2nd edition!!!

In April, the second edition of the popular Tay Watershed Times was released. Completely revised with emphasis on the Town of Perth's impact on the River and the Watershed, and the need to conserve water, the Times was mailed to all households in Perth and distributed at numerous events in the watershed. The publication was made possible through generous funding from the RBC Blue Water Fund, Canadian Environmental Law Association and the Perth Community Foundation and the volunteer contributions of Gillian Scobie, Chris Stone and Carol Dillon. A [digital version](#) is available on our website. Please [contact us](#) if you would like a paper copy.

Maplefest

The FoTW participation in Maplefest 2010, Saturday, April 24, was once again ably led by Jim Humphrey. Our booth was successful in attracting many inquiries and in distributing a large amount of informational material. Financially, the day was a success - receipts included donations of \$57.81 (maple syrup draw), another \$60.00 from membership sales and \$320.00 from the sale of 16 T-shirts. The booth was successful because of the many who contributed their time and effort not only on the day of Maplefest but in preparing for the event in many, many ways ([slideshow available on our website](#)).



Perth Heritage Fair

In May, Board member Carol Dillon represented the Association by participating as a judge at the Perth Heritage Fair. The students' work was most impressive and draws everyone's attention to the importance of our community and the importance of conserving it. The FoTW also contributed funding for this event.

Royal Bank's Blue Water Day

On June 11th, the Friends set up a display in the lobby of the Royal Bank to help celebrate the bank's Blue Water Day. This was an opportunity to inform bank customers about local water needs and conditions, and to thank the bank for its contribution to the production of the second edition of the Tay Watershed Times tabloid.

Children's Water Festival

Again this year, the Friends made it possible for two more Grade 4 classes within the watershed to attend the wonderful Eastern Ontario Children's Water Festival at Foley Mountain. Classes from Queen Elizabeth School in Perth and North Elmsley School in the lower watershed attended. Thank you letters and artwork from participating children showed how much they learned about conserving and protecting water in just one day! ([Selections available on our website](#).)



Summer student

Each summer, the Friends sponsor a summer student to do environmental work in the Tay watershed through the guidance and direction of RVCA. In 2010, our student, Ashleigh Cleary, assisted with the assessment of six stream sites and six lakes in the Tay watershed. She also assisted in the collection of data in Perth from the Haggart Island Dam to just below the golf course. Results of students' work are posted on RV's Watershed Information System (www.rvca.ca).

Accidental slurry release from OMYA Facility in Glen Tay

Late afternoon on June 23rd, residents in the Glen Tay area noticed that the Tay River had turned quite green. The Friends of the Tay started making inquiries to determine the cause. OMYA was contacted, as was the Spills Ontario hotline. The river returned to near normal on 24 June with minor turbidity visible. OMYA provided a [news release](#)



giving known information at the time; a [further review](#) was undertaken which was released on 3 December 2010. The report indicated that the cause of the slurry spill into Rudsdale Creek had been identified and corrected, and that the results of the Ministry of the Environment water testing showed no impact on human health or the environment.

Stewart Park Festival -20th Anniversary

Thanks to the superior organizational skills of Shannon Goltz, the Friend's booth at the festival was a real crowd pleaser in a great location. Many visitors stopped by to chat, buy memberships or the very popular tee-shirts. The Friends also sponsored the ever-popular Paddling Puppeteer on Saturday July 17th. His free shows near the Children's Tent were a treat for kids of all ages.



Tay River Pathway

The Lanark County Municipal Trails Corporation unveiled its new Tay River Pathway Trail signs on September 8th. This marked the completion of the first phase of the project that will provide an accessible trail behind Lanark Lodge for people with disabilities. Phase 2 which will extend the trail to the Tay River is currently underway. Some members of the FoTW were part of the work parties on September 6th (Labour Day, fittingly enough) and October 31st which cleared the trail and vistas to the Tay River itself. While we usually plant trees along the River, the clearings created give great views of the River that will surely increase appreciation of how beautiful our River is ([slideshow available on our website](#)).



Watershed Discovery Day

Once again our popular Watershed Discovery Day was held at the ECOTAY facility; this year the weather cooperated fully and on a glorious September Sunday more than 100 visitors and participants joined to celebrate the Friends 10th anniversary and enjoy a weird-looking cake. Simon Lunn gave a photographic naturalist's hike through Lanark County, the Kettle Boys were on hand with their various fun activities and Glen the Paddling Puppeteer fascinated our little (and big) Friends with his eco-educational fun displays and performances. Annie Dalton and her team did a superb job in pulling it all together -including arranging for the weather. [See the slide show on our website.](#)



Nature Works Learning program

The Friends were successful in receiving funding from the RBC Blue Water program for the delivery of a water awareness program to two grade 8 classes at the Stewart School and St. John's School in the fall of 2010. Students were encouraged to perform a Water Ecoreview for their schools and develop an action plan for water conservation and safety. Feedback from students and teachers was very positive and there are plans to implement the program as ongoing curriculum. Thanks to Patricia Larkin of Nature Works Learning for facilitating these programs on behalf of the Friends of the Tay.

