



A NEWSLETTER FOR MUNICIPAL COUNCILLORS
December 2006

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RVCA Work Plan 2007

Thanks to sustained municipal support, the RVCA has now moved through an aggressive program to build CA capacity, competency and efficiency on behalf of our municipalities. As the lead intermunicipal agency responsible for river-related issues and concerns, we undertake work that municipalities would find either financially or environmentally unreasonable to do on their own. We operate on a "watershed" basis (the natural drainage basin of a river or group of rivers) which is the most logical, cost-effective and widely-accepted standard in river management worldwide. It is our job to undertake studies, research and reporting on groundwater resources, river hydrology, water budget modeling for the watershed, and watershed planning. Municipalities share the cost of the projects and the results. Information is shared with our 18 member municipalities for local use. The job is done once, done well and at reasonable cost.

Each year, the RVCA undertakes a rigorous review of all work projects. We maintain quality service levels in our baseline work while looking to pursue special projects and deliverables that respond to local needs and our ever-changing environment. Early in January, the RVCA will be distributing its *Making It Happen – Work Plan*. This document reports on 2006 accomplishments, 2007 budget and work plan and a look ahead to 2008.

RVCA is committed to sound and effective management of funds entrusted to us for conservation purposes whether it be from municipal levy, entrance fees to Conservation Areas or permit fees to cover the cost of environmental services.

RVCA plans to spend \$6.9 million dollars on our operating program – protecting, regulating, improving and reporting on the watershed environment in 2007. Momentum will continue as we embark on source water protection, maintain watershed planning, support our monitoring and reporting programs, stewardship services and enhance conservation land management. In addition, the RVCA plans to spend \$6.8 million on two capital projects in 2007 – the new headquarters in Beryl Gaffney Park and the reconstruction of the Haggart Island Dam in Perth.

Through the commitment and dedication of our appointed members and staff, we are confident that we can continue to make progress towards our goal of making lasting improvements to the quality of life in our valley. Watch for your copy our work plan and detailed budget in the next few days. dell.hallett@rideauvalley.on.ca



Ground broken for new RVCA Headquarters in Beryl Gaffney Park

The ceremonial first five shovelfuls of dirt were moved on December 15 to mark the beginning of construction of the new RVCA headquarters in Beryl Gaffney Park in southern Ottawa by RVCA Chair John H. Miller (Tay Valley Township), Merrickville-Wolford Mayor and County Warden Doug Struthers, and Ottawa Councillors Maria McRae, Glenn Brooks, and Steve Desroches.



Dig in! RVCA Chair John H. Miller (Tay Valley Township), Ottawa Councillors Maria McRae, Steve Desroches and Glenn Brooks, and Merrickville-Wolford Mayor and County Warden Doug Struthers break ground for new RVCA headquarters.

"We are very pleased to be working with the City of Ottawa on this project," said John Miller. "Relocating our current seven administrative buildings in the Manotick area to one single headquarters building makes good business sense."

Beryl Gaffney Park is an important 39-hectare river-corridor greenspace owned by the City of Ottawa at the confluence of the Jock and Rideau Rivers. The park is part of a series of public lands in the area providing a green southern gateway to the city. The new RVCA Headquarters Building is to be built on the corner of Prince of Wales Drive and Rideau Valley Drive. Community use of the park will increase with the RVCA presence because of the shared public facilities built into the design such as washrooms, meeting rooms, improved access and parking, interpretive signs and links to existing trails.



Gloucester-South Nepean Councillor Steve Desroches speaks at Beryl Gaffney Park, future site of RVCA's new headquarters.

"This unique partnership marks an important step in developing waterfront park access for residents living in this rapidly developing area of the city, and for Ottawa as a whole," said Councillor Desroches. "As we move forward, we are excited to begin enhancing community access to this beautiful green space along the Rideau and Jock Rivers."

The new RVCA Headquarters will be an energy efficient "green" building integrating well with the purposes of Beryl Gaffney Park. Target completion date of the new headquarters is October 2007.

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RVCA Meeting Dates, Board of Directors and Advisory Board Agendas, Minutes (after approval), *Watershed Briefs* and Media Releases are available on our website at www.rideauvalley.on.ca.

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Snowmobilers and RVCA Install New Safety Features

The Osgoode Snowmobile Trail Club, a chapter of the Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs, and the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA) have joined forces to install new winter safety features at the W.A. Taylor Conservation Area near Osgoode.

The Osgoode Snowmobile Club has installed a wide swath of highly-visible orange plastic snow fencing around the entire dock area at Taylor supported by two by two wooden stakes. The snow fence is a minimum of one metre above the dock surface and covered with reflectors for greater visibility. A second snow fence is installed along the southeast side of the entrance ramp between the tree line and the river. Reflectors are also installed on this safety feature.

The Club will install and remove the fencing and reflectors at the beginning and end of each winter season. Night test runs late last year indicate that the new safety features could help avoid accidents in the future.

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