



A NEWSLETTER FOR MUNICIPAL COUNCILLORS
November 2006

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Generic Regulation Program Update — aka Ontario Regulation 174/06

The RVCA has been busy delivering our new regulation – O.Reg 174/06 Development Interference with *Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses* has been in place since summer 2006. Here is an outline of ongoing efforts in delivering the program:

Work Plan – To more fully implement the Regulation, the RVCA Board of Directors (BOD) has approved the development of a Work Plan for 2007 that includes a “pilot project” aimed developing regulation maps for Otty and Upper Rideau lakes. On completion this will give the CA a perspective on the potential cost of developing such mapping for all 59 upper watershed lakes.

Flood risk mapping – Coverage for the Tay, Kemptville Creek, Stevens Creek and the Rideau River continues to be developed or updated.

Inventory of river & stream corridors – The RVCA plans to develop a detailed inventory of river and stream corridors where regulation limits mapping for valley lands could be identified. This will assist in future discussions with member municipalities.

Regulations streamlined – In 2007, written permission from RVCA will be required before altering, straightening, changing, diverting or interfering with a channel or shoreline of any lake anywhere in the Rideau Valley watershed. This is a result of the Province stepping away from administration of the *Lakes and Rivers Improvement Act* where there are CAs. MNR involvement remains, however, only where a dam is involved. don.maciver@rideauvalley.on.ca.

Groundbreaking News

Construction of the new RVCA headquarters in Beryl Gaffney Park (at the northeast corner of Rideau Valley Drive and Prince of Wales Drive just north of Manotick) is moving ahead. Agreements have been signed with the City of Ottawa and all permits are now in hand. The first tender for site preparation, grading, site services, excavation and back fill, roadways and parking areas has been granted and digging has begun. The footings should be poured in the next few weeks. Target for completion is October 2007. cliff.craig@rideauvalley.on.ca.



Dell Hallett and RVCA Chairman, John Miller, signing agreements with the City of Ottawa, November 23, 2006.

Erosion Control Repairs

Repairs to 25-year-old gabion structures on the section of Graham Creek between Nanaimo Drive and Richmond Road are finished. The next portion that needs attention is in the Stonehedge subdivision between Carling Avenue and the NCC recreation path. An informal meeting with landowners was held in October to talk over the planned work and to address any questions they may have. Landowners were keen to have the work completed as soon as possible; however, funding must first be secured. bruce.reid@rideauvalley.on.ca.

Upper Watershed Update

Development activity in the Upper Rideau watershed has been steady over the past five years with an average of approximately 125 Planning Act applications being reviewed per year. Fifty percent of these applications to date in 2006 were for severances. Comments are provided to municipal approval authorities. A continuing trend is to redevelop existing lots and replace older cottages with new dwellings. The RVCA also continues to provide technical advice by reviewing subdivision applications in the upper watershed. There are currently several subdivision applications in different stages of approval or pre-approval in Westport, Drummond/North Elmsley and Tay Valley Township. Planning staff have recently presented several workshops on the new generic regulation ("Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses") and applications are being reviewed out of the Perth office for any proposed work in hazard areas and within 120 metres of a Provincially Significant Wetland. matt.craig@rideauvalley.on.ca.

Audette Foundation

The Audette Foundation of Ottawa has made a generous donation that will be used towards upgrades at conservation areas in the Rideau Valley. The money will improve handicapped accessibility at outdoor washrooms facilities at several conservation areas in the watershed. The Audette Foundation has been supporting charitable causes and providing resources to disabled residents of the national capital region since 1996. charles.billington@rideauvalley.on.ca.

Wet Fall

Fall has brought a lot of rain to the Rideau Valley and the low water levels of summer are but a memory. Although increased flows in the fall are natural, flows are well above normal levels. Some low-lying fields may be flooded but the impact is expected to be minimal – significant flooding is not expected. Watercourses are very cold, some have strong currents and fast flowing water, and banks are wet and slippery; precautions should be taken around them. RVCA will be monitoring weather and stream flows and bulletins will be issued if needed. patrick.larson@rideauvalley.on.ca.

Symposium Success!

The ever-popular A.D. Latonell Conservation Symposium was held at the Nottawasaga Inn, Alliston on November 15 to 17. The theme this year was "creating a climate for change." Presentations included how climate change affects all aspects of our lives – environment, economy and ultimately, our lifestyles, how to reduce human impacts and work towards greater environmental sustainability. The highlight of the symposium was a talk given by Sheila Watt-Cloutier, Past Chair of the Inuit Circumpolar Conference, about extreme climate change in the north and its dramatic impact on the population. Sessions on interaction between agriculture, conservation and the importance of rules and regulations were also featured. Congratulations Sally Beaton, Past Chair of Mississippi Conservation, who was one of the annual Pioneer Award Recipients.

Happy Holidays

The RVCA wishes our readers a happy and safe holiday season. Our offices will be closed from December 22 at noon to January 1, 2007 and will reopen on January 2, 2007.



*Happy
Holidays*