



RIDEAU VALLEY
CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Watershed Briefs

RIDEAU VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

A NEWSLETTER FOR MUNICIPAL COUNCILLORS
July-August 2010

Board of Directors

Alan Arbuckle, Chair
Ken Graham, Vice-Chair
John H. Miller, Past-Chair
Glenn Brooks
Barclay Cormack
David Crowley
Steve Desroches
Clive Doucet
Ed Hand
Andy Jozefowicz
Michael McEwen
Maria McRae

Conservation Advisory Board

Athens Andy Jozefowicz
Augusta Adrian Wynands
Beckwith John Campbell
Central Frontenac John Purdon
Clarence-Rockland vacant
Drummond/North Elmsley
Michael McEwen
Elizabethtown-Kitley Dan Downey
Merrickville-Wolford Kim Weedmark
Montague Larry O'Grady
North Dundas Estella Rose
North Grenville Barclay Cormack, Chair
Perth David Crowley
Rideau Lakes Rob Dunfield
Smiths Falls Ken Graham, Vice-Chair
South Frontenac Gary Davison
Tay Valley John H. Miller
Westport Bradley Wing

City of Ottawa

Alan Arbuckle
Glenn Brooks
Steve Desroches
Clive Doucet
Ed Hand
Maria McRae

Municipal Environmental News & Updates

Blueberry Creek Flood Risk Mapping (Tay Valley Township)

Flood risk maps are now available for most of the Blueberry Creek watershed, a tributary of the Tay River located northwest of Perth in Tay Valley Township. The lower part of the watershed, up to Highway 7, was previously mapped as part of the Tay River project in 1981. The up-to-date topographical information produced through the Source Water Protection program made it possible to map the remainder of the watershed including the Western Tributary and Blueberry Creek itself up to the Blueberry Wetland.

At its July 22 meeting, the Board of Directors approved the Final Report and maps as adequately defining areas subject to flood hazards along Blueberry Creek during a 1:100 year event. The maps are now in use as an RVCA and municipal planning tool. This project was accomplished in-house by RVCA's water resources engineering and GIS staff.

Haggart Island Dams (Town of Perth)

A report on recent staff investigation into the future of the Haggart Island Dams on the Tay River in Perth was presented in July. Recent analyses show that the continuing presence of water control structures at the upper end of Haggart Island is necessary to support the high quality of upstream aquatic habitat and wetlands on the Tay River and Grants Creek.

The Board agreed that a major dam restoration/reconstruction effort is required but that the proposed design recommended in a 2004 feasibility study (reinforced concrete with a 50-year service life) appears to be beyond the means of the Town and the RVCA unless additional funding is secured from other sources.



The Board further recommended that a renewed effort be made to identify sources of funding for a project to restore (rather than decommission) the Haggart Island Dams be undertaken based primarily on the important aquatic habitat function it performs. The Board also suggests a study to upgrade the 1981 flood line mapping for the Tay River (from Tay Marsh to Glen Tay) be done when resources become available.

Shoreline Naturalization Program (watershed-wide)

The Shoreline Naturalization Program staff completed 25 shoreline buffer projects in early 2010 planting 4,050 tree and shrubs along 1.27 kilometres of shoreline in the watershed. The Program provided bulk shrub and tree orders to Otty, Christie and Upper Rideau lake associations and one campground group. Naturalization projects on conservation lands included the Jock River Park and the Brown property (RVCFoundation) in Richmond as well as the beach area at Foley Mountain Conservation Area in Westport. The remaining projects were on private lands throughout the valley. These 25 projects, done in partnership with some of our most important watershed clients, were cost-effectively delivered for \$20,700 (contributions from property owners, partners and RVCA).

Twelve new projects are lined up for 2011 with room for more: interested residents in your municipality should call program staff for participation in the incentive grant program next spring.

New Governance Structure for RVCA (watershed-wide)

The member municipalities of the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority indicated a strong preference for each municipality having a representative on the Board of Directors during the survey carried out last spring. In the past, municipalities (except Ottawa which appointed six representatives) appointed a member to the Middle or Upper Rideau Advisory Boards who then elected among themselves three representatives each to sit on the 12-member Board of Directors.

Following months of discussion and municipal consultation, the Board, at its July meeting, willingly followed the expressed wishes of the municipalities declaring that each member municipality would appoint representatives to the RVCA Board of Directors according to Section 2 (2) of the *Conservation Authorities Act* as of January 1, 2011.

In preparation for this new and enlarged Board structure, the August meeting of the Board was given over to an all-municipal workshop to discuss the various features and responsibilities of the pending new Board. At the August meeting, the municipal representatives talked about the Board's Terms of Reference, the meeting schedule and locations, member engagement and financial responsibilities. These elements will come back to the Board for approval this Fall.

RVCA welcomes the new structure and looks forward to ensuring that it works to the satisfaction of our member municipalities. It is not too early to consider your municipality's choices for municipal representative on the RVCA for 2011. We would appreciate the names at your earliest convenience in preparation for the important business meetings early in the new year.

✉ Box 599
3889 Rideau Valley Dr.
Manotick ON
K4M 1A5

☎ 613 692 3571
800 267 3504

📠 613 692 0831

✉ postmaster@rvca.ca

🌐 www.rvca.ca

