

It is without question rewarding and quite do-able to give back to the river, in the way of caring for it, as a band of like minded people of all ages and talents. 33 People attended and 14 businesses supported the project. The common string being a love and respect for nature and the environment - namely our mighty Ottawa River, and it's environs. What warmed me up on a cold but sunny day was the smiles and good cheer that each volunteer had. There were no complaints, only "point me in the right direction" and "where do we start". There was a toddler and there were a pair of seniors along. Community support was outstanding ( ie Newport Restaurant, Bridgehead, Tim Horton's etc..) Pizza was great, coffee was hot, and all was good. The people were the key. It is a perfect example of teamwork. I love my team. Jim Montgomery, Jon Andrews and Dan Karwowski where were the logistics commandos, as well as a huge safety element.

The 3 most impressive piece of garbage we picked up was one refrigerator, 1/2 a dozen paint cans, some of which were still dripping paint, and a huge rusty iron chain that must have weighed 100 lbs ...along with bags and bags of other 'garbage'. There were two huge main piles and secondary bags beside garbage receptacles in the park.

I am ready to organize the event on annual basis. I would love to look at possibly having a futuristic map that moved by the year progressively up the shoreline. Or, just make it Bate Island Fall Paddle and Garbage Pick-up. I have had lots of requests to start a mailing list to give people more heads-up.