

# RIDEAU VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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## MINUTES

**Joint Rideau Valley  
Conservation Authority  
Advisory Board Meeting**

**February 23, 2006**

**#1/06**

<b>Present:</b>	David Biggs David Crowley Ken Graham Allan McCallum Maria McRae Larry O'Grady Janet Stavinga	John Campbell John Fischl Magda Kubasiewicz Michael McEwen John H. Miller Estella Rose Cathy Willoughby
<b>Regrets:</b>	Alan Arbuckle Dwight Bennett Bill Guigue Wendy Stewart	Chris Babcock Alison Conley David Hahn Bradley Wing
<b>Guests:</b>	Jason Kelly  Mary Bryden Pat MacGregor Stephen Simmering	General Manager, Monterey Inn Resort & Conference Centre RVC Foundation Chair RVC Foundation Director RVC Foundation Vice-Chair
<b>Staff:</b>	Ferdous Ahmed Cliff Craig Diane Downey Peter Goddard Patrick Larson Angela Maisonneuve, also Lynn Preston Joan Sherwood	Sommer Casgrain-Robertson Laurie Dool Jim Ellis Dell Hallett Don Maciver RVC Foundation Secretary Director Bruce Reid Brian Stratton

The RVCA Annual General Meeting took place at the Monterey Inn Resort & Conference Centre, Ottawa, including a dinner, courtesy of Jason Kelly, General Manager.

**1. Declaration of Interest**

None

**2. Approval of Minutes, Meeting , June 16, 2005**

**Motion 1**

**Moved by:**

Allan McCallum

**Seconded by:**

Estella Rose

That the minutes of meeting #2/05, June 16, 2005 be approved.

## **Motion Carried**

### **3. Introductions**

John H. Miller asked the members and staff to introduce themselves and introduced our guest speaker, a special friend of the Conservation Authority, Mr. Jason Kelly, General Manager of the Monterey Inn Resort. *“Jason is the driving force behind the recent huge success of the Monterey in terms of incorporating environment decision-making into a profitable hotel operation. RVCA is delighted to be a small part of the Monterey’s rise and to have the world’s best environmental hotel right here on the banks of the Rideau River in the City of Ottawa.”*

### **4. International Recognition of Monterey Inn Resort – Jason Kelly, Monterey General Manager and Friend of the Environment**

Jason Kelly congratulated Rideau Valley Conservation Authority on their successful 40 years of conservation in their watershed. He welcomed the RVCA Members, Foundation Members and Staff to the Monterey for their annual meeting, and he hoped we all enjoyed our dinner courtesy of the Monterey. The Monterey has developed their shoreline with guidance from RVCA staff and with help from Charles Billington. He has become more involved over the past 2 1/2 years in what the Monterey can give back to the community by operating in a green way.

They have been working with Tree Canada Foundation, talking to their hotel guests and suggesting they make a donation. The Monterey has reduced their utility expenses with the introduction of energy efficient compact light bulbs throughout the hotel, and are expecting a return investment in less than three years. Their kitchen staff have been encouraged to compost. With help from the Tree Canada Foundation and RVCA and the RVC Foundation, they have become Canada’s first carbon neutral company in calculating their hotel omissions by off setting with the planting of trees in the past two years, with more to be planted this spring. They are the second hotel in Canada to become ECP certified (Environmental Choice Program – certified products), rating a 4 Green Leaf rating and aiming for five. The Monterey also holds a 5 Green Key rating with the Hotel Association of Canada. The Monterey participates in the Green Globe 21 program of waste management.

The Monterey Inn was the Ottawa-based winner of the Hotel Association of Canada’s Energy & Environment Award 2005 and the International Hotel and Restaurant Association Environment Award 2005.

Their staff are encouraged to follow the One Ton Challenge and have participated in the City of Ottawa's City Stream Watch program. They ask their staff to participate as volunteers donating 50% of their time, and the Monterey will pay them the other 50% of their time. The Monterey supplies them with lunches and snacks. They consider themselves in this for the long haul and their projects are not ending any time soon. They

have spread the word in the hotel business, from Niagara Falls to New Zealand, and are experiencing the ripple effect and the impact has become bigger and wider. They are proud of their achievements, with their staff on board, working on environmental initiatives.

Jason Kelly thanked the RVCA Advisory Board Members, RVCA Staff and RVC Foundation Members for being at the Monterey and for their shared successes.

John Miller thanked Jason for his kind words and for all his environmental work and requested Mary Bryden, a former member representing the City of Gloucester and RMOC and current hard-working Chair of the Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation, to come forward. Mary thanked John Miller for the honour and expressed to Jason Kelly, the pleasure it is for RVCA to be associated with the Monterey Inn Resort which, thanks to Jason and his staff, has become one of the leaders in environmental hospitality in the world. On behalf of RVCA members and the people of the Rideau Valley, she publicly thanked Jason very much for his environmental work and for the kind offer of hosting RVCA at the Monterey for our dinner meeting. Jason Kelly was presented with a paddle in token of the RVCA appreciation to add to his many environmental awards recently received.

