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Talk of the Tay

DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS UNDER REVIEW

After months of consultation and effort, a draft of the recommendations of the watershed plan are being circulated for comment. Since our last newsletter (January), the study team — including representatives from government agencies, municipalities, interest groups and the general public — have been working on the final recommendations of the plan.

In trying to achieve the vision that was determined through public workshops last fall, the study team set out to identify what the goals and objectives of the watershed management plan would be (see page 2). Once established and ratified by the Round Table in February of this year, the team then came up with a range of possible actions that could be undertaken to meet those goals and achieve the vision. This effort is included on page 3 as the draft management strategy. This draft strategy is now being reviewed by the Round Table. This is the final step prior to drafting the first version of the watershed management plan (due out in Oct.).

THE TASK

Your comments on this strategy are welcomed and encouraged. Please review the information enclosed and forward any comments to Lynn Preston of the RVCA at 1-800-267-3504 Ext 109 or at lpreston@rideauvalley.on.ca or contact David Taylor, Round Table Chair, at 264-0094. This is your watershed. Have a say in its future.



TAY RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN GOALS

As determined by all stakeholders involved in the watershed planning process, here are the recommended goals of the watershed plan:

Goal 1: Surface and Groundwater Quality:

- ▶ To maintain and improve water quality for all water "users"

Goal 2: Surface and Groundwater Quantity

- ▶ To wisely manage and use surface and ground water to meet current and future needs.

Goal 3: Fish and Wildlife

- ▶ To maintain and improve the diverse habitats of the watershed to support fish, plant and animal populations.

Goal 4: Communication and Education

- ▶ To provide educational opportunities and promote the exchange of information among all watershed residents and other stakeholders on

the importance of and ways to contribute to and maintain a healthy watershed environment.

Goal 5: Watershed Management

- ▶ To promote an integrated and consistent approach to the management of the watershed.

A number of recommendations follow each goal. For information on these contact Lynn Preston at the RVCA office.



FISH SAMPLING ON THE TAY

Tay River Watershed Management Strategy Draft Due in October

The first draft of the final watershed plan will appear in October. A public open house will be held to allow the public and all other stakeholders the opportunity to review and comment on its findings. The final version will be completed in November. Stay tuned for notices this fall.

TAY RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT STRATEGY DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

The following is the draft version of the recommended actions that should be undertaken to achieve the goals and the community vision. These recommendations have been derived by the study team and are under review by the Round Table. Comments will be incorporated into the final version which will appear in the Draft Watershed Management Strategy due for review in October. Details of each action are available by contacting Lynn Preston Ext 109 at the RVCA.

- ▶ Publish the Tay River Watershed Plan
- ▶ Devise a Communications Strategy for implementation of recommendations
- ▶ Ensure Official Plan policies reflect goals of plan & apply consistently, rules for shoreline development
- ▶ Create an information depository and distribute information pertaining to ecological health, etc
- ▶ Activate a co-ordinated education/communication program
- ▶ Collect information and monitor resources (includes identifying indicators)
- ▶ Create a Tay River Watershed Management Board
- ▶ Create Friends of the Tay Watershed
- ▶ Promote Existing and Create Stewardship Programs
- ▶ Undertake Hydrologic Modeling to Determine Water budget
- ▶ Conduct Groundwater study (including Aquifer Vulnerability Mapping)
- ▶ Conduct Septic Surveys and introduce appropriate by-laws
- ▶ Identify Methods to determine Environmental Requirements for Surface Water
- ▶ Inventory all Water takings
- ▶ Identify, protect and enhance significant terrestrial habitats
- ▶ Identify, protect and enhance corridors throughout watershed
- ▶ Undertake fisheries and fisheries habitat management plans
- ▶ Celebrate the Watershed
- ▶ Define rules for the use of water
- ▶ Undertake Lake Management Plans (including lake capacity modeling)
- ▶ Focus school curricula on Tay River projects
- ▶ Set up and Co-ordinate volunteer data collection Strategy
- ▶ Review status of dams and dam operation
- ▶ Undertake Flood plain mapping



CANOEING THE TAY

Proposed "Tay Discovery Centre"



The Town of Perth is in the final phase of planning for the Tay Basin property which was recently purchased by the town. At public workshops in July 2001, one of the many proposals put forward by participants included a "Tay Discovery Center" which would be a public information center for visitors and local residents. It could provide information on the watershed, its history, how it affects the community, its management, and on

facilities, services and products provided by local business. The centre could provide heritage and tourism information and identify local services and products. The center could also include the use of computers, printed information, and displays to direct or link visitors to local facilities, government agencies, lake and community associations and businesses. The center will develop with multiple partners and sponsors, including the Friends of the Tay River as a lead partner. For more information, contact Cameron MacLeod, 264-9925.

