



LOWER TRENT
CONSERVATION

MEDIA RELEASE

Healthy Watersheds for Healthy Communities

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 24, 2019

Tri-County Children's Water Festival

Celebrating a Decade of Fostering Water Stewardship Practices

The annual Tri-County Children's Water Festival, spearheaded by Lower Trent Conservation, is celebrating 10 years of fostering water stewardship practices among local youth! Approximately 1,000 students, from grades 3 to 5, attended the annual event held yesterday and again today at the Batawa Ski Hill. The 2019 Tri-County Children's Water Festival provided local youth with a better understanding of the importance and diversity of our country's most precious natural resource – water. More than 30 fun and innovative activity centers helped local students engage in experiential learning focused on water conservation, water protection and water safety.

Thirty-six classes from schools in Grafton, Colborne, Brighton, Warkworth, Frankford, Stirling, Batawa, Trenton, Bayside, Marmora, Madoc, Belleville, Tyendinaga, Tweed, and Prince Edward County confirmed participation in the Festival this year.

"With less than one percent of all water found on the planet being accessible and suitable for human use, everyone needs to be aware of how to use it wisely and keep it clean", says Rhonda Bateman, CAO, Lower Trent Conservation. "Teaching children about what they can do in their personal lives to protect our local water resources is fundamental in promoting healthy watersheds for healthy communities."

"It's important to note that this incredible event wouldn't be possible without the support of our generous donors and numerous hard-working community volunteers," adds Bateman.

Close to 100 volunteers, including students from Trenton High School's Outer Limits class, assist with the event every year.

Key donors for this year's festival include Enbridge Inc., Drossbach NA, Huff Estates Winery, Mystical Distributing Company, Cascades Containerboard Packaging – Trenton Mill, Quinte First Credit Union, CBM Aggregates, CRH Canada Group – Ogden Point Quarry, Ontario Power Generation, the Rotary Club of Trenton, and the Royal Canadian Legion – Brighton Branch 100 and Trenton Branch 110.

Several special guests also pitched in to help host the informative activity centres over the past two days including The City of Quinte West Public Works and Fire Department (Station 5); Ontario's Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks; Kokum Makwa Cultural Enterprises; and Amphibian and Reptile Advocacy from Kingston.

The Tri-County Children's Water Festival is organized by a steering committee of four local organizations including Lower Trent Conservation, Quinte Conservation, Bay of Quinte Remedial Action Plan, and Batawa Ski Hill, as well as community volunteers Eldon Burchart and Barb Toffelmire.

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Photos attached:

1. Indigenous Water Blessing hosted by Makwa Cultural Enterprise
2. Amphibian & Reptile Advocacy teaches children to respect and appreciate turtles and snakes
3. Amazing Aquifer activity teaches Grade 4 students about groundwater and how to protect it

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