

# Tay Waterway Reporting Network - 'Tay Net'

A Program of the Friends of the Tay Watershed Association

## Program Description

The **Tay Net** program provides a network of volunteers at selected locations along the Tay waterway who report, and provide early notice, on significant changes in water levels and waterway conditions. The program focuses particularly on locations on the waterway that are not presently served by online water level or flow data, thus complementing available online electronic gauge information. It also eliminates the need for physical visits to the sites by experts in emergencies.

The program cooperates with Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA), waterway lake associations, Christie Lake and Bobs & Crow Lakes, and the three municipalities that the waterway crosses – Tay Valley Township, Town of Perth and Drummond/North Elmsley Township.

Volunteer reports are requested when there are perceived current or impending significant changes in water levels or related emergency conditions in the waterway. Reporters also initiate reports when a local water-related situation requires attention.

The program presently covers 12 locations along the Tay waterway between Bobs Lake and Port Elmsley, of which eight sites are staffed by volunteer reporters and four are government electronic gauges.

The eight Tay Net volunteer sites were surveyed by RVCA In August 2019 to document their elevation and location, at a stable base point on the bridge. Since the elevation and location data are also available for the government gauge sites, means are now in place to establish a digitally integrated network for the Tay waterway.

## Reporting Process

When changes in water levels or conditions on the waterway signal a need for reporting, volunteers take a measurement from the base point on a given bridge to the present river level. Readings are tabled in the RVCA's digital waterway monitoring program, and incorporated into an ongoing review of waterway conditions and into status reports for the public by that agency and by this association.

A link to this association's public notices and reports on waterway conditions is posted on our website Home Page, as are links to the RVCA notices and to sites providing current readings for water level and flow at all electronic gauges in the waterway (see [www.taywatershed.ca](http://www.taywatershed.ca)).

Specifically, listed under "**Flood & Drought Forecasting and Warnings**" are:

- "Current Conditions Statement for the Tay Watershed"
- "Current Conditions for the Greater Rideau Waterway"
- Link to "Streamflow and Water Level Data"

## **Tay Net Reporting Locations**

Eight volunteer reporting sites have been located at:

- Tay River Bridge on Bolingbroke Road (Tay Valley Township)
- Bathurst Concession 2 Bridge (Tay Valley Township)
- Bowes Sideroad Bridge (Tay Valley Township)
- 471 Christie Lake Road Private Bridge (Tay Valley Township)
- Rogers Road Bridge (Perth)
- Beckwith Street Bridge (Perth)
- Craig Street Bridge (Perth)
- Port Elmsley Bridge (Drummond/North Elmsley Township)

Four more tracking locations are at government electronic gauges of online data at:

- Bolingbroke Dam (Tay Valley Township)
- Christie Lake Exit (Tay Valley Township)
- Haggart Island (Perth)
- Beveridge Lock (Drummond/North Elmsley Township)

Three of these electronic gauges provide data on water levels; one, at Haggart Island, provides streamflow data. Earlier, streamflow data was also available for the important Bolingbroke Dam site but was withdrawn by Parks Canada without explanation during the April 2019 freshet, and has not been reinstated despite many community requests.

*Manual (staff) gauges* have also been placed at three of the volunteer sites (Bathurst Con. 2 Bridge, Craig Street Bridge, and Port Elmsley Bridge) as back up.

For further information, including on becoming a Tay Net reporter, please contact [friends@taywatershed.ca](mailto:friends@taywatershed.ca).