



*Notes for Deputation to Fort Frances Town Council – May 14, 2018*

On May 30, Fort Frances will be part of a second annual binational initiative to raise awareness of the Rainy-Lake of the Woods Watershed in which we live and promote stewardship of the water quality within it. As part of the International Watershed Coordination Program offered by the Lake of the Woods Water Sustainability Foundation, approximately 60-70 storm drains along the waterfront and beyond will have a painted stencil applied beside them, reading “No Dumping: Drains to River” and a picture of a fish (see photos from 2017). Storm drains along the waterfront empty directly into the river and so it is important to recognize that what goes down the storm drain, goes into the water and we need to keep things like soaps from car washing, fertilizers, oils, etc. out of these drains. Many communities in Canada and the U.S. have similar stencils or have installed permanent markers. This same project will be happening in International Falls on May 21.

This is a partnership project between the Foundation, the Town of Fort Frances, Fort Frances High School, Koochiching Soil and Water Conservation District and Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. Students in Mr. Guertin’s high school shop class made the stencil in 2017 and the students in Mrs. Bonner-Vickers’ grade 8 class will be applying the stencils, picking up garbage along the way and hanging door hangers on neighbourhood doors to let people know about the project (picture). Prior to going out to paint, the students will take part in an interactive session with Jolen Simon of the Koochiching Soil and Water Conservation District to learn about how watersheds work through the use of a 3D model.