



A NEWSLETTER FOR MUNICIPAL COUNCILLORS  
October 2006

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### Clean Water Act – Passed!

The *Clean Water Act* was passed and made into law on October 19, 2006. The Act allows conservation authorities to work closely with municipalities, farmers, landowners and other stakeholders to make sure municipal sources of drinking water are protected from contamination and overuse. In August, a Standing Committee traveled across Ontario to listen to the public's views about the proposed Act. As a result, 120 amendments were made. One key change being the replacement of the proposed permits process with a negotiated risk management approach. This change will see officials work *with* landowners and businesses to try and reach an agreed upon risk management plan to reduce or eliminate threats to drinking water. Another key change was the addition of a new financial assistance program to help farmers and small rural businesses reduce threats to drinking water. This assistance goes a long way toward addressing the concerns of the farming community. Specific details on how the *Clean Water Act* is to be implemented will be outlined in regulations that will accompany the Act to be introduced in early 2007. All draft regulations will be posted for public comment. (sommer.robertson@rideauvalley.on.ca)



### Beaver Management

The Kemptville Creek Beaver Dam Monitoring Pilot Project has been helping landowners with their concerns about beaver dams and flooding since 2003. As part of this pilot project, dams were surveyed, removed or monitored. Problem beavers were also trapped to reduce the threat of flooding roads and property.

Spring 2006 brought the pilot project to an end with the RVCA meeting the pilot project's objectives and completing a final report. A new implementation strategy is now in place. Monitoring will be suspended but beaver management will continue with informing landowners of their responsibilities and options. The RVCA may also help with unique case-by-case situations as they arise. (mark.scott@rideauvalley.on.ca)

### Draft Management Plan for Richmond Conservation Area

The *Draft Management Plan for the Richmond Conservation Area (RCA)* was unveiled at a public meeting on November 9 at South Carleton High School. This meeting gave residents an opportunity to review and comment on the document that devises a strategy for the management and development of the RCA for the next 20 years.

This eighty-five acre conservation area, with its Natural Environment Area designation and unique infrastructure, is ideally suited to play a role in the broader environmental strategies of the City of Ottawa. Also included in this management plan will be the over 14 parcels of land owned by the City and the RVCA along the Jock River corridor. This mix of fallow field and forest along with groomed city parkland offers a unique opportunity to provide passive recreation and a conservation corridor. With a plan in place, the City, RVCA and local residents look forward to long-term management of this valuable natural site. (lynn.preston@rideauvalley.on.ca)



## Haggart Island Dam – Buoy oh buoy!

RVCA was asked to explore alternatives to the safety buoys installed earlier this year on the Tay River at the Haggart Island Dam. Some concerns have been raised regarding the safety buoys, intended for use in spring, summer and fall. Input was sought from Transport Canada who supports the safety buoy installation. The buoy line will be removed for the winter months and the Board of Directors instructed staff to follow through with re-installation of the buoy line in the spring, after providing reasonable notice to neighbouring landowners. The Board will receive a further report on the matter prior to re-installation in the spring. (bruce.reid@rideauvalley.on.ca)

## Graham Creek Erosion Control Repairs

Repairs to the 25-year-old gabion structures on Graham Creek (between Nanaimo Drive and Richmond Road) are complete. The next portion of the Graham Creek Flood and Erosion Control system to receive maintenance attention will be in the "Stonehedge Subdivision" between Carling Avenue and the NCC Recreation Path (near the Creek's outlet to the Ottawa River). An informal meeting with landowners was held on October 5 to discuss the work planned and address any questions. Those in attendance supported the work and expressed a desire to see it completed as soon as possible. RVCA will apply for additional provincial funding (through the MNR/Conservation Ontario Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure Program) for this additional Graham Creek repair work in the 2007-08 round of funding. As proposed, matching funding would be provided by the City of Ottawa to cover the local share of the cost. Once funding is secured, a public tendering process will follow. (bruce.reid@rideauvalley.on.ca)

## Cash for Conservation Proves Popular

The Rideau Valley Rural Clean Water Program (RVRCWP) continues to have excellent participation from rural landowners. In 2006, over 100 applications were received with a total of \$122,000 grants allocated for various projects that help preserve and protect water in the Rideau Valley. We expect continued success in 2007 as we move into the program's fifth year. (martha.bradburn@rideauvalley.on.ca)

## Shoreline Demonstration Site for Tay Valley Township

The Tay Valley Township office on Harper Road in Perth is a little greener with its new shoreline demonstration area. Funded in part through the RVCA's Rural Clean Water Program, this shoreline demonstration area highlights ideal shoreline plants and best management practices for maintaining lake and river shorelines. A variety of trees and shrubs are showcased – focusing on locally available native plants. An interpretive sign on shoreline buffer zones, a wildflower garden and low or no maintenance grasses are also exhibited. Congratulations to all the partners involved, including the Friends of the Tay Watershed, Parks Canada, Mississippi Valley Conservation and the Lanark County Stewardship Council. (martha.bradburn@rideauvalley.on.ca)

## Planning in the Upper Watershed

The RVCA's involvement in development applications in the Upper Rideau watershed has been steady over the past five years with an average of approximately 125 applications per year. Fifty per cent of these applications to date in 2006 were for severances. The continuing trend is to redevelop existing lots and replace older cottages with new dwellings. The RVCA 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 Townships. Planning staff have recently presented 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 within 120 metres of a Provincially Significant Wetland. (matt.craig@rideauvalley.on.ca)

## Ontario Rural Wastewater Centre Courses

The Ontario Rural Wastewater Centre (ORWC), located at the RVCA's Baxter Conservation Area, continues to offer outstanding well and septic courses – for rural residents or septic experts. For a complete schedule of upcoming courses, contact the Ottawa Septic System Office 613-692-0160 or 1-800-459-5975 x1131.

- Real Estate Course – Wednesday, December 6, 2006 This one-day course is designed for realtors who need to know more about selling rural homes that have wells and septic systems.
- Part 8 Ontario Building Code – On-site sewage systems, installer/inspector certification January 15 to 19, 2007. This is a five-day certification course for installers and inspectors of septic systems in Ontario in preparation for the MMAH licensing exam.

## Upcoming RVCA Meetings

Board of Directors

- November 23, 2006
- December 14, 2006

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](http://www.rideauvalley.on.ca)

