

FRIENDS OF THE SALMON RIVER

Report of the President 2009-2010

This sixth year of operation of FSR, like all the others has been a year of safeguarding the Salmon Watershed while making a few improvements in the relationship with the watershed by users and residents.

Signs of the Salmon

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 David Field's leadership but was soon supported by the Stewardship Councils of Frontenac, Lennox and 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 the intensive design effort of Carolyn Butts and Hans Honegger of Bon Eco Designs, Tamworth who contributed well beyond their contractual obligations. Many FSR members suggested design improvements and improved information content and Cliff Maclean, Chair of Hastings SC, continuously improved the cooperation in the project. Unveiling ceremonies were May 29 for the Lonsdale and Roblin signs and July 3 at Story Lake.

This project enhanced our profile with the public and created new and better alliances with our partners.

More Trees Along the Salmon

FSR members received 750 free seedling trees to add to the forest cover of the watershed.

Natural History

Dora Hunter initiated natural history explorations in the watershed and further documented plant distributions especially in the area of Mud Lake, west of Roblin, and the Puzzle Lake Provincial Park up Gull Creek from the Tamworth-Arden Road. The Puzzle Lake area has one of the highest plant species diversities of any park in southern Ontario.

Modifying the Salmon at Milltown

For about 18 months I have been in continuing negotiations with Sean Stuart of Stantec, consultants to CNR about the widening of the CNR bridge at Milltown and the MOE requirement that CNR provide some compensatory habitat enhancement. That negotiation is not completed but is now complicated by a proposal from The Tweedsmuir Green Energy

group to install a hydroelectric generator at the Milltown site ("Project White Pine").

Dora Hunter and Susan Moore have attended a public information meeting at Moss's Mill here in Tamworth and Susan will now bring us that information.

Roblin Landfill

We also investigated the potential effects of the Roblin waste dump on the Salmon River by leachate discharge. We did not accept the first report from AECOM that showed no net change in any ions from above to below the dump. That test was run on surface water from the high runoff of April. A 2009 monitoring report was prepared by AECOM for MOE and could have been released by Greater Napanee but they did not provide it. Eventually it was obtained from AECOM. This report stated that no additional household waste that could decay would be deposited at the Roblin site. There was leachate reported entering the river from the dump but the quantities are insignificant given the river flow volume. Removal of the old waste that is the source of this leachate would likely be more damaging than no intervention.

Kingsford Conservation Area Cleanup

Numerous complaints about garbage and litter at the Kingsford Conservation Area were forwarded to Quinte Conservation along with FSR's history of attempts to clean up the site and an offer to help Quinte to achieve a permanent solution to the problem.

Dora Hunter has met with Quinte Conservation and will now update us on progress.

In Summary

Once again, what we have accomplished has depended fully on Board Members and regular members who have the time and knowledge to keep the Salmon Watershed healthy and beautiful.

Gray Merriam, September 2010