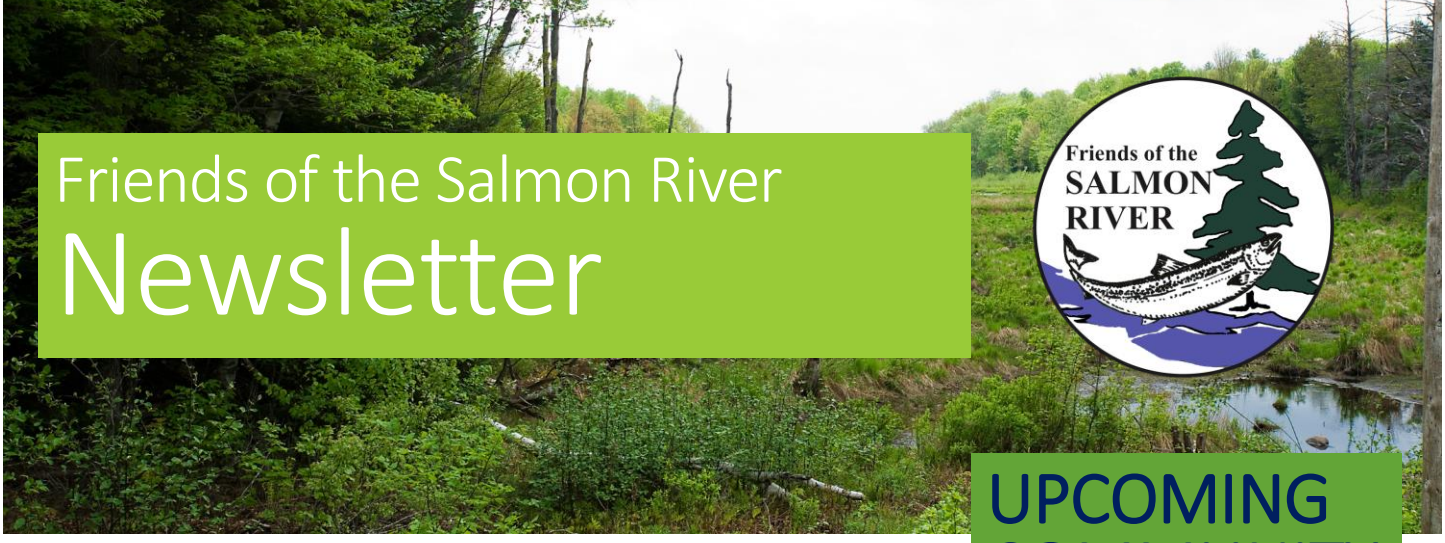


Friends of the Salmon River Newsletter

NEW WEBSITE

http://www.friendsofsalmonriver.ca/

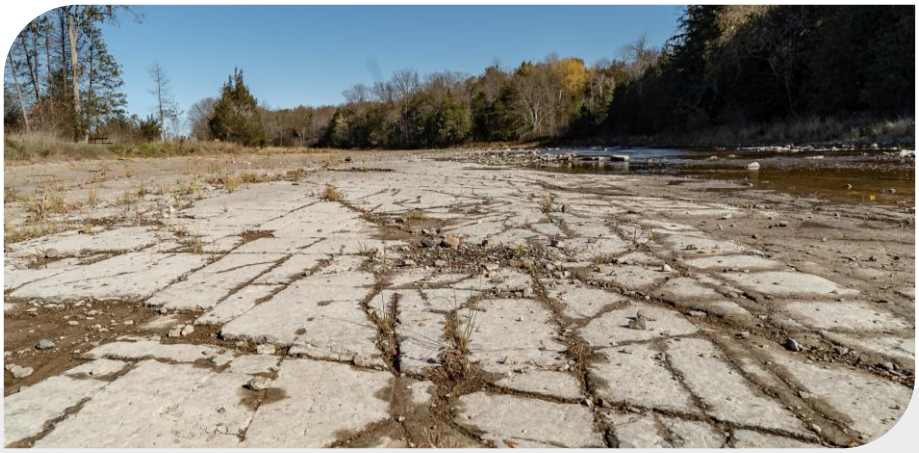
Visit our website for news of upcoming events, watershed resources and updates on FSR activities.

Our new online payment system is open for business. It makes membership purchase and renewal easier, plus donations can be made.

JOIN/DONATE HERE

THINGS TO WATCH FOR…

- New interactive watershed map allowing you to explore your watershed with videos, photos and resources!
- Groundwater well open house at Kennedy Field Station near Tamworth.
- Phragmites workshop.



