

FRIENDS OF THE



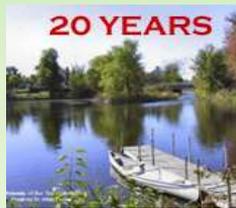
TAY WATERSHED



Photo: Parks Canada

The New Bobs Lake Dam

2020 ANNUAL REPORT



!! Happy Birthday in 2021 !!

www.taywatershed.ca

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

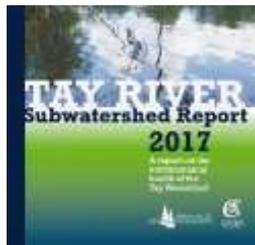
Education and Outreach

To increase public awareness of the need to protect our water resources and to conserve the Tay Watershed's natural environment through a variety of in-field and online seminars and educational events targeted to all generations.



Studying Watershed Map

Photo by Carol Dillon



Watershed Care and Protection

To contribute to the development of an information base on watershed conditions and to encourage property owners and the public to monitor and participate in measures for shoreland plantings, garbage clean-up and flood control.



Display at Lake Links

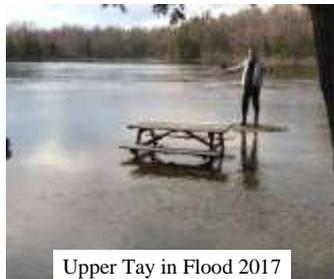
Photo by David Taylor

Collaboration with Partners

To build partnerships with community organizations, lake associations, conservation authorities, and government in the design and delivery of programs, and activities focusing on the care and conservation of water resources.

Maintenance and Expansion of Association Capacity

To involve and expand the interest of our membership and corporate sponsors on current activities and new opportunities to conserve the ecology and amenities of the Tay Watershed.



Upper Tay in Flood 2017

Photo by G. Gregoire

Climate Change

To be aware of the effects of climate change and to work towards mitigating their impacts on the Tay Watershed.

President's Message

2020 has been described in many ways. To some, 2020 is a year that has separated us through social distancing, limited or no in-person gatherings, self-isolation and masked images. To others society has found new ways to communicate through social media platforms such as Zoom or GoToMeetings; through drive-by tributes and through more outdoor recreational activities.

We are all striving to find some new normalcy in our daily lives. No one, and no organization, is immune from the impacts and the Friends of the Tay Watershed (FOTW) is no exception. Rest assured, however, that the FOTW has not lost enthusiasm and concern for the environmental health of the Tay Watershed. In-person events such as our Watershed Discovery Day, our Paddle the Tay Day and our AGM have been suspended but have been replaced by other events, largely virtual in character.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all of our members and the public for their continued interest in the work of the Friends of the Tay Watershed as well as the members of the Board and our Advisory Committee for their continued diligence and assistance in the work of our association. We all live downstream in one way or another and so we all have a responsibility to manage what happens upriver if we are to continue to enjoy all of the natural amenities that the Tay Watershed has to offer.

I am pleased to offer this summary of FOTW activities over the past year.

Glenn Tunnock

President
Friends of the Tay Watershed

Folks we partnered with in 2020 for a healthier watershed:

Rideau Valley Conservation Authority - Educational Sessions
Town of Perth - Rocky Ramps Advisory Committee
Town of Perth - Last Duel Park Advisory Committee
Watersheds Canada - Interactive On-line Resource Package
Tay Net - Eyes on the River
Lanark Climate Action Group

Summary of 2020 Activities

Education and Outreach

2020 Water Guardian Bursary

Our Water Guardian Bursary is an annual program where we financially assist a student to pursue post-secondary education in the environmental sciences. This last year we assisted Mairead MacKenzie, a graduate of St. John Catholic High School in Perth.

Mairead is pursuing studies at Dalhousie University, Halifax, in Community Design. Her program has a major focus on sustainability and a minor in environmental sciences. She also hopes to complete a master's degree in architecture with a focus on environment.



Photo : David Zimmerly

President Glenn Tunnock, Friends of the Tay Watershed Association, Presents the \$1,000 Watershed Guardian Bursary to Mairead MacKenzie, graduate of St. John CHS, Perth.

