

Great River Network



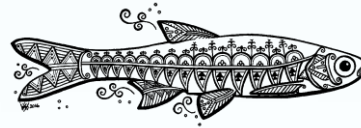
presentation to

Cornwall City Council

November 12, 2019



Great River Network



Mission

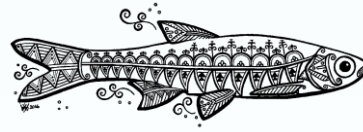
Our Mission is to improve, protect, and value the Upper St. Lawrence River for future generations by linking communities and sharing knowledge

Vision

Our Vision is a sustainable St. Lawrence River ecosystem that is in balance and harmony with all living things



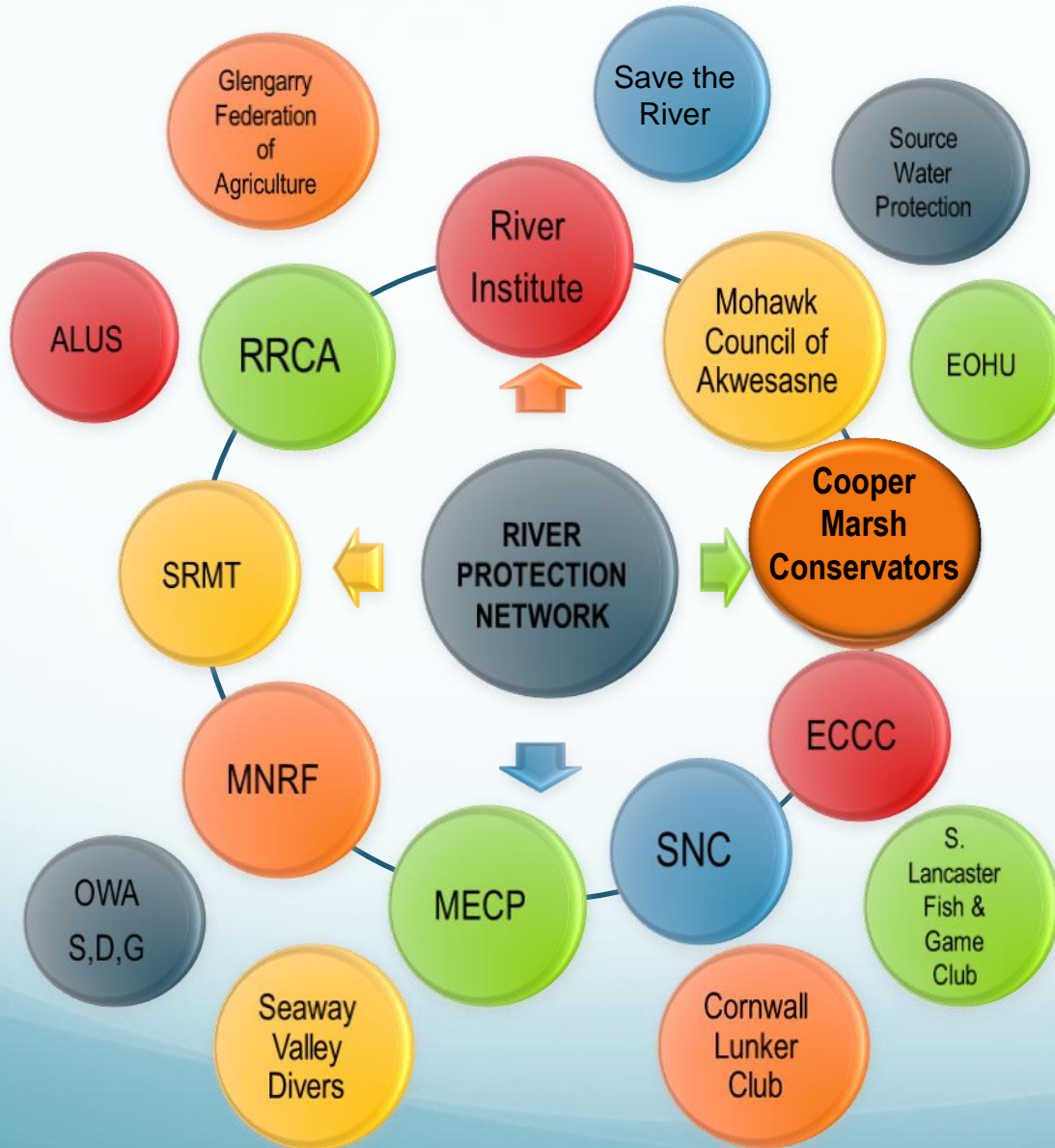
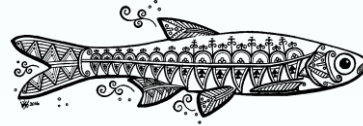
Great River Network



