

'Tay Net Program' - Tay Waterway Reporting Network

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), lake associations for 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.

Reports are requested from volunteers when there are perceived current or impending significant changes in water levels (potentially also for related emergency conditions). Reporters also initiate reports when a local water-related situation requires attention.

The program presently covers 13 locations along the Tay waterway between Bobs Lake and Port Elmsley, of which eight sites are staffed by volunteer reporters and five are government electronic gauges. There is also a private manual gauge at Christie Lake.

The eight Tay Net volunteer sites were surveyed by RVCA in August 2019, and updated in September 2022, to document their geodetic location and elevation. All base points are on bridges. Elevation and location data are also available for the government gauge sites, so means were put in place to establish a digitally integrated network for the Tay waterway. The eight site locations and 'Watcher' list are posted on the 'Conditions' page.

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 status reports for the public by that agency.

Updates are also added to our website 'Conditions' page, with a link on the Home Page.

Online Gauge Sites (see also list on our 'Conditions' page)

The five online electronic gauges are at:

- Eagle Lake RKY Camp – Canada Water Survey, water level gauge
- Bobs Lake Dam – Parks Canada, water level gauge
- Christie Lake Exit – Parks Canada, water level gauge
- Haggart Island – streamflow gauge

- Beveridge Lock – Parks Canada, water level gauge

Note: Parks Canada also operates a flow gauge at Bobs Lake Dam, the readings for which are not available to the public.

Other Waterway gauges:

- Davern Lake Lane – Canada Water Survey, water level gauge (not available)
- Christie Lake – private, water level gauge (on [Christie Lake Association website](#))
- Bathurst Con. 2 Bridge – RVCA, water level gauge read periodically

Manual (staff) gauges have also been placed at two volunteer sites (Bathurst Con. 2 Bridge and Port Elmsley Bridge) as back up.