



Friends of the St. Clair River
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DATE: July 24, 2020

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Sturgeon Festival Full Moon Lighthouse Climb Postponed

Friends of the St. Clair River (Friends) has made the difficult decision to postpone the 2020 Sturgeon Festival until 2021. The 8th annual event, originally set for May 30, was pushed back to August 2nd to coincide with August's full moon, the Sturgeon Full Moon and offer full moon lighthouse climbs. Friends was hopeful this three-month delay would have allowed us to continue to deliver the event, even in a scaled back capacity. Outlined below are the major obstacles why the decision was made.

- 1) Safety: A Covid-safe environment cannot be guaranteed, even with adding masks, PPE, sanitizing and handwashing. Sturgeon Festival routinely draws thousands of visitors and remaining compliant with the EO invites risk by potentially having hundreds waiting in line to enter.
- 2) Experience: The immersive, hands-on experience the festival is known for would be severely compromised. Visitors were able to put their hand in live sturgeon tanks, have meet-n-greet with sturgeon fisheries biologists, hands-on activities, workshops, and more. Those elements were being eliminated reducing the experience we value that's rooted in education and outreach.
- 3) Budget: Even if we safety is guaranteed, Friends is facing financial constraints from the economic impacts of the virus. Conserving funds, not expending funds, during this time is crucial.

Friends remains nimble, open to adjustments, and most importantly, committed to the health and safety of our volunteers, staff and community. Despite the postponement to 2021, Friends is optimistic we will sustain the momentum of our programs and continue to provide services. Blue Water Sturgeon Festival is Friends of the St. Clair River's largest annual fundraiser. To support Friends, visit www.scriver.org or contact Sheri Faust at (810) 730-5998 or info@scriver.org.

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