2020 Environmental Awards

The Friends of the Tay Watershed Environmental Awards were presented, virtually, at our last AGM, June 4, 2020.

1. Contribution to the Tay Watershed (contribution to water resources specific to the watershed)

David Taylor, Past-President, Friends of the Tay Watershed – for providing tireless leadership of Friends of the Tay Watershed for twenty years and being an advocate for sustainable stewardship of all the rivers and lakes in the watershed.

2. Contribution to Water Resources at the provincial, national or international level (person or organization, either local or outside area, whose activities have an impact on water resources on a wider basis)

FOCA Federation of Ontario Cottagers Associations – for protecting thriving and sustainable waterfronts, year-round, across Ontario through effective communication, education and advocacy.

3. Contribution to the General Environment (a local person or organization whose activities are aimed at the environment but impact on our water resources)

Dr. Shelley Ball – for presenting the film series SHIFT HAPPENS: an environmental documentary film series about human impacts on the planet and what we can do about it; and also for her work with young people through the Biosphere Environmental Education Program.

Public Education

In the absence of in-person events, FOTW has partnered with the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority to provide a series of educational sessions open to our members and the public. The first of these sessions held in November 2020 focused on trees



and climate change and the importance of retaining and planting trees as a means to sequester carbon and to mitigate the impacts of unusual climate events. Ian Cochrane, Forest Program Manager was our keynote speaker and his presentation is available on our website.

Our second session was about Conservation Areas and Lands. Dan Cooper, Director of Conservation Areas and Stewardship talked about the 11 conservation areas and some 7,000 acres of conservation lands noting their use for outdoor education programs and increased use arising from the pandemic. A third session will be held



on March 24, 2021 as part of our Annual General Meeting at which Meaghan McDonald will talk about the importance of shoreline planting in maintaining or restoring shorelands and the planting program administered by the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority.

Watershed Care and Protection Programs

Tay Waterway Reporting Program

Monitoring the health of the watershed is ongoing and our Tay Net program is designed to encourage our volunteer river watchers to report river conditions and concerns that can impair the ecology of the Tay River. More “eyes on the river” means greater care of this vital waterway through our communities. Check our website for the latest reports on river conditions <https://www.taywatershed.ca/documents/streamflow.php>

Cooperation with Partner Organizations

Rocky Ramps Advisory Committee

FOTW is represented on the Town of Perth’s Rocky Ramps Advisory Committee, whose mandate is to assess the impacts of Rocky Ramps on river flows through the Town around Cockburn Island and whether alterations are required to sustain flows through both the river and the canal for environmental and aesthetic reasons. The committee has been assisted by Matrix Engineering, the firm who conceived the

original design. Flow rates vary depending on precipitation, water taking permits, control devices such as dams and weirs, shoreline vegetation etc. These parameters affect the flow split on the river and as a result of the modeling exercise



Rocky Ramp on Little Tay Photo: F.Roy

undertaken by Matrix on river flows, alterations to the Rocky Ramps have been recommended to ensure that flow rates will be adequate. Town Council has budgeted for reparations in 2021 but no final decision has been undertaken on moving forward.

Last Dual Park Advisory Committee

FOTW is also represented on the Town of Perth Last Duel Park Advisory Committee whose mandate is to consider the role of the park, the scope of potential future uses in the park and the implementation of changes. The park is well used by the public and has a cultural and environmental significance to the community. The Town has endorsed the principles recommended by the committee as the basis for determining future uses. Of significance to FOTW is the renaturalization of the shoreline as a means to sustain riparian habitat for fish and wildlife. Suggested future uses include an educational amphitheater, shoreline trail system, expanding community gardens, an arboretum, enhanced boating and aquatic services and many more. A public consultation process will be undertaken likely late winter in determining the scope of the uses to be permitted and later for feedback on the Committee's recommendations for the park.

Lake Associations

FOTW has established a working relationship with many lake associations locally and provincially and will continue to build these relationships as a means to sharing their stories of effective resource management.

Climate Change

The Lanark Climate Action Group has engaged FOTW as a resource in a program to assist in the development of a climate action program for the County of Lanark. Establishing policies and procedures to mitigate and adapt to climate change and severe or unusual climactic events is an evolving science essential to sustaining liveable communities.

