

FRIENDS OF THE SALMON RIVER

Report of the President 2010-2011

This is our seventh year of safeguarding the Salmon Watershed and informing all of you about good, healthy practices. So we can run down to the river's edge and exclaim "We love our river!" - just like the sign says.

Ribbon of Life

The Friends of the Salmon River has developed a Ribbon of Life program to encourage shoreline landowners to create and maintain a naturalized buffer zone. The pilot program is in phase one, providing Shoreline Surveys to landowners on one section of the Salmon River, near Tamworth. Survey work is provided by Barbara King of Centre for Sustainable Watersheds. As the program progresses, FSR plans to reach out further and improve shorelines in other communities.

Natural shorelines help protect water quality. If we have a good buffer on our shoreline, we will

- ❖ Attract more wildlife
- ❖ Provide better habitat for fish
- ❖ Have less bacterial contamination
- ❖ Add beauty and colour to our property
- ❖ Increase privacy, and
- ❖ Reduce the amount of time spent on lawn care.

Daily actions by everyone can help to preserve the quality of water in lakes and rivers.

Queen's Archives

As FSR is a community group, we wish to make our files available to everyone. We have donated most of our files to the Archives of Queen's University. We shared a St. Lawrence College student with the L&A Stewardship Council and she prepared our materials for submission.

Included are The Salmon River Watershed book and CD, meeting minutes, Publicity, Past Events, Newsletters, President's Reports, our Policies, etc. Anyone can access those files.

Jeremy Heil, Technical Services Archivist
Queen's University Archives
Kathleen Ryan Hall, Queen's University, Kingston
Tel: [613-533-6000](tel:613-533-6000) ext. 74462 Web: <http://archives.queensu.ca>

Every year, before the AGM, there will be a call to the current Board for submissions to the Archives.

Watershed Signs

We created two new signs, which are appearing in the watershed.

“**Love your River**” is a 9 x 12 sign posted at the most visible river crossings. We hope the signage will encourage people to do just that –take good care of our valuable resource.

“**This Home is in the Salmon River Watershed**” is a 9 x 6 sign for posting on the driveway/front entrance to homes to promote how proud we are to live in this watershed. **This sign is for sale at \$10. each or as part of our membership package.**

moorepartnersusan@gmail.com

Quinte Conservation also put up two new

“**You are Entering the Salmon River Watershed**” signs on

1/ Mountain Road, on the way to Parham and

2/ on County Rd 41, north of Erinsville.

Wetlands Workshop

It was held on Sat, April 16 at Roblin Community Hall

Cohosted: FSR with L&A and Hastings Stewardship Councils

A presentation by wetland specialist, Chris Delage from Ducks Unlimited, followed by a field trip to Pennell’s Creek Wetland in the rain, but still well attended by 37 people.

- ❖ Types of wetlands
- ❖ What you can do to preserve and restore wetlands
- ❖ About nest boxes for ducks
- ❖ Species At Risk and wetlands

25 people went home with duck boxes provided by the Stewardship Councils.

Kingsford Conservation Area

Members of our Board have been in discussion with Quinte Conservation regarding the disruption and damage at this park area on the river. In the past, vehicles had been driving right into the river, damaging the park area, and garbage was often left on the ground. In May some large rocks were placed to limit vehicle access, but later, these were removed. A second line of rocks was added by the township, but small cars can still drive around them to access the picnic area. Garbage is still evident and further work is required. We will have more dialogue with QC on this issue.

Seedling Tree Order

1000 seedling trees and shrubs were distributed to members at no charge to help with reforestation of our watershed.

Croydon/Pennell Creek plantings

One large tree planting was done with the Fifty Million Trees program and the help of Steve Pitt from the L&A Stewardship Council

Work in this area will continue, as we wish to preserve the wetlands and forest corridor there

Plant List on our Website

Dora Hunter prepared a comprehensive vascular plant list (plants that have roots, stems and leaves) serving the areas of Frontenac Provincial Park, Puzzle Lake Prov. Park and the Salmon River watershed - mostly the northern section.

Highway Improvement on Hwy. #7

A rep from FSR attended the open house held March 30th in Kaladar. The project will involve pavement replacement and the introduction of a passing lane just east of Kaladar.

Consultants in attendance reviewed the proposed plans and explained the environmental approvals process which is underway. Ministries such as MOE and MNR are involved along with participation by the CA and DFO.

We were keeping watch on this, but no critical issues were identified.

Roadside Spraying in Watershed

The contractor responsible to remove road side vegetation along Highway #7 within the watershed has been using a chemical spray behind sections of guard rail where tractor mowers won't reach. The spray was applied from a moving truck and consisted of a glyphosphate based herbicide (Rp). This agent can be particularly damaging to amphibians and consequently should not be used where there is any opportunity for this material to enter road side wetland areas.

It was noted that alternative mechanical practices are being used along other highways and the use herbicide sprays should be eliminated from future contracts.

A letter went to the Ministry of Transportation requesting that the use of glyphosphate based herbicides be eliminated for the control of road side vegetation within the Salmon River Watershed and they responded that the situation is being monitored.

Salmon River Watershed Plan

Planning so far has been mainly flood control and manipulating existing dams
Extremely low water levels are problematic for river ecology and for species
WE propose a complete Watershed Plan to protect the natural processes in the watershed
Holistic approach – to support the long term healthy functioning

Plan: to work with the 3 area Stewardship Councils: Frontenac, L&A, and Hastings
To work with Quinte Conservation and the municipalities
Other partners, MNR

Planning capability is being developed by Frontenac County. Coordination among the County, the Stewardship Council, and the Conservation Authorities is underway.

Susan Moore, President, 2010/2011