

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2016-2017



Headwaters Management

Our AGM of 2016 featured a discussion with Quinte Conservation (QC) and the audience about watershed and headwaters management. Members of the FSR board met with Quinte Conservation in February to discuss what resources might be dedicated to critical areas of the watershed, particularly the headwaters. QC was starting to prepare their new watershed master plan to go to the municipalities. So this was a good time to make a presentation to municipalities regarding the importance of protecting the watershed.

Presentations on the Watershed

Gray Merriam and Susan Moore made presentations to the municipalities of North and Central Frontenac (in April & May), focusing on the importance of watershed values and the headwaters, to assist in their planning processes. FSR offered help with resources.

FSR made a presentation to the Frontenac Stewardship Environmental Forum in April, about how to promote the importance of the headwaters in a watershed.

In January, Susan Moore (FSR) and Lawrence O'Keeffe (from Friends of Napanee) did an interview for the County Naturally show at 99.3 County FM in Picton - on Watersheds, the importance of Headwaters and the history and activities of both groups.

Art and Ecology

FSR promoted the art/ecology/watershed connection by co-hosting art lessons and a kids summer camp Eco-Art program with Salmon River Studios in Tamworth. A 10% discount on the art lesson fees was offered to FSR members, resulting in some membership renewals. Herb Pilles (vice president of FSR) provided a series of bird simulation games to the summer program.

Membership Committee

It was struck to find ways to add more members. An Online payment system will be investigated.

Shoreline Seedlings Program

Free shoreline seedlings were again provided to FSR members by Quinte Conservation; 175 tree and shrub seedlings were planted by our members in April.

Family Nature Day in Erinsville

Quinte Conservation and FSR again hosted a Family Nature Day at Beaver Lake on July 8, which was attended by about 90 children. The kids got to net water bugs; see live snakes, turtles, frogs and falcons; and make a printing craft with (real) leaves.

A Visit to Cloyne Museum, Benny's Pond, and the new Park

On August 26, the Friends of the Salmon River hosted an afternoon event and 45 people came to learn about Benny's Pond, part of the Salmon River watershed. Glen Pearce (a former board member who helped to map this area) outlined the series of creeks and wetlands that make up the headwaters here at

the top of the watershed. His knowledge of the area waters helped give the audience a more informed picture of our headwaters.

Tours of the Cloyne Pioneer Museum and the new Benny's Lake Park were also featured. Many had never seen the museum and enjoyed this fine glimpse into the pioneer history of the area.

Friends of Napanee River

Our "sister" river group has been very active and getting good crowds to their meetings

Recent Events: The Geology of the Napanee watershed

The Riparian Zones of the watershed

Invasive Species

Helen Humphreys, author of *The River* (about the Napanee River)

Napanee Plain Joint Initiative

A collaborative group including FSR, Lennox & Addington Stewardship, and many community/wildlife groups. The goal is to promote the value of alvar/grassland landscapes and help protect them. The Napanee Limestone Plain includes the Salmon River Alvar.

A *Guidebook to Alvar and Grassland Species of the Napanee Plain* was created toward this goal.

Loyalist Solar Project in Stone Mills Township

BluEarth Renewables is working on the Environmental Assessment requirements and the mitigation strategies. The Connection Line location has now been approved.

<http://www.blueearthrenewables.com/development/loyalist-solar-project-updates/loyalist-solar-connection-line-route-update/>

Ontario Nature

FSR signed on to the Ontario Nature letters 1. to protect Crown Forests and 2. end the Snapping Turtle and Bullfrog harvest.

On March 31, 2017, the Ontario government announced its decision to terminate the Snapping Turtle hunt.

Landfill Sites

Phil Couton (Sec. of FSR) will continue gathering information on area landfill sites, and monitoring the landfill renewal schedule.

FSR Website

A new face has been created for our website, it is still under construction, and we are adding an online payment system to make membership purchase and renewal easier.

The Board

Several board members are moving on to other efforts: Mike Paterson, David Praskey, Gabriel Deerman and Alex van Beers. We thank them for their work, and they will be missed.

Offered this upcoming year will be the option of Skype participation in board meetings, to help out on the distance factor.