- Formed in 2015 in response to the **St. Lawrence River Area of Concern Remedial Action Plan**
- Comprised of and working with over **45** River related organizations, agencies, and individuals, as well as members of First Nations communities in Canada and the U.S. representing **1200+** River volunteers and sponsors



Great River Network



- Communication & Education
- Cooperation
- Coordination
- Capacity Building
- Community Action

Great River Network

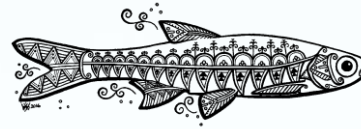


Projects to Date:

- **Great River Cleanup** – **40+ tonnes** of debris have been removed from the St. Lawrence River at **Cornwall**, **Akwesasne**, and **Lancaster** by **800+** volunteers from 2016 - 2019
- **St. Lawrence River Erosion Project** - Working with the **St Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation** on shoreline erosion issues (i.e. -voluntary Vessel Speed Reduction Areas)



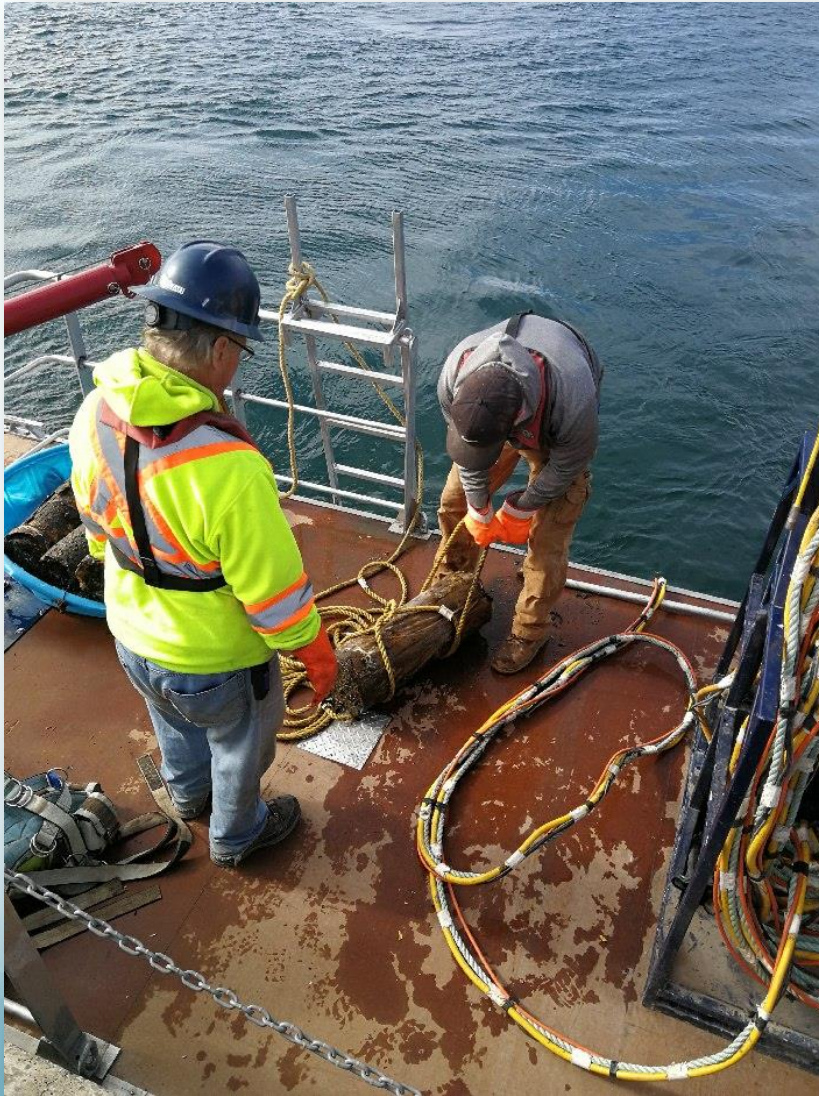
Great River Network



- **Aids to Navigation Battery (AToN) Removal Project** with **Canadian Coast Guard and Mohawk Council of Akwesasne**
- **St. Lawrence River Fish Habitat Restoration Project** with **Cornwall Lunker Club, RRCA, and Seaway Valley Divers**
- **Cornwall Shopping Cart Strategy** (*keeping shopping carts out of our River*)
- **Proposed River and Shoreline Cleanup of Lock 15** with permission of **City of Cornwall and Akwesasne** in 2020



AToN Batteries in River (Cornwall Harbour)



- Seaway Valley Divers discovered batteries in Harbour during Great River Cleanup
- Worked with Coast Guard and Mohawk Council of Akwesasne to remove **14** in October 2019



FACTS

- **Cigarette butts** have been the **# 1** item found during Shoreline Cleanups. *It is impossible to pick them up once they enter the River*
- **One cigarette butt** can pollute an estimated **500 litres** of water
- It takes an average of **12 years** for a cigarette butt to fully degrade
 - Cellulose acetate filter fibres in cigarette butts are non biodegradable
 - **Cigarette butts** are consumed by fish and wildlife



FACTS

- Cigarette filters contain plastic and are the second most common single-use plastic item found as litter
- **1 cigarette** soaked in a litre of water for 96 hours leaches out enough toxins to kill half of the fish exposed to it



