



## Mission

The Friends of the Porcupine River Watershed (FPRW) is committed to promoting a healthy, sustainable aquatic and terrestrial ecosystem in the Porcupine River Watershed through public education and community involvement.

## Porcupine River Watershed Acknowledgement

The FPRW recognizes that the Porcupine River watershed is located on Treaty #9 territory and on the traditional territory of Indigenous Nations including the Mushkegowuk (Cree), Anishinabewaki and Métis. We cannot talk about water health, environment, and conservation without recognizing the insight and the history of caretaking by the Indigenous Nations and the need to include their voices in conservation discussions and decisions.

Are you a local teacher and would like your class to get involved with the FPRW for a cleanup or educational outing? Don't hesitate to contact us.

## A LITTLE EXTRA HELP FROM SOME FRIENDS TO KEEP OUR COMMUNITY CLEAN!

**In addition to hosting our second annual Litter Warrior Challenge during which many people from the community picked up litter from May to August, the Friends of the Porcupine River Watershed had some extra help this year. We would like to highlight the following community partners and volunteers:**



↑ YIPI Employees making sure the picnic area is free of litter while the children enjoy the new waterpark at Porcupine Lake's White Waterfront Conservation Area. Photo © Brenda Torresan

South Porcupine during various weekends from July to October. The area, located in a well-used public trail, was littered with heartbreaking amounts of trash and broken glass left from local weekend gatherings.

**3-** Roland Michener Geography Class helped the FPRW conduct a fall cleanup morning along the Porcupine Lake trails and along the creek on September 30th. The extra help was very appreciated!

*"As we were cleaning along the creek with a group of RMSS students, a family of Otters showed up! We all stopped for a few minutes to watch them swim and interact. Moments like these remind us that we share the land with a variety of wonderful wildlife and that all of us have to be better at keeping their habitat clean."*

Roxane Filion - FPRW



YIPI Employees at Porcupine Lake. Photo © Brenda Torresan



↑ Litter left behind in a local trail. If you use natural spaces to gather, we recommend carrying out what you bring in, not using glass bottles, and designating a group of friends to go clean up the area the next morning.



@OfPorcupine



Friends of the Porcupine River Watershed



@FriendsPorcupineRiverWatershed

## 2021 - Year in Review

### Member's Corner

*"I choose to be part of the FPRW because I care about the health of our environment and Porcupine Lake, and even if I know that each of us can make a difference individually, we can accomplish so much more together."* FPRW member

Why are you a member of FPRW? Why are local lakes and rivers important to you? We'd love to hear from you!

Don't forget to renew your FPRW membership prior to the end of 2021. Thank you for your support!

### Upcoming Annual General Meeting

The FPRW's AGM is coming up soon and all members are invited to attend. We are always looking for the community's input and for more people to help us with various projects. If you would like to attend the meeting, please contact us by email or look for updates on our social media pages for further details. See you soon!

**As we approach the end of 2021, we'd like to take a few moments to let our members know what we've been up to. The past 2 years have had its share of obstacles and haven't been ideal for community events, but we are still working together for a healthier watershed!**

During the past year, we built a new strategic plan to guide our actions and priorities, we held litter awareness initiatives, and we continued advocating for the watershed alongside various stakeholders through our participation in the Porcupine Watershed's Public Liaison Committee (PLC). Here are a few current and ongoing items:

- ✦ We continue to advocate for a cessation of the bypasses (*discharge of wastewater*) in Porcupine Lake. Despite the new extension granted to the City of Timmins for the tanks at Pumping Station no.4, we hope that the January 2022 deadline will be achievable and that the system will be fully functional.
- ✦ We are currently waiting for further fish testing in some of the watershed lakes after the MECP's findings of elevated mercury and chromium in Porcupine Lake's fish species in 2019. (*For more details, visit the Fish Advisory links on our website*)
- ✦ Public awareness of safe/unsafe swimming and fish consumption conditions is a priority and we continue to support proper signage at key locations. Public awareness of future discharges is also important, and the City has pledged to make every bypass public on their website.
- ✦ We are currently advocating for the restoration of the old Ratcliff Airway Inc. property situated next to the historic Airport Hotel on the shore of Porcupine Lake and hope to convert it into an accessible fishing platform, along with other trail improvements.
- ✦ Our FPRW iNaturalist project is growing. With 1360 observations totalling 645 different species, this data collection is helping us learn about the rich biodiversity within our watershed! We invite

you to explore the project and submit your own sightings:

[www.inaturalist.org/projects/friends-of-porcupine-river-watershed](http://www.inaturalist.org/projects/friends-of-porcupine-river-watershed)



Porcupine Lake. Photo © Andrew Warren

You can access the PLC agendas and minutes on the City of Timmins' website for more information on these items and more: [timmins.civicweb.net/Portal/](http://timmins.civicweb.net/Portal/)

**Want to become a member? Have a question or comment?**

Contact us: [friendsporcupineriverwatershed@gmail.com](mailto:friendsporcupineriverwatershed@gmail.com)

Visit our website: [friendsoftheporcupineriverwatershed.com](http://friendsoftheporcupineriverwatershed.com)