

Friends of the Salmon River Newsletter

Volume 2 Issue 2

September 2008

Dates to Remember:

• **October 22 AGM**

Inside this issue:

Workshops Past and Present	2
Fabulous Photos	2,3
Solar Farm	3
Paddling news	4,5
Otters	4

The Value of Natural Riches & Conservation by Design

A presentation by Gary Bell
Nature Conservancy Canada

The Nature Conservancy of Canada recently paid 3 million dollars for 1100 acres of land in the famed Frontenac Arch. Gary Bell will enlighten us on the value of our natural lands and how to help preserve them.

The Elbow Lake property features the rugged terrain of the Frontenac Arch with high domed granite ridges, deep wooded valleys, and abundant wetlands. Such remarkable species as the endangered [Butternut](#) tree, the threatened [Stinkpot](#) turtle, and the rare [Five-lined Skink](#), reside here. Gary will present revealing photographs of this area.

Friends of the Salmon AGM October 22 7p.m.

The AGM will be held in the Wesleyan Church in Roblin. Following the presentation by Gary Bell we will hold elections for our board of directors for 2008-2009. Displays from local conservation groups and refreshments will

Habitat loss is the greatest threat to our native plants and animals. The need for protection of this heritage has never been more essential. The more land and water we protect, the better the chance that many precious species will grow and flourish.

Gary Bell is the Eastern Ontario Program Manager for the Nature Conservancy of Canada. Gary joined NCC after 20 years with The Nature Conservancy in the U. S. as Area Ecologist in Southern California and as Director of Conservation Science

round out the evening. All are invited and families are welcome. The Wesleyan Church is on the south edge of Roblin (10 minutes north of Napanee) on highway 41.



for New Mexico. Gary received his B.Sc. from Queen's University and holds an M.Sc. and Ph.D. from Carleton University.

For further information:
Susan Moore, FSR
613-379-5958

Would you be Interested in Giving a Workshop on Waterfront Living? FSR has made it easy!

The Friends of the Salmon River have been working to develop a "Workshop in a Box" to deliver to local Lake Associations and potential lake stewards. We have been able to compile and deliver a handful of these boxes. The Workshop in a Box is filled with a wide variety of information related to cot-

tages and waterfront living, from protecting lake health to maintaining septic systems. Our intention with this project is to provide cottagers with resources and information geared specifically for them. At this point we are in the process of delivering the boxes to potential lake stewards who would be

able to put this information to good use. If you or someone you know would benefit from having this box, feel free to email Glenn Hendry at glenn.gordonhendry@gmail.com for more information on receiving your Workshop in a Box.

Members: we are eager to hear your ideas. Please let us know what new presentations or events you would like to see.
merriam@xplornet.com

Wonders of Wetlands Workshops Presented in May 2008

Sat. May 10 in Cloyne, hosted by FSR and the Friends of Bon Echo

Sun May 11 in Napanee, hosted by FSR and the Lennox & Addington Stewardship Council

Back by popular demand, Ian McIntosh, the coordinator of Toronto Zoo's Adopt-A-Pond Programme

gave two interactive workshops, called Wonders of Wetlands, followed by a walk.

Ian described the Frog-Watch Ontario program and the Ontario Turtle Tally. One very popular highlight was Ian's frog call recordings demonstrating how to identify various frogs by their calls. In Cloyne, "the snake lady", Jennifer Pearce,

brought snakes which delighted the kids in the audience.

Adopt-A-Pond addresses declining amphibian populations and has helped educators and communities across Ontario restore and protect wetlands. For more information, see toronto-zoo.com/AdoptAPond/

Button Bush flower

This photo by Gray Merriam shows us the perfect complexity of the flower. They were made with Nikon single lens reflex camera bodies and a 60mm micro Nikkor lens

mounted on a Gitzo tripod. How does nature do it?



Solar Park Coming Soon

First Light, North America's largest solar photovoltaic energy park to date, will be located on approximately 300 acres of land in Lennox & Addington County. Construction of the 19-megawatt (MW) solar park is anticipated to be complete by the end of 2009. Local communities will benefit from clean re-

newable energy sufficient to power more than 2,000 homes annually.

Joint venture partners are SkyPower Corp. and SunEdison Canada with strong support from the provincial government, municipal leaders, and the community.

First Light will be built in two phases. The power generated from the project

will be distributed through the Hydro One utility, providing clean energy to customers in the Township of Stone Mills for 20 years. It is estimated that First Light will reduce yearly carbon emissions by an amount equal to displacing 4,200 cars and light trucks each driving 19,000 kilometers per year.



We are all connected!

This was a Stunning Year for Cardinal Flowers



Cardinal flowers (*Lobelia cardinalis*) thrive in areas close to the river which usually are under up to a metre of water during spring high water. The rootstocks survive the spring flood and the ice pans that it carries and as water levels fall, the lobelias take up nutrients from the rich black riverine soils and,

by July, decorate the river banks with their brilliant red spikes of flowers.

Although there is Cardinal Flower habitat along the Salmon River, this picture was taken by Marilyn Bolender on the Skootamatta River.

For more brilliant photos of Cardinal flowers visit our website. Marilyn Bolender found them on the Skootamatta.



Our next newsletter will be in January 2009

Paddling News

The Friends of the Salmon River have succeeded in installing notification of put-in spots all along the waterway. Many of these are on private property but all have approval. To give you an idea of scale and what to look for, here is an example of the sign and the installation.



*Thanks to
Dugald
Carmichael for
the map on the
next page.*

Comments from Happy Paddler David Field

I have never paddled Sheffield Long to Beaver quite as low as it was on Wednesday! However two friends and I enjoyed a good run on August 19, when it was about 8cm higher on the Tamworth gauge.