Low water on the Salmon River at Kingsford Conservation Area, September 2018

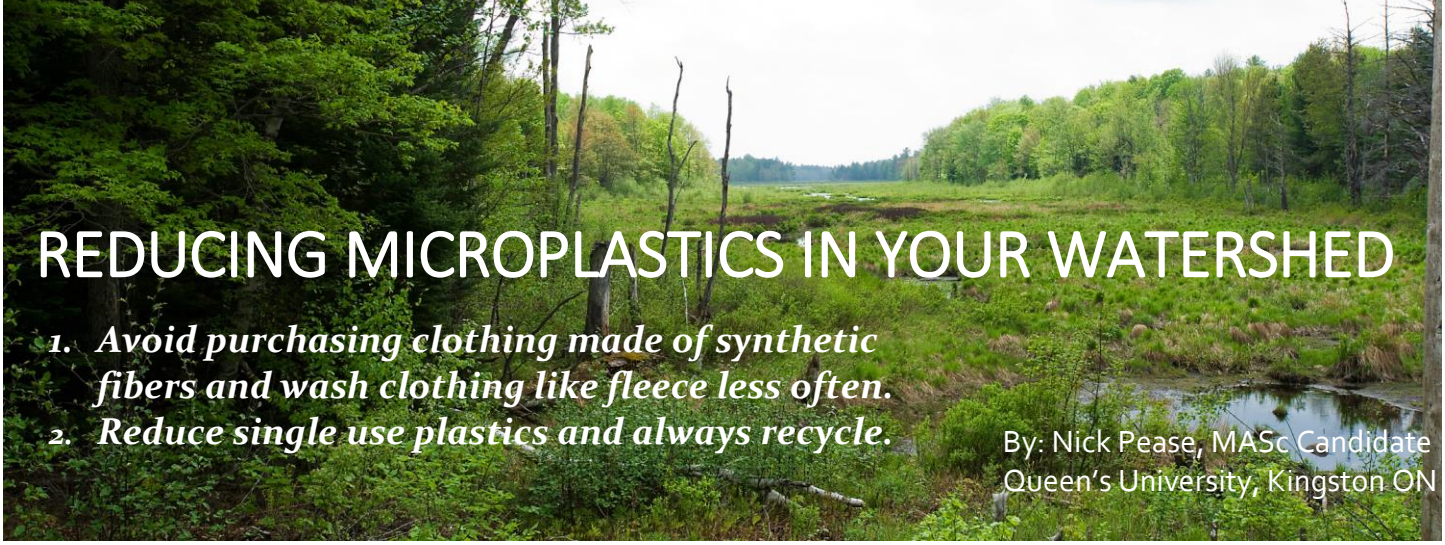
UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

February 25th, 2019
The New Science of Migration

February 27th, 2019
Winter Woodlot Talk in Elginburg: Managing Invasive Species

February 28th, 2019
Buildings and their role in causing and reversing climate change

March 7th, 2019
From earthstars to destroying angels: An Introduction to mushrooms & other fungi



REDUCING MICROPLASTICS IN YOUR WATERSHED

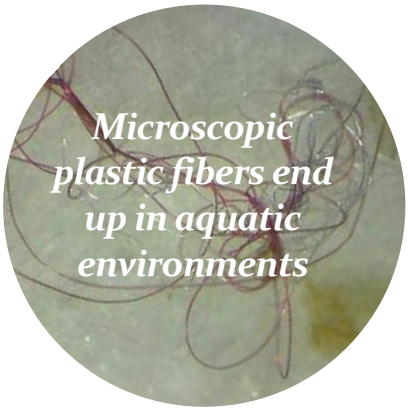
1. ***Avoid purchasing clothing made of synthetic fibers and wash clothing like fleece less often.***
2. ***Reduce single use plastics and always recycle.***

By: Nick Pease, MASc Candidate
Queen's University, Kingston ON

Microplastics are small pieces of plastic (5 mm or smaller) existing in the environment either by design or by degradation of larger plastic items. By understanding how they enter the environment we can change our behaviour and reduce our individual pollution levels. Microplastics can have a negative impact on the environment by leaching toxic or endocrine disrupting chemicals during their degradation. They can also be ingested by animals and typically aggregate in aquatic and marine environments. They are generally not biodegradable and will persist in the environment for 100s or 1000s of years.

Primary microplastics are purpose-built to be small. This includes beads in exfoliating cosmetics, plastic pellets for manufacturing, and microfibers for clothing and textiles. Reducing your use of primary microplastics is an important step to reducing your aquatic pollution footprint. **Avoid purchasing products with microbeads in the ingredients and be conscious of products made with synthetic fibers.** Plastic fibers are estimated to make up over 50% of the textiles in a North American home, and each of these is made of microplastics.

