

Friends of the Salmon River

Fall Newsletter

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Friends of Salmon River AGM October 9, 2014



Water Quality: Lake Test Results and Healthy Waterways

The Friends of the Salmon River is holding their Annual General Meeting on Thursday, October 9 at 6:30 pm in Erinsville. We would like to help volunteers make full use of their water quality information and help everyone to understand lake processes in the future.

Water Quality: it affects lifestyle, health, ecology, property enjoyment and property value

Water is the essence of life. We need healthy lakes and groundwater for ourselves, our children, and our future. Join us to hear a water quality expert and learn the next steps to a healthy future.

Bev Clark, water quality professional, will explain the Lake Partner Program: Ontario's volunteer-based, water-quality monitoring program. He will help people interpret test results. There is a great deal of anxiety about blue-green algae blooms and the lake and climate variables that cause them. Bev will give current understanding of these issues.

The presentation will help lake stewards to interpret water quality data and their potential effects on your lake. An overview of important in-lake processes will be provided to help describe the links between water quality and aspects of the biological communities in Ontario lakes. Several emerging issues will be discussed and there will be plenty of time for questions.

Bev Clark worked for the Ministry of the Environment for 35 years at the Dorset Environmental Science Centre. He was involved primarily with the effects of nutrients on ecological processes in lakes. In later years he was the coordinator of the Lake Partner Program which utilized volunteers to collect phosphorus data for over 1,000 lakes throughout Ontario. Recently he has been working as an aquatic scientist under his own name on projects throughout Ontario.

The AGM takes place at St. Patrick's Catholic School at 6051 County Road 41 in Erinsville. (Erinsville is halfway between Napanee and Arden.) Doors open at 6:30 pm and the presentation begins at 7 pm. Please plan to arrive early if renewing or purchasing your FSR membership.

Election to the Board of Directors

This will follow the presentation. The nomination slate is still open. If you wish to nominate yourself or someone else for the upcoming board, please contact David.johnson@ontario.ca OR Susan@moorepartners.ca (613-379-5958).

Lake Partner Program

The Lake Partner Program is Ontario's volunteer-based, water-quality monitoring program. The Ontario Ministry of the Environment coordinates this lake monitoring program. Each year, more than 600 volunteers monitor total phosphorus and water clarity in almost 550 inland lakes at over 800 sampling locations. The resulting data are used to assess and report on water quality in lakes across Ontario.

Lake Partner Program volunteers collect total phosphorus samples and make monthly water clarity observations on their lakes during the summer months. By measuring total phosphorus and water clarity, it is possible to detect long-term changes in the water quality of individual lakes that may be due to impacts of shoreline development, climate change and other stresses.

Many of the lakes in the Salmon River watershed are in this program, including Beaver Lake.

Lake Steward kits are available. For more info, visit:

<https://www.ontario.ca/environment-and-energy/water-sampling-and-testing-inland-lakes>



Key Points for Good Lake Stewardship:

- Remember that what goes on your property and into your drain eventually finds its way into the lake, so avoid harsh cleaners, pesticides/herbicides and fertilizers.
 - Protect your shoreline from erosion and runoff by maintaining or planting a buffer zone of native vegetation – don't mow to the water's edge.
 - Enhance biodiversity on your property by leaving rock piles, fallen tree limbs and brush piles untouched so they can function as wildlife habitat.
 - Encourage native species of flowers, shrubs and trees to limit your maintenance work and provide shelter to local wildlife species.
 - While boating, try to remember to keep your speed below 10 km/hr when you're within 30 m (100 ft) of the shoreline. This will help to prevent erosion. And remember to be careful with oil and gas when filling boat tanks and emptying bilge water.
 - Inspect and clean your boat before moving to other lakes to prevent the spread of invasive species.
 - The water that you drink is precious! Practice water conservation inside and outside your cottage, and have your drinking water tested regularly.
 - Maintain your septic system by booking regular pump outs and inspections.
- Consider the future of your lake property – leave a legacy by protecting your land and our watershed



Frontenac Wildlands Community Day in Cloyne

On Saturday September 6, people residing and visiting the area to the north of Hwy 7 were invited to attend the Community Day event in Cloyne. The event was initiated by the Frontenac Stewardship Foundation to create a forum for people of all ages to share their thoughts, learn more about the lands where they live.

The Frontenac Wildlands is identified as an area from Highway 7 north to Big Gull Lake and from Highway 41 east to Hungry and Mink Lakes – over 6,000 acres. This is an outstandingly rich landscape. It is a wealth of lakes and wetlands, known as the Kennebec Wetland Complex.

Displays, presentations and workshops were made available by over 20 different organizations participating in the event. The event was very well attended and provided good opportunity to engage folks in appreciation for the diversity and wealth of the culture, the land and the water there.



Family Nature Day at Beaver Lake, July 12, 2014

Friends of the Salmon River and Quinte Conservation co-hosted a Family Nature Day at Beaver Lake Park in Erinsville on Saturday, July 12.

It was a great success; about 150 attended. Events included: a scavenger hunt, netting for bugs and benthics, and clay modelling in "pure mud," (led by Maureen Walton of FSR). Children took home a milkweed seedling in a paper pot to plant in their gardens to help Monarch Butterflies. Many kids cradled snakes in their arms from the Sensational Snakes display. The event coincided with the kids annual Fishing Derby.

Families took home a new appreciation of the natural beauty, flora and fauna in our watershed.

One of our members wrote: *This was a great day at Beaver Lake Park. It was great timing for these grandparents as 6 of our grandkids had a wonderful morning enjoying the fishing and all the exhibits, not to mention the playground. Much appreciation to those inspired to organize such a great event.*



FSR Board of Directors 2013-2014

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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.



2014 Membership Information

Membership fees for 2014 are as follows:

Adult Membership - \$20

Family Membership - \$30 (Two votes for each family membership)

2013/14 Membership Data

Presently, Friends of the Salmon River has a total of 303 voting members. The 303 members are comprised of 215 individual memberships and 88 family memberships.

72 memberships are from the Beaver Lake Preservation Association. In 2013, the lake association enrolled its membership with the Friends of the Salmon River. **BLPA members are enrolled through 2014-2015**

Memberships are due for renewal at the Oct 9, 2014 AGM. Or visit - <http://friendsofsalmonriver.ca/membership-information/>

