

Full Program Planned for 2020

Community Outreach and Education Activities:

- Annual General Meeting** (March 26)
- Stewart Park Music Festival** booth (July 17-19)
- Watershed Discovery Day (WDD)** (August 15, Perth Farmers' Market)
- Annual Environmental Awards** - continue Program
- Continue our focus on youth through *Kids Fish Day*, Perth (June 20) and the annual *Water Guardian Bursary* award to a qualified student interested in environmental studies
- Assist Town of Perth and partner agencies in resolving water flows in the Tay River Canal
- Develop online shoreline management resource package in partnership with Watersheds Canada, local municipalities and the RVCA
- 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:

Friends of the Tay Watershed are 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. Our stewardship program includes such measures as:

- Creating a greater public awareness of the ecological attributes of the watershed through an extensive menu of educational activities
- Daily monitoring of the health of the watershed, notably water quality, water levels and water flows
- Undertaking written reviews of policies, programs, activities and organizational changes of government and other agencies whose work affects the sustainability and stewardship of the watershed
- Advocating and participating in inter-agency partnerships
- Networking with industry leaders to achieve a better understanding of best practices and to foster more informed decision-making
- Monitoring changes to legislation that affect the watershed
- Working with residents and property owners to maintain the health of the watershed

Cooperation with Partner Organisations:

- Support complementary activities** of watershed lake associations, environmental organisations, businesses and government departments and agencies
- Partnering with Watersheds Canada to develop online watershed management best practices resource package
- 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 **Little Stream Bakery, Stor-NLock, The Factory, Maximilian's Restaurant and the Perth Farmers' Market.**

Addressing Climate Change:

- Work with area municipalities and Lanark County to develop and implement climate change action plans
- Maintain a policy of taking climate change into account in our programs
- Support programs to identify and mitigate impact of climate change on the environment.

Maintenance and Expansion of Association Capacity:

The past year of 2019 saw the Friends of the Tay Watershed review and update our by-law to clarify the terms of office, procedures for the election of officers and other administrative matters. Expanding our network of contacts has helped us identify new opportunities for partnerships and working with property owners. The addition of a new Board member has enabled us to participate proactively in the review of municipal environmental management documents and provincial policy changes and initiatives.

Fresh ideas are always welcome and we are not shy to express our need to seek new members to join our Board and regular cash donations to support our programs. We are in need of a vice-president, a membership chair and a website administrator. We are also always short of money to support long term projects which do not qualify for grants. It would be much appreciated if our members made a small but regular donation when they renew their annual membership.