## **5. Chair's Remarks**

John Miller, Chair followed with the few remarks about the state of conservation in our valley. *“My Chairman's Remarks this year will be relatively short and sweet. Sweet because we are about to embark on our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, a significant time to celebrate all of our environmental accomplishments since 1966. Short because we have some important business to conduct this evening and most of the anniversary partying will be going on during the Chairman's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Barbecue to be held at Baxter on June 15.*

*But it was forty years ago next month when municipal appointees first got together in the Smiths Falls Council Chambers to proclaim the formation of the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority.*

*There are not too many of the original members left with us. I know Pat McManus of Westport was there along with Ernest Greenslade, Robert McEwen, Frank Cousineau, Mitch Owens, Dorothy Gaylord, George McLenaghan, Dr Grant Carman, Dr W.A.Taylor, Howard Henry, Trevor Pelton, Stanley Crawford and many more. We have had a couple of father and son combinations over the years where the son was appointed after Dad retired from RVCA. We absolutely will have a huge slide show of the past 40 years of people and places to enjoy as part of the Chairman's Barbecue in June. You really should book the date in as soon as possible- Thursday, June 15 from 5 pm at the Baxter Conservation Area.*

*Since that fateful evening of March 31, 1966 when RVCA was formed, the members and staff have slowly and thoughtfully built an enviable record of environmental achievements that has resulted in better water quality, sustainable water quantity, public waterfront lands for future generations, support for municipal plan review processes, the planting of three million trees, two generations of children with the benefit of outdoor education, better understanding of how water moves through our watershed both on the surface and in underground aquifers, a flood forecasting and warning system to assist our municipalities in early response, environmental cooperation and understanding between councillors from all points along the watershed route, incentive programs that continue to*

*eliminate harmful land uses along our rivers and streams, and confidence in our ability to provide fast, objective advice about water within the valley.*

*We are putting the final touches to the Lower Rideau Watershed Strategy, an example of coordinating a huge ten-agency work plan that gets the environmental job done on one of the busiest and most complicated stretches of the Rideau from Burritts Rapids to Rideau Falls. We have just finished a major three-year capacity-building exercise bringing RVCA to a position of being able to serve the conservation needs of our municipalities well into the future. We are also in the midst of providing a major service to our citizens and municipalities by coordinating the Clean Water Act on behalf of the province of Ontario and in cooperation with our colleagues in Mississippi Valley Conservation. In less than half the lifetime of an average tree, and through a careful and cost-effective program, we have become a capable, confident and productive group of ordinary people dedicated to the long term health of the Rideau Valley and its tributaries.*

*We have accomplished, through hundreds of meetings and thousands of small, incremental improvements in our local environment, a healthy, clean watershed in which it is a pleasure and a privilege to raise a family and earn a living.*

*I would like at this point to recognize and to thank all of the present and former members who have agreed to be appointed by their municipal councils to sit with us and participate in the interesting, sometimes difficult, but always important work of investing public funds in a better future for our families and our communities. May I propose a toast of appreciation to the 443 past and current RVCA municipal members who have willingly given up so many evenings and made so many other sacrifices in the name of helping RVCA make a difference right here at home in the valley. To 40 years of dedication to RVCA work!*

*I would like to propose a second and equally important toast of appreciation to the 443 long-suffering families of those dedicated members. Behind every successful RVCA member is a resourceful and understanding family who graciously allows us to move forward month after month after month by borrowing their spouse on a regular basis. Appreciation to our partners! They are all invited to the Chairman's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Barbecue party in June by the way.*

*My third and last toast of the evening is to our hardworking and well-respected staff. These people lead by General Manager Dell Hallett have many years of professional experience and in many cases are the acknowledged regional experts in their fields. They keep the valley in good shape and the Board of Directors informed through timely advice, good suggestions and well-reasoned courses of action. They are a key part of the accomplishments we have been able to make and so another toast: to RVCA staff, past present and future!*

*Without further ado, it is my privilege, as Chair of the RVCA during this auspicious 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, to now proudly unveil the RVCA 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary logo which you will see on various products and environmental services over the 2006 year."*

## **6. Unveiling of RVCA 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Logo**

*John Miller unveiled the presentation of the RVCA 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary logo. "You may notice the resemblance of our new logo to the 150<sup>th</sup> logo of the City of Ottawa last year. It has a similar fireworks display and the same general look to it. One thing it doesn't have is the same price tag. This is another example of the value of recycling things and squeezing every last drop of value from good ideas. Sincere thanks to the city for leading the way on this one and Happy Anniversary to you all!"*

John introduced Dell Hallett, RVCA General Manager, to present the RVCA 2005 Financial Statements.



(A recorded vote of all Board of Director members was requested and carried out.)

Those in favour: David Biggs-Ottawa, Ken Graham-Smiths Falls, Magda Kubasiewicz-Ottawa, Allan McCallum-Rideau Lakes, Michael McEwen-Drummond/North Elmsley, Maria McRae-Ottawa, John H. Miller-Tay Valley, Janet Stavinga-Ottawa, Cathy Willoughby-Merrickville-Wolford

Those against: None

Absent: Alan Arbuckle-Ottawa, Dwight Bennett-North Grenville, Wendy Stewart-Ottawa

**Motion Carried**

**9. Member Inquiries**

There being no inquiries, John H. Miller again thanked RVCA, staff and members for their support. Maria McRae thanked Joan Sherwood for her office support and work involved in preparation for the many RVCA meetings. Mary Bryden acknowledged support to the RVC Foundation from Angela Maisonneuve who is now a Volunteer and Secretary Treasurer on the RVC Foundation. Mary, on behalf of Stephen Simmering and Pat McGregor, expressed thanks to all RVCA staff and members and particularly Charles Billington for all he does for the Foundation.

Mary reminded all of the upcoming Chair's BBQ, on Thursday, June 15, 2006, to celebrate the RVCA 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, to be held at the Baxter Conservation Area. The RVC Foundation is collecting donations to the silent auction and any contributions are appreciated and those donating will receive a tax receipt for the value of the merchandise.

Cathy Willoughby requested that the amended 2006 Budget and Municipal Levy information introduced at the meeting be circulated to all municipalities.

**10. Adjournment            9 pm moved by Ken Graham**

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**Chair,  
John H. Miller**

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**Recording Secretary,  
Joan Sherwood**