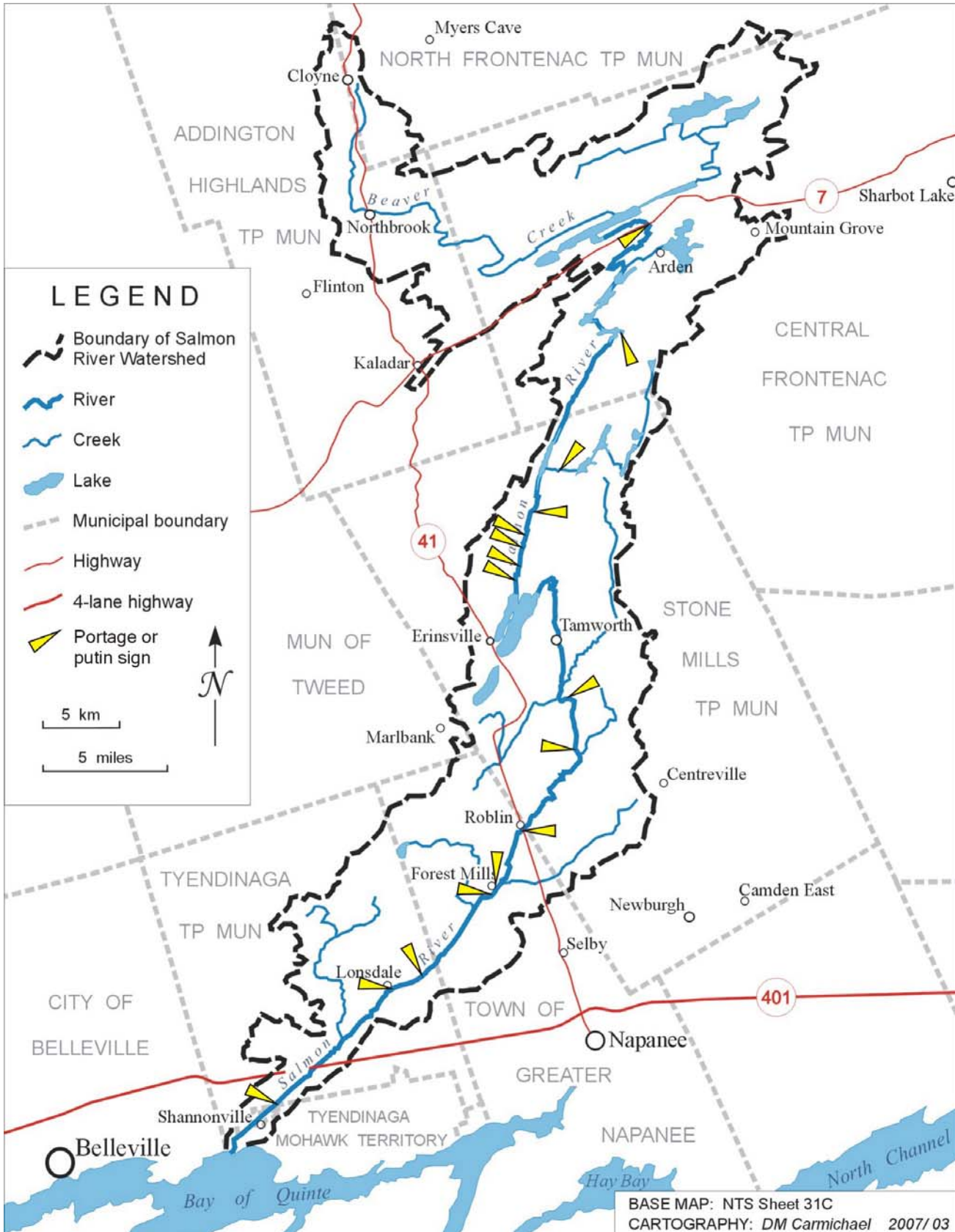
Unprecedented high water for midsummer! The next day two of us paddled it again, this time with a swede saw to cut a river-right channel through a newly-fallen maple between Sternbanger and the Gorge.



Otters!

The Salmon River still raises otters. On 24 September 08, this female and her two growing pups were foraging near the head of the Salmon where it flows out of Kennebec Lake. Photo by Gray.

Here is the Map – Yellow markers = signs



Inquiries to: Gray Merriam, President
Email:
merriam@explornet.com

We're on the Web!
friendsofsalmonriver.ca

The Friends of the Salmon River (FSR) is a volunteer group formed in 2004 to care for the Salmon watershed by gathering, producing, and dispensing knowledge in educational projects for users of the watershed. Currently, there is no major crisis. We hope that by informing users, their attachment to the land will be strengthened, their stewardship will be more effective and crises will be avoided.

Our challenge is to get everyone keenly interested in looking after a basically healthy watershed.

Our supporters and Partners

Frontenac Stewardship Council/ Chris Raphael Coordinator

Hastings Stewardship Council / Jim Pedersen, Coordinator

Lennox & Addington Stewardship Council/ Steve Pitt,
Coordinator



Becoming a member of the Friends of the Salmon River

The Friends of the Salmon River welcomes new members. At present our membership stands at 134. The annual membership fee is \$20.00 for an individual and \$30.00 for a family (two votes). Memberships extend from August 15th to August 14th of the following calendar year. If bought after February 1, membership extends one full year from the following AGM, held in August.

To join simply fill in the information requested (right) and send it with a cheque or money order payable to:
Friends of the Salmon River and return to:
Nathalie Sorensen, 201 Westdale Avenue,
Kingston, Ontario K7L 4S4.

Membership Application

Name:

Address:

City: _____ Province: _____

Postal Code: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____