The main pollution risk is when washing synthetic fabrics and microfibers are released into the water since fibers are too small to be captured by most filters. Increased pollution occurs from loose-knit fabrics such as fleece. **By buying less clothing with synthetic fibers and washing them less frequently, you can reduce the amount of microplastic in your watershed.**

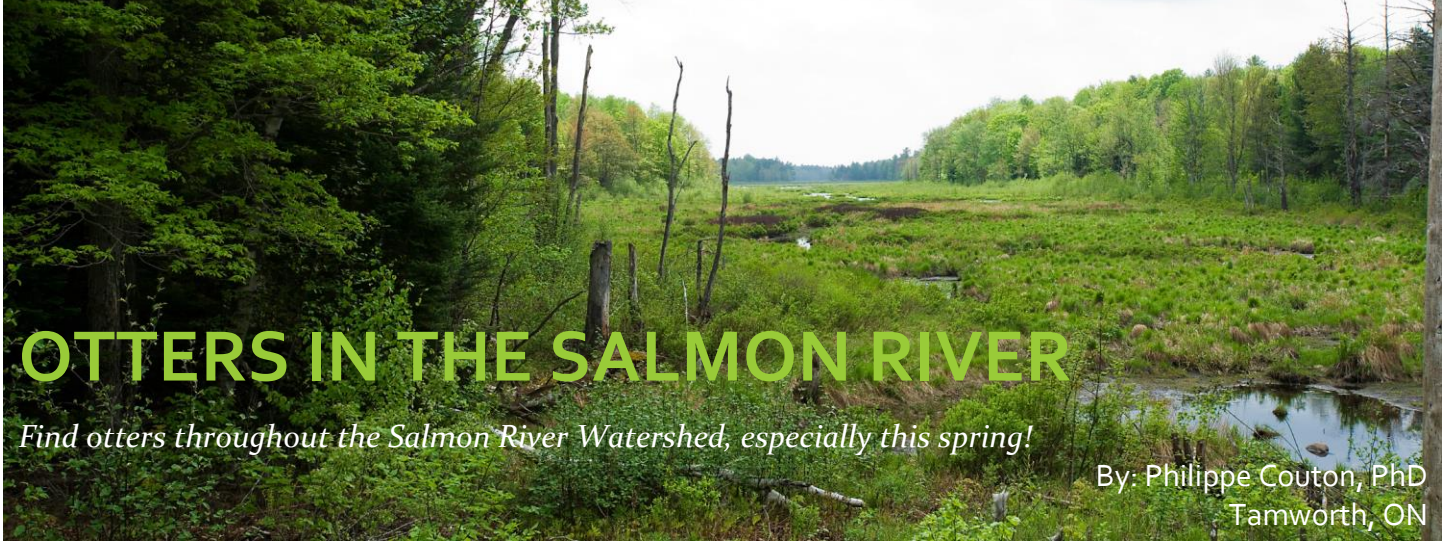


Secondary microplastics are small pieces of plastic that are produced by the fragmentation of larger pieces of plastic in the environment. This includes all forms of plastic waste in the environment. While the majority of secondary microplastics pollution comes from industrial waste such as fisheries netting, a large percentage, especially in inland freshwater ecosystems, comes from consumer plastics.

To reduce your secondary microplastics pollution footprint, **avoid any products with single use plastic**. Reduce purchasing imported or packaged consumer goods as much as possible. Recycle all plastic that is eligible locally and do not litter.

Plastic is a durable and versatile material that is ubiquitous in our lives in the 21st century. While it offers many economic benefits, it has become a widespread pollutant in the aqueous environment. Reducing your consumption of goods containing microplastics and goods that can become microplastics will help to protect your local watershed.

LEARN MORE HERE



OTTERS IN THE SALMON RIVER

Find otters throughout the Salmon River Watershed, especially this spring!

By: Philippe Couton, PhD
Tamworth, ON

There are just a handful of freshwater mammals in Canada. One is a yellow-toothed rodent that eats bark and causes floods. Another is a sleek, elegant, streamlined, naturally inquisitive predator that, unlike most other mammals, likes to play even as adults, like dolphins and humans. Which one would you choose as a national animal?

This is, of course, a very biased, one might argue grossly unfair, comparison of the beaver and the otter. But it's a question I always ask myself when coming across the more graceful of these two beautiful animals in our watershed.

Otters invariably seem curious and playful, while beavers maintain a strictly business attitude, slapping the water with their tails in annoyance if a canoe draws too close. We should at the very least consider adding the otter to our pantheon of national animals, to balance out the obsessive work ethic of the tree-felling rodent.

Otters are present throughout the Salmon River. FSR members have seen them both in the more remote parts of the stream north of Beaver Lake, and in the meandering, rural portion to the south. They're not always easy to view, since they roam over a large territory, and are usually actively seeking fish or other prey (they can eat up to 20% of their body weight per day), but regular hikers and paddlers of the watershed have reported many sightings. They tend to be even less cautious and louder around mating season, in the spring.

Photo by G Merriam

PRESIDENT REPORT 2018

READ THE FULL 2017/2018 REPORT HERE

Student Sponsorship: FSR helped to promote the art/ecology/watershed connection by sponsoring one child in the kids Eco-Art program - summer camp - with Salmon River Studios in Tamworth.

Open House at Kennedy Field Station: In June, FSR and Queen's University hosted an open house at the Kennedy Field Station, near Tamworth. A great learning day about groundwater flow and fractured rock.

Bus Tour: In October, we took a bus load of 56 passengers to explore the Salmon watershed. Thorough explanations of our landscape and history by our ecologist, geologist and historian provided an expansive learning experience.

FSR President, Susan Moore