

# Friends of the Tay Watershed

Media Release August 5, 2021

## Community Services Program Cleans Up the Tay River

Leah Craig, of Tay Valley Township, a Grade 11 student at Perth & District High School, is taking the school's Community Services program to 'new depths' – and providing a much-needed upgrade to the area's Tay River.



As a paddle-boarder, Leah had observed first-hand the need for a trash clean-up of the Tay and decided to direct her Community Services Program obligation to a creative project. Beginning in early July, she has been paddling and picking up trash on the Tay River upstream of Perth, in Tay Valley Township. Later, she and friend Sadi Gibson combined to tackle a clean-up of the canal at the Last Duel Park area in Perth.

The shocking result of this dedicated work is shown in the attached photo, a graphic indication of what is not normally seen in the river. It is also evidence of a regrettable disregard by some for our area's otherwise pristine waterway.

Leah advises that, so far, she has collected 16 tires, 72 cans, 25 pieces of plastic, and a range of garbage that includes two chairs, 5 shoes, two frisbees, amongst other items - and, unfortunately, is still counting.

Leah's concern for the river is not unusual. Her father is Manager of Planning for the *Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority*, and a volunteer Riverwatcher for the Tay Net Program, of the *Friends of the Tay Watershed Association*.

More examples of the current Tay River clean-up, and other activities in the Tay Watershed, will be displayed at the *Friends of the Tay Watershed's* annual Watershed Discovery Day, at the Perth Farmers' Market, on Saturday, August 14.

