

Spring Cleanup 2020 Postponed

Clean up your neighbourhood today to prevent litter from entering our waterways. Be a litter warrior!



February 12, 2020 Roxane Filion and Christina Colantonio
Friends of the Porcupine River Watershed. Photo: Brenda Torresan

February's Open House was a Unique Opportunity to Talk to Experts About Various Watershed Concerns

On February 12, 2020, local residents gathered at the Maurice Londry Community Centre to talk to different stakeholders and learn more about what is being done in regards to the health of the Porcupine River Watershed and Porcupine Lake.

This Open House event was organized by the Porcupine Liaison committee. Amongst the experts present to answer questions, residents had the opportunity to talk to representatives from the City of Timmins, Canadian Environmental Law Association (CELA), Ministry of the Environment, Porcupine Health Unit, Mattagami Region Conservation Authority (MRCA) and mining industries including Newmont Porcupine, Lakeshore Gold, Glencore Kidd. Many residents came forward with their concerns and it was a unique opportunity to have conversations about the ongoing pumping station work, the sewage bypasses, the associated costs and time frames of studies and improvement projects.

Documents related to these issues are now accessible on the Friends of the Porcupine River Watershed Facebook page and our website.



Wash you hands

Be sure to wash your hands after picking up litter.



Social Distance

Physical distancing is proven to be one of the most effective ways to reduce the spread of illness during an outbreak. With patience and cooperation, we can all do our part.

1

STAY SAFE!

Practice 2 meter Social Distancing on a regular basis.

2

STAY HEALTHY!

Cough or sneeze into your elbow or Kleenex. Stop the spread.

3

STAY HOME!

Reduce spread of Covid-19 by limiting your time out in community.

Keeping our Neighbourhoods and Waterways Clean During this Uncommon Spring

Like every year, as the snow melts and warm weather returns to promise better days, it also reveals litter on our streets, on the side of the roads, and on public trails; a stark contrast with the beautiful spring images we have in our minds.

Due to the ongoing Covid-19 situation and the resulting preventative measures enforced by the government regarding public gatherings, the FPRW Community Clean-up will have to be postponed.

But, like every year, we are aware of many kind individuals who are picking up litter weekly around the lake and elsewhere in the community and we are very appreciative of their continuing efforts. Every piece of litter they dispose of benefits the community and the watershed.

How does picking up trash in your neighbourhood benefit our water system? As the snow melts, a portion of the litter and pollutants are carried directly into waterways. Even if you don't live near a lake, litter makes it into the storm drains, into a ditch or a small creek nearby, and can eventually end up into our lakes where it accumulates.

This spring, spending time outside while maintaining safe physical distancing can still be done, and filling one or two bags of litter is a great way to get fresh air and make a positive impact on our community and our waterways.

Please remember to do it safely and follow the physical distancing guidelines. Use a grabbing/pickup device, gloves or plastic bag to handle litter whenever possible. Wear sturdy shoes and do not pick up hazardous materials such as glass and needles.

If you clean up with your children, make sure you supervise them carefully. And of course, remember to dispose of the litter properly and wash your hands carefully afterwards. Thank you to all those who volunteer to make our community and waterways healthier!

Become a litter warrior!

Porcupine River Welcomes Trumpeter Swans for the 3rd Spring

For the third spring in a row, Porcupine River has attracted some very special visitors: Trumpeter Swans.

These large swans, just like other migrating birds, take advantage of the open water in early April to get some nutrients and much needed rest after their migration.

Trumpeter Swans have gone through drastic declines in North America in the last centuries; in fact they had completely disappeared from Ontario around 1886.

Because of conservation efforts and dedicated volunteer projects, these majestic birds are coming back.

The fact that they are observed in the Porcupine River Watershed area is great news, not only because it indicates an increase in numbers and distribution, but it also means they are slowly re-establishing themselves in their historical range and habitats.

They used to be widespread in our area, breeding in our wetlands all the way to the James Bay lowlands.

These swans are very sensitive to human disturbance; *if you want to help, make sure to keep your distances at all times and do not disclose suspected breeding sites to the public.*

And if you observe a Trumpeter Swan with a yellow wing tag, *please report it to the Trumpeter Swan Restoration Program or contact us for more information.*



Trumpeter Swans - Porcupine River (April 2019) Roxane Fillion



Trumpeter Swans - Porcupine River (April 2020) Pekka Tuohimaa

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OF THE
PORCUPINE RIVER
WATERSHED