

The Salmon River Watershed: Jewel of Eastern Ontario
Edited by Milly Ristvedt
Friends of the Salmon River, Tamworth, ON, 2006
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Anyone who has visited or even traveled through the Salmon River watershed, which has its head waters south-east of Bon Echo Provincial park and which drains into Lake Ontario near Shannonville, is aware of the beautiful landscapes that can be seen. Starting in 2005, the Friends of the Salmon River has organized a chartered bus tour of the watershed with local professionals giving commentary throughout. For the initial tour, a booklet explaining the highlights of the watershed was prepared.

Out of the original manuscript has grown a much-expanded version of the text copiously illustrated with colour photographs provided by the contributors. The key contributors are retired professional ecologist Gray Merriam, retired literature professor Michael Rehner and retired professor emeritus of geology, Dugald Carmichael. John Duchene has added a new chapter on Watershed Communities. Contributions of art and poetry have also been made by artist Milly Ristvedt and poet Nathalie Sorensen.

This book is easy to read as the text is clearly written and is presented in a language that is accessible to the general layperson. Aforementioned illustrations are a definite enhancement. The book is short, roughly 100 pages, and I was able to read the entire text within a few hours and was sorry to see the book come to an end. Most importantly, I had learned about some of the key ecological, geological and historical highlights of the area before I went on the Salmon River bus tour. John Duchene's chapter on watershed living was a welcome bonus as it allowed me to better appreciate the small towns we passed through. I even learned that Tamworth has its very own bookstore, albeit only open from May to mid- October.

Whether or not you plan to take part in the 2008 bus tour I highly recommend you borrow a copy of this book first.

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