Algonquin College Sustainability Fair

The 'Friends' were front and center once again in the Algonquin College Sustainability Fair at the Perth campus. Student contact is always good.



FoTW Takes the Plunge ~ Jan 1, 2011

Yet again, the FoTW collaborated with a number of other organizations to help the Polar Plunge raise \$24,000 for the Alzheimer's Society of Lanark County. Habitual plungers Chris Stone and Kenneth Cook are feeling lonely & would like some more brave FoTWer's next year!



In General....

FoTW Salute Local Businesses & Contributors



The Friends of the Tay Watershed salute Graham Beck of the [Little Stream Bakery](#) "Ontario's Premier Organic Bakery" in Glen Tay for his commitment to environmentally sustainable business practices and his support for local environmental organizations.

The Friends are greatly indebted to Brian Donaldson, owner of [Stor-N-Lock](#), "Perth's first self storage solution" for providing free storage space for all of the Association materials and displays.

As well, the Friends salute John Gibb-Carsley, principal of Gibb-Carsley Financial Services, for his thorough third party review of our accounts and financial statements each year-end, to give members, donors and grantors confidence in our financial stewardship.

Facebook & T-shirts

The Friends of the Tay took two significant "moving forward" steps this year. We are now on Facebook. Look us up and become a "friend" on Facebook too. Second, the Association decided that we should identify our members better at the many events we attend. Talented artist and Board member Annie Dalton agreed to design a new logo and T-shirt for the group. Initially, Board members purchased their own shirts to wear, but the T-shirts proved to be so popular, people were asking to buy them off our backs. Thus, we ordered more to sell, and they have been very popular. We don't make money on the sales, but feel it is a way to get our "brand" more widely distributed.

The "Friendly" Website

Our website www.tayriver.org has become a real anchor for our Association - it is timely, content rich, fun! -and boosts our credibility as a community-based organizations. Kudos to our webmaster supreme, Colin Stephenson!

Source Water Protection

One aim of the Friends of the Tay is to encourage study and research in the Tay watershed so that decisions that affect the watershed can be fact-based. Currently, the Source Water Protection program is gathering much of this needed information.

In 2010, the Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Committee completed an exhaustive [Assessment Report](#) which includes details on watershed characteristics, water budgets, and significant threats to the water. The Assessment Report confirms that most of the groundwater in the Tay watershed area is highly vulnerable because of fractured bedrock and a thin soil cover. Raw water from the Tay exceeds provincial guidelines for E.coli and total coliforms, but this is not considered to be an issue because the Perth water treatment plant makes the water safe to drink.

What these findings do mean is that as a community we need to continue to be vigilant in protecting our local surface and ground water. Beginning in January 2011, the Source Protection Committee begins the next phase of its work - developing policies and plans to provide this protection. Once again, community input is sought for plan development. Watch for public meetings and other opportunities to participate in planning for your watershed. For more information, see www.mrsourcewater.ca

Stewardship and Advocacy Consultations

As part of its stewardship and advocacy mandate, the Friends monitor and provide input into issues that affect the Tay River and its watershed. In 2010, the Association continued to provide comments to the Town of Perth as regards the Wilson Street project and the inclusion of storm water treatment measures. We were gratified to have Perth Council confirm that these measures would be implemented. Further, to better improve communications between the Town and the Association, we welcomed Mayor John Fenik as a Board member. We continue to monitor the issue of the Town's Water Treatment Plant effluent. Perth remains the only municipality in Eastern Ontario to flush its treatment plant effluent, untreated into a watercourse, in this case, the Tay River.

We were also active in providing comments to Tay Valley Township and Lockwood Development concerning the subdivision of the Miller property at Glen Tay. Our main concern is the density of the development and the related capacities of groundwater wells and the ability of the soil overburden to absorb septic system effluent.

Volunteers

As you can see, the Friends have had a very active year. All these events and initiatives are driven entirely by volunteer contributions from our Board, our members and our friends, who have contributed thousands of volunteer hours to make these things happen. We don't have enough space to list all the people, but they know who they are and we are truly appreciative of their actions to make our watershed and communities healthier. To a person, if you talk to them about their experience, they will tell you about how much fun they had in making their contribution and how satisfying that contribution can be. So check out our activities list for this year, choose something that interests you, roll up your sleeves and join in.



Memberships and Donations

Now would be a very good time to renew your membership. Our memberships run for 12 months from the date purchased, but many people choose to renew at this time. If you can't find your membership card, chances are that it is time to renew. The Association counts on membership revenues to keep you informed about our activities and to cover some of the other operational expenditures. So please take a minute to fill in the [attached membership form](#) and mail it in to us at P.O. Box 2065, 57 Foster St., Perth, ON, K7H 3M9.