FACTS

THE TOP 10 PLASTIC ITEMS



Cigarette butts



Bottles and
bottle caps



Food wrappers



Straws &
Stirrers



Cups & Lids



Tampon
applicators



Foam
Pieces



Bags

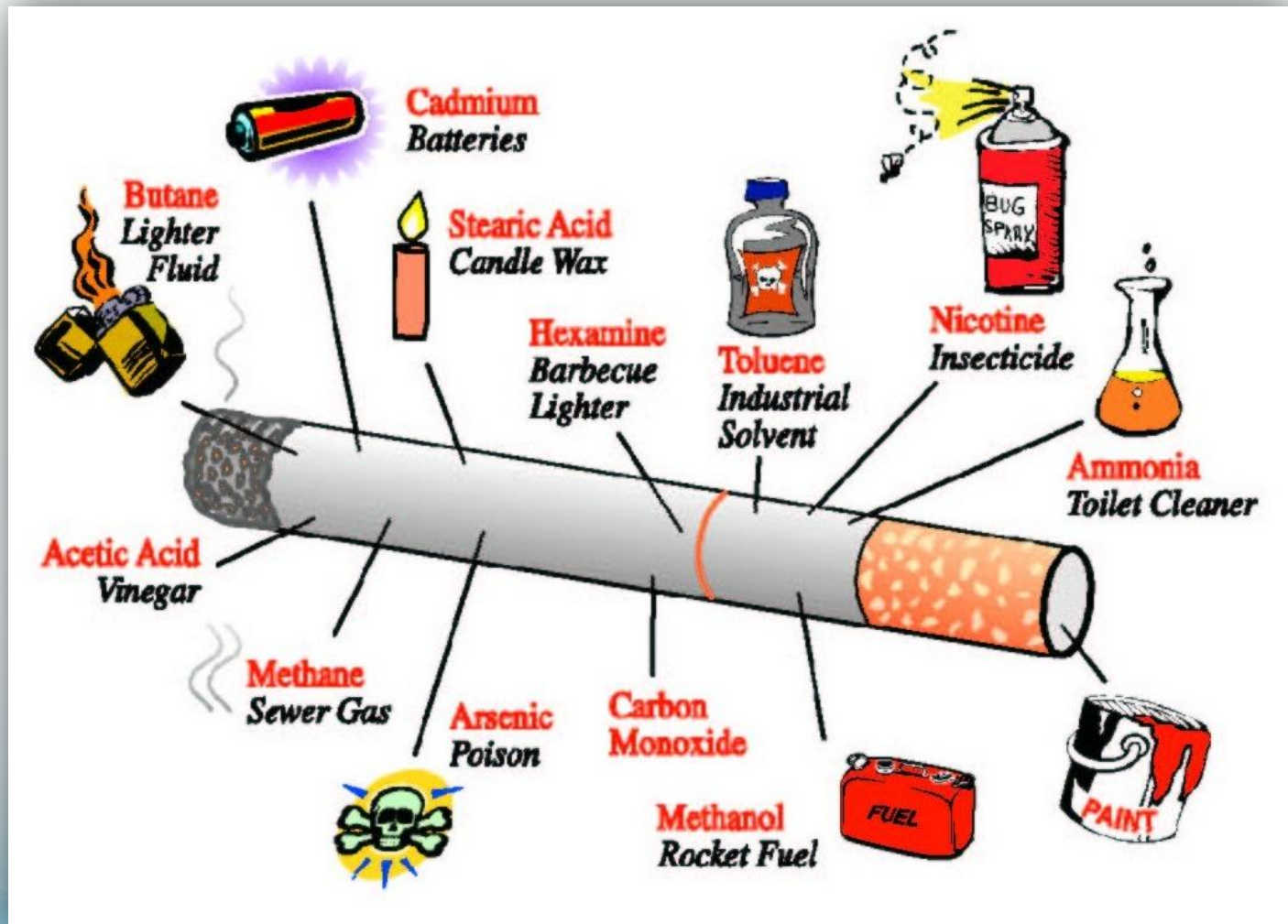


Cutlery



Packaging

Toxins in Cigarette Butts



This Proposal is Already in Line with . . .

- The City of Cornwall has a **Litter Bylaw 051 - 1996** which does include this type of litter
- The City invested over \$80,000 dollars on the Waterfront Development Plan which highlights the community's desire for a clean Waterfront and River
- The River and shorelines would be much cleaner and healthier with a substantial reduction in butt waste



Smoke Free Waterfront Trail Proposal

- *“if Council chooses to designate the Waterfront Trail as a smoke free zone, Administration recommends that the entire length of the Waterfront Trail within the City limits, as well as Lamoureux Park be designated as a smoke free zone.”*

Potentially **3** types of Signage:

1. Metal signs installed on existing sign posts
2. No Smoking icon signs installed along the trail
3. Symbols can be stencilled on asphalt pathways and on picnic tables.



Smoke Free Waterfront Trail Proposal

- Signage does not require a lot of maintenance
- Signage is cost effective
- Signage is a “visual cue” for residents and visitors



Smoke Free Waterfront Trail Proposal

- Bylaws for Trail could be amalgamated into one user friendly sign



In Conclusion . . .

GRN requests that the Cornwall Waterfront Trail be designated a smoke free area and . . .

- Signage installed (*2020 budget item*)
- Ash Urns installed at **entrances** to the Waterfront Trail (*2020 budget item*)
- Waterfront Trail be included as normal course of business for By-law Officers



Great River Network



Thank you
Cornwall City Council

TRAIL RULES

Cornwall



Bicyclists yield to pedestrians
Trail users obey all traffic rules
Carry in, carry out
Clean up after pets
Dogs on short leash at all times



No smoking or fires
No alcohol
No motorized vehicles
No trespassing on private property