

Signs of the Salmon 2010

The most exciting and rewarding event was the production of three watershed information boards and their unveilings. The idea of these signs arose from FSR, under the leadership of David Field, and was soon supported by the Stewardship Councils of Frontenac, Lennox & Addington, and Hastings and by Quinte Conservation. Financial support also was gained from the Ontario Stewardship Merit Fund. But even with all this support, the project would not have succeeded without the participation and intensive design effort of Carolyn Butts and Hans Honegger of Bon Eco Designs, Tamworth, who contributed well beyond their contractual obligations. Public Works in Tyendinega and North Addington kindly provided sign installation. Many FSR members suggested design improvements and improved information content. Cliff Maclean, Chair of Hastings SC, continuously improved the cooperation in the project. We are very grateful to all who participated in the project.

Unveiling ceremonies were held:

May 29 for Roblin and Lonsdale signs

July 3 for Story Lake sign (south of Cloyne)

The unveiling events were all well attended. We felt a strong sense of community when many municipal councillors, mayors, reeves and county leaders came to deliver encouraging messages to the audience. Some had grown up in the watershed and had fond memories of playing in the river. Steve Medd provided lovely music, with a rendition of his own river song. At Lonsdale, it was exciting to see the procession of neighbours arriving with plates of homemade cookies in their hands. And much delight in sampling the goodies!

Our intention in installing the three signs is to heighten awareness of the beauty and magnitude of the Salmon River. We wish everyone to appreciate the delicate relationships of flora, fauna and land with the river, and to encourage people to use the river wisely. We have such a splendid resource, let us all pull together to keep the watershed as clean and vital as possible.

This project enhanced the profile of Friends of the Salmon and it created new and better alliances with project partners. We hope to make plans for additional signs at new locations. We encourage feedback on this from all our members.