Please give some thought as well to adding a donation to help finance our educational program for 2011. As funding for events becomes more difficult, we are relying more and more on the generosity of our donors to fund our activities. Fortunately, we have some very generous donors who care about the work we do and we would love to expand the list.

We will provide tax receipts for all donations of \$10 or more. You may also donate on-line by going to our secure on-line donation facility at CanadaHelps.com ~ see www.tayriver.org/documents/donations.php.

Plans for 2011

Plans for 2011 include the following events so far:

Quarter	Event
1st	Polar Plunge, AGM, Perspective on Water Lecture, OMYA Public Meeting, Algonquin Sustainability Fair, Board Meeting
2nd	Heritage Fair, Maplefest, Hands-on project like the Tay River Pathway, Canoe trip / shoreline clean-up, Board Meeting
3rd	Stewart Park Festival, Tay 175th Legacy Project, Lake Association AGM's, Children's Water Festival, Watershed Discovery Day at EcoTay, Board Meeting
4th	Lake Links Booth, Perspective on Water Lecture, Board Meeting

Mark your calendar

- For the film "[Water on the Table](#)" ~ 7:30 p.m., Jan 20, 2011, Myriad Centre for the Arts, Old Perth Shoe Factory, corner of North and Sherbrooke St. East. More information and movie preview [on our website](#).
- For **Our Annual General Meeting – Thursday, January 27, 2011 at 3:30pm** ~ Lanark Lodge Auditorium 115 Christie Lake Road, Perth. All are welcome to come and join us for coffee and to participate in the review of activities and financial results ~ ([see attached notice](#)). Other events will be posted at www.tayriver.org/events.php.

The Last Word

If you have any comments, questions or suggestions on anything in this newsletter, or on anything we do, or do not do but you think we should, we would love to hear from you. The stronger the voices from our watershed community, the stronger our Association. You can make your voices heard by:

- Email: info@tayriver.org
- Webform: [Contact Us](#)
- Telephone: 613-264-2609, 264-0680, 267-1026
- Regular Mail:
Friends of the Tay Watershed
P.O. Box 2065
57 Foster Street, Perth, ON
K7H 3M9

Attachments

- [Notice of the 2010 AGM ~ January 28, 2010](#)
- [2011 Membership Form](#)



Friends of the Tay Watershed Association

P.O. Box 2065
57 Foster Street
Perth, ON
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E-mail:
info@tayriver.org
www.tayriver.org

To members and friends of Friends of the Tay Watershed:

Notice of Annual General Meeting

Please mark your calendar and plan to take part in your association's
**Annual General Meeting – which will take place
on Thursday, January 27th, 2011, at 3:45pm.**
At Lanark Lodge Auditorium
115 Christie Lake Road, Perth

Please join the Board of Directors prior to the meeting (3:30pm) for coffee.

Come and discuss:

- the association's 2010 program review
- plans for the 2011 program
- financial results for 2010 and proposed budget for 2011.

And vote on the financial statements and the new slate for your Board of Directors for 2011.

This meeting is open to association members as well as the general public. Members who have paid 2010 or 2011 dues as of the date of the meeting may vote (**see attached membership form**). The annual fee is \$10.00 for individuals and families.

According to our by-laws, members may also vote by proxy, by providing a representative with a signed letter, designating the representative, who must also be a paid association member, and stating the manner in which the member wishes to vote on a given question.

The Board welcomes your participation in the AGM – and your interest in becoming involved as a volunteer.

Your Board of Directors



FRIENDS of the TAY WATERSHED

Membership Form

I / we would like to become a member of the Friends of the Tay Watershed, or renew the membership for the next 12 months.

(Please check one)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Individual Membership	\$ 10
<input type="checkbox"/>	Family Membership	\$ 10
<input type="checkbox"/>	Organization Membership	\$ 25
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sustaining Corporate Membership	\$200

My / our address is: *(For renewals, if no change to address, telephone & e-mail, just enter your name below.)*

	Permanent / Winter Address	Summer Address (if different)
Name(s)		
Street Address		
Municipality		
Province (State)		
Postal (Zip) Code		
Telephone		
Email		

Preferences: *(please check as appropriate)*

I / we prefer to receive information:	By email / website <i>(preferred method to save money and trees)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	By regular mail	<input type="checkbox"/>
I / we would like to volunteer to help the "Friends" in these capacities:	Staffing information booths at festivals	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Environmental or Educational Projects	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Administration	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Communication / writing	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Fund raising	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Interested observer / supporter only	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Other <i>(please describe)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>

I / we have provided an addition contribution of \$_____ .

Please mail completed membership form and associated cheque to:

Friends of the Tay Watershed
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57 Foster Street
Perth, ON
K7H 3M9