FRIENDS OF THE TAY WATERSHED — UP AND RUNNING

A new community-based association has been formed to assist in promoting and carrying out the recommendations of the Tay Watershed Management Plan.

The "Friends of the Tay Watershed" has been developed by members of the Tay River Watershed Round Table. It will aim to support the interests of all the watershed associations and co-operate with them in promoting joint activities, engaging in stewardship activities and secure project funding.

A "kickoff" public meeting of the Friends is scheduled for October to coincide with the public open house of the Tay River Watershed Management Plan. Work has already started on a membership program and on funding as well as initial projects including participation in the EcoFest, Perth Fair and development of the Tay Basin Discovery Centre (see above).

Individuals and associations interested in joining or obtaining further information may contact David Taylor at (613) 264-0094 or deft.consult@superaje.com.

COME TO THE FIRST ANNUAL TAY RIVER ECOFEST

Mark August 26 on your calendar for the first ever Tay River EcoFest. Come on out and celebrate the Tay River, learn how to become a better steward, have fun, listen to music, educational talks, there's tours, workshops and more.

Where: 1 km west of Perth at 391 Christie Lake Rd.

When: Sunday August 26th 11 am to 4 pm

Why: because its there

For more information, contact Alfred at 267-1128



LIVING BY WATER

Everyone is talking about the need for clean water — for drinking, for swimming and for fishing. The folks at the Living By Water Project know that the best way to protect your water quality is to take good care of your shorelines. The Living By Water Project is a non-profit initiative that can offer you programs, educational materials, and information on how to care for your shorelines. Some of the programs they're working on include: The Workshop-in-a-Box Program, Homesite Assessment Program Manual, Shoreline Action Checklists, and the Shoreline Event Planning Manual. The Living By Water Project is new to Ontario and is looking for groups that are interested in piloting these programs.

For more information on how to protect your shorelines, or to pilot any of the programs, contact Rebecca at (613) 692-3571 x.122, shorelines@lrconline.com, or visit www.livingbywater.ca.

OMYA WATER TAKING APPLICATION —UPDATE

OMYA Canada submitted an application to take water from the Tay River for the purpose of producing limestone slurry. Several appeals to the Ministry of Environment necessitated a hearing before the Environmental Review Tribunal. This hearing began June 25th and, after two and a half weeks of evidence, the hearing was postponed until further notice. It is expected the hearing will re-convene some time in the fall.

WATERSHED WATCH PROGRAM ON THE TAY

A major grant from the Trillium Foundation will launch the Watershed Watch program in some of the lakes in the Tay watershed. This intensive water sampling of 7 lakes each year will provide valuable baseline data on water quality trends. The program is sponsored by the Farren Lake Association with help from the Alliance of Rideau Lakes Associations and the RVCA. Funding comes from the Trillium Foundation, the RVCA and the Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation. The program will evolve into an annual, repeatable sampling program providing many years of quality data. Contact Patrick Larson at the RVCA with questions at 1-800-267-3504 Ext. 110 or plarson@rideauvalley.on.ca.



MACRO INVERTEBRATE SAMPLING IN THE TAY

THE PROVINCE NEEDS YOUR HELP

Do you have a well you're not using? Is it located west of Christie Lake? If so, the RVCA would like to test your well.

As part of the newly created provincial monitoring network, the RVCA needs wells located throughout the Rideau Watershed to test on a long term basis. In conjunction with the Ministry of the Environment, wells will be tested to provide baseline information pertaining to the quality of groundwater across the province. The RVCA will do the testing on a regular basis and the information will be entered into a provincial data base. A data logger would be installed at each well site to provide continuous data readouts of groundwater information. While the RVCA has found many wells to test throughout the Rideau system, none has been included in the upper end of the watershed — i.e. above Christie Lake.

If you have a drilled well you no longer use and would like to have it included in the provincial data base, please contact Mezmure Haile-Meskale at the RVCA at 1-800-267-3504 Ext. 117 or at mmeskale@rideauvalley.on.ca.



TAY RIVER IN PERTH

FISH HABITAT MANAGEMENT PLAN UNDERWAY FOR TAY RIVER WATERSHED



KEVIN ESSELTINE

The Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans, the Provincial Ministry of Natural Resources and the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority have banded together to undertake a Fisheries Habitat Management Plan

for the Tay River Watershed. The plan is being managed by Kevin Esseltine on a contract basis to report on the existing conditions and opportunities for enhancement of fisheries habitat. Kevin will be out in the field throughout August and part of September determining where good fisheries habitat is and could be along the Tay, its tributaries and the major lakes of the watershed.

So, if you see Kevin lurking about this summer, don't be alarmed. He's trying to improve fish habitat.

Contact Lindsay Penney at the RVCA for more information at 1-800-267-3504 Ext. 138.