Full Program Planned for 2021

Community Outreach and Education Activities

On-going Activities

- **Annual General Virtual Meeting** (March 24)
- **Stewart Park Music Festival** and **Watershed Discovery Day (WDD)** participation as pandemic allows
- **Annual Environmental Awards** - continue Program
- Continue our focus on youth through the annual *Water Guardian Bursary* award to a qualified student interested in environmental studies
- Continuing to work with the Town of Perth Advisory Committees on the Rocky Ramp and the Last Dual Park
- Expand Tay Network in monitoring health of the Tay Watershed
- Review riverkeeping role of the Friends of the Tay Watershed

Delivery of Watershed Stewardship Programs

The Friends of the Tay Watershed will continue to be committed to a collaborative approach to the wise stewardship of a water resource important for its ecological resources and habitat, as a source of water, as a tourist destination, as a recreational attribute and as the waterfront for many property owners.

Cooperation with Partner Organisations

On-going Activities

- **Support complementary activities** of watershed lake associations, environmental organisations, businesses and government departments and agencies
- Monitor & support **Parks Canada** programs to protect the managed Tay River system and Tay Canal, Rideau Corridor and Management Plan Renewal
- Working to mitigate impacts of climate change through partnerships with Lanark Climate Action Network and area municipalities
- Maintain website section for the **Lake Networking Group**
- Provide support to, amongst others, **Source Water Program, Rural Clean Water Program, Ottawa Riverkeeper, Lake Links 2020; Perth Heritage Fair**
- Recognise our corporate community support from **H&R Block, Little Stream Bakery, Stor-N-Lock, The Factory, Maximilian's Restaurant, the Perth Farmers' Market and Lake 88.1.**

Developing Best Practices



The Friends of the Tay Watershed is partnering with Watersheds Canada on an ambitious program to create an interactive online resource package

for land use planners, municipal elected officials and the public at large on best practices for sustaining, developing and redeveloping shorelands. Best practices will focus on the design of official plan and zoning regulations, administration and enforcement procedures and the integration of participant stakeholders such as conservation authorities and provincial ministries. An evolving feature of the program is virtual meetings amongst municipal planners across Ontario who are sharing their successes and challenges in shoreland management. This project will continue to evolve over 2021 hopefully resulting in an ongoing resource system for interested parties.

Maintenance and Expansion of Association Capacity

Time flies when you are having fun, so it is with some surprise to realize that 2021 will mark our 20th year of operation. Congratulations must go to all hands, past and present as we move forward to greater things.

The pandemic year of 2020 with the global necessity to prevent the spread of disease through social isolation and economic shut down forced the Friends to curtail some social activities and adopt other methods of communication. Board meetings were "virtual" using ZOOM technology. The same method has allowed us, in cooperation with partners to offer public seminars through home computer with notable success.



Our efforts as an environmental organization are dependent on the financial contributions we receive through membership fees and corporate donations. We are particularly pleased to receive funds from the Little Stream Bakery in Glen Tay which are dedicated to the Water Guardian Bursary and to H&R Block for their generous support of our educational and other program initiatives.

The FOTW is continuing to modify and improve our website .

We are still in need of a vice-president, a membership chair and a website assistant. It would be much appreciated if someone would step forward to fill these positions.

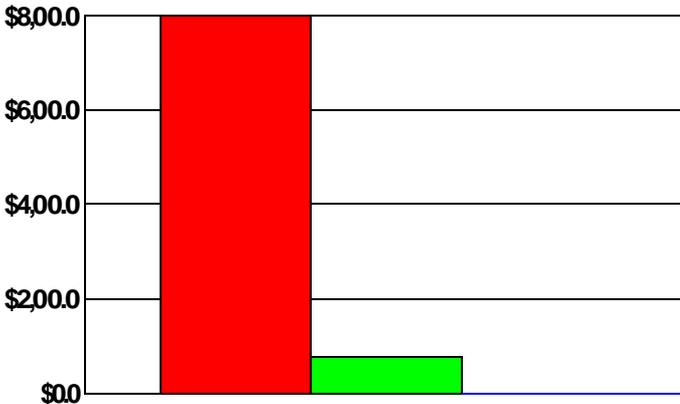
Financial Summary
Year Ending December 31, 2020
(not yet audited)

