

## FRIENDS OF THE SALMON RIVER

### President's Report 2012-2013



This is our ninth year of protecting the Salmon River watershed and helping to educate residents and visitors. This is a summary of our projects and events since our last AGM in October 2012.

#### **FSR Corporate Structure**

Our current corporate structure is too restrictive. We are in the process of dissolving the FSR as a corporation. We are awaiting a response from the Canada Revenue Agency about our tax filings. The approximate cost to make these filings will be \$1,200. Completion is anticipated sometime this fall. We will keep the membership informed of our progress.

Resolution for Amended Constitution to be proposed at AGM for adoption by the membership:

*Whereas the members of the Friends of the Salmon River (FSR) as a not-for-profit volunteer organization wish to move from an incorporated to an unincorporated status. Therefore be it resolved, that the "Constitution for the Friends of the Salmon River dated September 23, 2013" be approved for adoption and implementation by the Board of Directors upon dissolution of the existing corporation.*

#### **Insurance**

Insurance has been purchased for Liability and Directors and Officer's Insurance coverage (including a Federation of Ontario Cottagers Assoc. membership) = \$1162.40. This will be an annual operating cost.

#### **Beaver Lake Preservation Association (BLPA)**

The BLPA organization will be collapsed by the end of this year. At their recent AGM, it was decided to purchase memberships for their current members (72) in Friends of the Salmon River to help support our environmental programs. This was done and FSR is delighted to accept 72 new members. Water testing programs have been discussed and the Ministry of Environment Lake Partners Program is being investigated for this purpose. Bruce Henderson (Pres. of BLPA) and Bert Hein (Sec/Treas. of BLPA) are standing for election to the FSR Board.

#### **Ribbon of Life Shoreline Program 2013/2014**

This program encourages shoreline landowners to create and maintain a naturalized buffer zone. We were successful in our funding application for \$24,000. Partners are FSR, Centre for Sustainable Watersheds, Quinte Conservation, and Eastern Ontario Stewardship Collaborative. The program is in phase three in the 5-km stretch from Roblin southwest to Forest Mills. Participating landowners will receive a report, with recommendations on habitat improvement, planting of native species, and a wealth of resource information. The program is voluntary, very low or no cost, and planting of trees and shrubs will be provided under our expanded program this year. This project will contribute to community knowledge and engagement with the naturalization of shoreline properties using native

plants. Volunteers will be sought for assistance with tree planting in spring and fall of 2014.

### **Tree Planting in the Watershed**

In the spring, 1500 seedling trees and shrubs were distributed to members at no charge (donations only) to help with reforestation of our watershed. Currently, potted trees for our members are being maintained at Lemoine Point Nursery in Kingston.

### **Mussels**

In a new Mussel Program this year, volunteers are helping biologist Fred Schueler to survey the freshwater mussels of the Salmon River watershed. Jack Green and three summer students (from an MNR program) collected mussel shells in Beaver, White and Sheffield Lakes. Anyone interested in the program, please contact us.

### **Bird & Bat Houses**

Dave Sexsmith, woodworker and Ontario Woodlot Assoc. president, guided summer students in the construction of bird and bat houses for distribution to watershed residents.

### **Website**

We have created a new website, see [friendsofsalmonriver.ca](http://friendsofsalmonriver.ca). We wish to provide a forum for all members, so please contact the webmaster with any photos, tips or articles you wish to add to the site.

### **Book Project - History of the Salmon River Watershed**

A comprehensive history of the watershed from a human/community perspective is underway. Michael Rehner is the lead writer. Cora Reid, local historian, has contributed pertinent material. Local historical societies will be key contributors.

The search is on for pioneering families who lived on or near the Salmon River. Anyone who has relevant stories or photographs, please contact [moorepartnersusan@gmail.com](mailto:moorepartnersusan@gmail.com)

### **Roblin Landfill Site**

The Town of Greater Napanee confirmed that the site has been changed to a transfer site and therefore no further dumping of refuse is permitted, but waste material is still accepted into container bins. FSR is investigating monitoring activities, as closure of the dump is anticipated in the near future.

### **Kingsford Park**

Quinte Conservation installed "No Garbage" and "No Fires" signs and improvement in the cleanliness of the park was reported. FSR proposed an article on how to take care of the park for the Municipality's Newsletter, plus new information signs for the park.

### **Watershed Signs**

"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](mailto:moorepartnersusan@gmail.com)

### **Stewardship Councils**

We reported last year that the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources has withdrawn support from the Stewardship Councils who have supported FSR work so strongly.

However, the Frontenac, Lennox & Addington, and Hastings Councils are regrouping and still providing service in our communities.

**Monitoring Invasive Species**

Brochures produced by the Ontario Invasive Plant Council will be distributed at locations that sell plant materials, next spring.

**River Themes with local schools**

This is a new art and education initiative planned for 2014 in schools in the watershed.

Susan Moore, President, 2012/2013