

## **The 'Tay Waterway Riverwatch Program' - 'Tay Net'**

### **Monitoring Conditions on the Tay River, Canal and Waterway Lakes**

Recent changes in weather patterns and the growing number of extreme weather events have made understanding local conditions and changes more important than ever. The '**Tay Net**' Program is a response to these changing conditions, providing a network of volunteer '*Riverwatchers*', monitoring and reporting on water conditions and issues along the Tay waterway – which includes the Tay River, Tay Canal, and Bobs and Christie Lakes.

The information developed by the program provides early notice of potential problems in the waterway, such as significant changes in water levels, pollution or algae blooms. Notices and reports are made available to watershed stakeholders and authorities responsible for the care of the watershed's water resources.

For the monitoring of water levels, 'Tay Net' complements other waterway information sources, with particular focus on sectors that are vulnerable to rapid or significant water level changes or where public sources of information are not readily available, such as online electronic flow gauges.

The '*Tay Net Program*' operates in cooperation with:

- Greater Bobs & Crow Lakes Association
- Christie Lake Association
- Rideau Valley Conservation Authority
- Tay Valley Township
- Town of Perth
- The Township of Drummond/North Elmsley
- Parks Canada Ontario Waterways.

and the '*Riverwatch Program*', of the Ottawa Riverkeeper, drawing on their experience, and potentially sharing information with it.

### **What is a '*Riverwatcher*'?**

Tay '*Riverwatchers*' are volunteers, or volunteer groups, that value the waterway, live near it or visit it periodically, and are interested in advising about situations that could affect its quality or quantity. Experience with monitoring the environment and water or knowledge of the waterway are not a requirement, although obviously of value.

*Riverwatchers* become part of a citizen network along the waterway's Tay River, Tay Canal and Bob and Christie Lakes that monitors and reports as needed on the condition of our water and water bodies. Members are briefed on the waterway river, canal and lakes, and on potential conditions that could arise, based on experience and trends in the Tay and neighbouring watersheds.

### **'Riverwatch' Locations**

As of August 2019, ten locations have been designated 'Riverwatch' sites along the Tay waterway. In Tay Valley Township, this includes: Bobs Lake; Bolingbroke Road Bridge; Christie Lake; Bathurst Concession 2 Bridge; Glen Tay; and a private bridge at #471 Christie Lake Road. In Perth, the locations are: Upper Haggart Island; Beckwith Street Bridge; and Craig Street Bridge. In Drummond/North Elmsley Township, one site is located on Port Elmsley Bridge.

Each designated site is geo-surveyed by Rideau Valley Conservation Authority to register its geographic location and elevation, towards eventually establishing a digitally integrated system for the waterway.

Staff (manual) gauges have also been placed at a few sites, providing an available backup to the registered location (including the Concession 2 Bridge in Bathurst, Craig Street Bridge in Perth, and Port Elmsley Bridge).

**We would welcome your participation as a 'Riverwatcher'!**

For further information on what is involved, please e-mail [friends@taywatershed.ca](mailto:friends@taywatershed.ca) or call (613) 264 0094.