Net Worth - As of 2020-12-31 (in Canadian Dollars)	
Account	2020-12-31 Balance
ASSETS	
Cash and Bank Accounts	
BUSINESS - CHEQUING XX2401	11,401.75
Petty Cash Account	23.15
TOTAL Cash and Bank Accounts	11,424.90
Other Assets	
Other Assets	842.41
TOTAL Other Assets	842.41
TOTAL ASSETS	12,267.31
LIABILITIES	
	0.00
OVERALL TOTAL	12,267.31

Cash Flow - Last year 2020-01-01 through 2020-12-31 (in Canadian Dollars)	
Category	2020-01-01- 2020-12-31
INFLOWS	
Donations Received	7,815.83
Membership	770.00
T-Shirts Sales	150.00
TOTAL INFLOWS	8,735.83
OUTFLOWS	
Management and General Administration	
Advertising	249.73
Bank Charges	59.40
Donations	350.00
Insurance	1,001.16
Other Administrative Expenses	274.04
Service Charges	239.76
TOTAL Management and General Administr...	2,174.09
Public Education and Environmental Activ	
Bursaries	1,000.00
Cost Of Goods Sold	361.47
Educational Products	689.30
Web Site Expenses	665.12
TOTAL Public Education and Environmental...	2,715.89
TOTAL OUTFLOWS	4,889.98
OVERALL TOTAL	3,845.85

Inflows

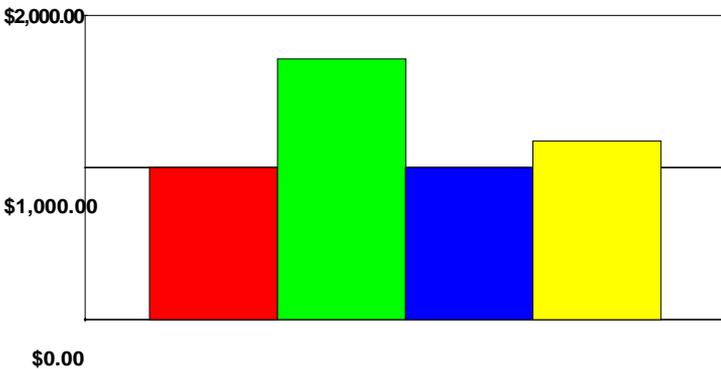
Total \$8,735.83



■ Donations	\$7,815.83
■ Memberships	770.00
■ Other Income	150.00

Outflows

Total \$4,889.98



■ Bursary	\$1,000.00
■ Education / Outreach	1,715.89
■ Admin & Management	1,172.93
■ Insurance	1,001.16

BOARD OF DIRECTORS for 2020

Executive Committee

President	Glenn Tunnock
Past President	David Taylor
Secretary	Judy Buehler
Treasurer	Marion Letts
Member	Carol Dillon
Member	Richard Schooley

Directors

Taro Alps	Upper Tay Watershed; GB&CL Association
Annie Dalton	Perth
David Kroetsch	Perth
Donna Walsh	Christie Lake Association

ADVISORY PANEL

Susan Brandum	Port Elmsley, Past Board Member
David Crowley	Perth; Past Board Member
Karen Hunt	Perth, Lake Networking Group; Past Board Member
Doug James	Perth; Past Board Member
Barbara King	Executive Director, Watersheds Canada
Dale MacEachern	External Relations Mgr., Parks Canada, Ont. Waterways Unit, Smiths Falls
Derek Matheson	Mgr., Rural Clean Water Program, R.V.C.A.
Brady McGlade	Planner, Drummond North Elmsley Twp.
Amanda Miller	Student, Queen's University School of Environmental Studies
Frank Roy	Perth; Past Board Member
Alyson Symon	Watershed Planner, M.V.C.A., Past Board Member
Colin Stephenson	Past Co-President

WEBMASTER

Colin Stephenson

SUSTAINING MEMBERS

H & R Block, Perth, Smiths Falls, Arnprior, Renfrew
Little Stream Bakery of Glen Tay
Stor—N—Lock, Perth
The Factory, Perth
Maximilian Dining Lounge, Perth
Perth Farmers' Market
Lake 88.1, Perth