

RIDEAU VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY WATERSHED BRIEFS

September 2011

A newsletter for municipal councillors

2011 Board of Directors

Andy Jozefowicz *Athens*

Lee Armstrong *Augusta*

John Campbell *Beckwith*

Tom Dewey *Central Frontenac*

No appointment *Clarence-Rockland*

Ray Scissons *Drummond/North Elmsley*

Lyle Pederson *Elizabethtown-Kitley*

Jim Anderton *Merrickville-Wolford*

Vince Carroll *Montague*

Gerry Boyce *North Dundas*

Barclay Cormack *North Grenville*

David Crowley *Perth*

Rob Dunfield *Rideau Lakes*

Ken Graham, RVCA Vice-Chair

Smiths Falls

Gary Davison *South Frontenac*

John H. Miller *Tay Valley*

Bradley Wing *Westport*

City of Ottawa

Alan Arbuckle, RVCA Chair

David Chernushenko

Steve Curtis

Steve Desroches

Ed Hand

Magda Kubasiewicz

Technical Tools for Municipal Staff and Councillors

Municipal staff and councillors can get detailed information on the groundwater features, land cover, riparian zone conditions, surface water quality features and more for each of the Jock River's seven tributaries in the Jock River Catchment Data Sheets. This information is also available for the eight tributaries in the Middle Rideau Subwatershed. Visit the RVCA website at www.rvca.ca and look under "Watershed Information" to find the Jock and Middle Subwatershed Reports and Catchment Data sheets (martin.czarski@rvca.ca).



Conservation Authorities — Working with and for you! Did you know?

- ▶ Conservation Authorities manage \$2.7 billion in flood and erosion damage infrastructure and operate a monitoring and flood warning system that saves Ontarians in excess of \$100 million annually? Not to mention the loss of life and economic disruption that is avoided.

Between 1977 and 1996 the RVCA constructed \$6.6 million dollars worth of remedial flood and erosion control measures. The present day construction cost for those structures has been estimated to be in the order of \$11.6 million.

- ▶ Governed by local municipal representatives and by provincial policy, Conservation Authorities make every effort to be responsible and fair to landowner interests while administering regulations designed to protect the public.

The RVCA prides itself on being a local, grassroots, municipally-driven organization. The RVCA has 22 members on its Board of Directors. Each of the valley's 18 member municipalities may appoint a representative to the Board with the exception of the City of Ottawa which has six appointees. The RVCA also has an Executive Committee which is a sub-committee that hears applications for permits associated with RVCA's development regulations.

- ▶ Close to 90% of all applications for development are approved, most within 30 days of initial application, ensuring a timely process and careful management of hazardous and environmentally significant areas.

The RVCA approves almost 90 percent of all applications submitted to us under Ontario Regulation 174/06 – the "Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses." From a hazard management perspective, the Authority's objectives are to prevent loss of life, minimize property damage and social disruption, and encourage a co-ordinated approach to the use of land and the management of water. Where an application has approval issues we work to guide proponents in finding alternatives and balance responsible management of our resources. In the small number of circumstances where an application cannot be approved in accordance with RVCA Board approved policies then a hearing may be held, at the applicant's request, before the Authority's Executive Committee. Conditions of approval may also be appealed. Failing approval by the Executive Committee an additional appeal may also be filed with the Minister of Natural Resources for Ontario.

Board of Director's Meetings

Thursday, October 27, 2011

Upcoming Events

Perth Wildlife Reserve Open House

Date: November 2, 2011

Time: 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Where: Council Chambers,

Township of Drummond/North

Elmsley — 310 Port Elmsley Road,

Perth Ontario

Contact: Kristy Giles @

kristy.giles@rvca.ca

*Parks Canada Public Consultation —
No Wake Zones*

Date: November 8, 2011

Time: 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Where: RVCA Headquarters

What: To review a 38 km stretch
from Hogs Back to 416 Bridge and
two proposed "no wake" zones.

Contact: Rideau Canal —

Parks Canada at 613-283-5170

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▶ Conservation Authorities have been addressing important environmental issues in their local watersheds for more than sixty years and have provided the citizens of Ontario with an invaluable legacy of nearly 150,000 hectares of forest, floodplains and wetlands — most of it accessible to the public.

The RVCA protects over 2,015 hectares of conservation lands. In 2010, we raised over \$160,000 to support Conservation Area enhancement projects such as education platforms, accessible washrooms and interpretive signs.

▶ Annually, nearly 6 million people visit Conservation Lands throughout the province and nearly 500,000 elementary school children experience firsthand environmental education programs, learning about important habitats and ecology as well as other environmental issues.

The RVCA's Conservation Areas average over 60,000 visitors annually. This includes over 9,000 students who participate in our outstanding, curriculum-based outdoor education programs at Baxter and Foley Mountain Conservation Areas.

▶ Conservation Authorities plant more than two million trees annually and they implement hundreds of land and water stewardship projects protecting water and land resources in Ontario.

In the Rideau we plant an average of 150,000 trees each year! Just this year we celebrated the planting of our four millionth tree. As for stewardship projects, in 2010 our Rural Clean Water Program distributed over \$78,500 grant dollars to 68 landowners. The Ottawa Rural Clean Water Program distributed over \$126,500 grant dollars to 65 landowners. When you combine the grant dollars with the landowner contribution, this amounts to over 2.5 million dollars invested in water protection projects in the Rideau Watershed.

▶ Cost of Conservation Authority Programs to Municipalities: less than \$10 per person/year or \$30 per household/year.

In the Rideau it is less than \$7 per person/year or \$15 per household/year.

▶ Conservation Authorities leverage municipal, federal and provincial investments to deliver \$275 million per year in programs. This investment is comprised of 35 percent self generated revenues; 38 percent municipal levies; 19 percent provincial grants and special projects (including source protection); 6 percent municipal special projects; and 2 percent federal grants.

In 2010, the Rideau delivered \$9.5 million in programs. The investment is comprised of 31 percent self-generated revenues; 44 percent municipal levies, 19 percent provincial grants and special projects; 6 percent special levies. This revenue mix brings multiple, professional services to municipalities at a fraction of the cost that it would be to do it alone.

Amendments to Ontario Regulation 174/06

In 2006 the province revised our long standing "Fill, Construction and Alteration to Waterways" regulation and replaced it with the "Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses" regulation; some powers were clarified and the scope was broadened to specifically include wetlands. Now with almost five years of experience with the new regulation the Province has chosen to bring forward some "housekeeping" amendments to improve the permitting process, streamline decision-making and improve some administrative practices. The amendments do not, however, extend the area that the CA currently regulates, nor do they broaden the considerations the CA would use to make a decision on a permit. At the September Board of Directors Meeting, members adopted the amendments. The amendments will now be submitted to the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources for review, posting on the Regulatory Registry and, depending on the results of the posting, be brought forward for approval by the Minister of Natural Resources (don.maciver@rvca.ca).

Two new Members to RVCA Board

The City of Ottawa has appointed Steve Curtis and Magda Kubasiewicz to the RVCA Board of Directors. These two members complete our new 22 member board. January 27, 2011 was the first annual meeting of the new and improved RVCA Board of Directors that expanded from a twelve member board to include a member from each municipality (michelle.paton@rvca.ca).