

- Haggart Island Dams and the Safety Buoy Line Site in Perth
Deputy Mayor, Wendy Laut and Senior Superintendent, Environmental Services, Grant Machan, welcomed the group to the dam site. Expected funding has not come from the Province, leaving the Town of Perth and RVCA with a large expense in the updating of the dam.
- Perth Wildlife Reserve, to visit the new Butterfly Garden installed and maintained, by the Rideau Valley Field Naturalists
Gloria Opzomer, Co-Ordinator of Planting Project was on site to explain the process of creating the new butterfly garden.
- Rideau Ferry Yacht Club Conservation Area, visit to the regatta site
Scott Cameron briefly described the plans for the summer regatta to be held August 18th and 19th.
- Mill Pond Conservation Area for a walk-about with the OARS group
Blake Seward provided information on the high school community service credits earned by twenty-four local high school students at Mill Pond.

The tour ended at the Smiths Falls Youth Centre where a light sandwich supper was provided to the Members, Guests and RVCA staff prior to the RVCA Joint Advisory Board Meeting.

Roll Call:

Alan Arbuckle, Chair, requested that those present introduce themselves.

1. Declaration of Interest

None

2. Approval of Minutes, Meeting , February 22, 2007

Motion 1	Moved by:	David Biggs
	Seconded by:	John Campbell

That the minutes of meeting #1/07, February 22, 2006 be approved.

Motion Carried

3. Remarks from the RVCA Chair's, Upper Board Chair and Middle Board Chair

Alan Arbuckle, Chair welcomed RVCA members, RVCA staff, RVC Foundation members and guests to the RVCA Joint Advisory Board Meeting and thanked Charles Billington and Jim Ellis, RVCA staff, for organizing the tour and light supper, that preceded the meeting and reviewed briefly the five areas toured.

The RVCA New Office Headquarters construction is on target and on budget despite being affected by rotating strikes in the construction industry. Clearly this new, exciting and environmentally-friendly building is destined to become the environmental hub of southern Ottawa and perhaps Eastern Ontario because of its high profile location, easy access, its municipal and environmental connections, and its appeal as a community resource for small conferences, meeting rooms, after-hours presentations and weekend

interpretive tours.

The Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation is fundraising to help ensure that our new headquarters is as “sustainable” as possible. Currently, pledges from a variety of sponsors total over \$170,000.

The proposed Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Region is seeking expressions of interest for the position of Chair of the proposed Source Protection Committee. The role of the Chair is to oversee and provide guidance to this local multi-stakeholder committee as it develops a plan that focuses on protecting sources of municipal drinking water in the Mississippi-Rideau region.

There are plans in the making by RVCA staff for a strategic plan to be brought forward at the August Board of Directors meeting. Staff will be looking at priorities and direction.

Alan Arbuckle, passed on his thanks to John H. Miller for his five years of Chair of the RVCA Board of Directors and called upon John, as Chair of the RVCA Upper Advisory Board to say a few words. John thanked everyone for attending the tour, with many of the areas being in the Upper Board area. He was pleased to meet Rebecca Whitman, Interpreter for Foley Mountain Conservation Area, and invited all to visit her at Foley Mountain.

Cathy Willoughby, Chair of the RVCA Middle Board, speaking on behalf of Ken Graham, Smiths Falls representative, welcomed everyone to the Smiths Falls area. Cathy is pleased that a watershed study is starting up on the Middle Rideau in 2007, to assist in protecting resources from Smiths Falls to Ottawa.

Alan Arbuckle thanked Cathy and John and called on Mary Bryden, Chair of the Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation, to present the 2006 RVCF Annual Conservation Award.

4. RVC Foundation Annual Conservation Award Presentation

Mary Bryden, came forward with a few words of welcome and praise for all those in attendance who take an interest in our watershed.

The Foundation is very proud to sponsor the annual RVCF Conservation Award. This distinction is given to a volunteer group or individual from our watershed who demonstrates outstanding voluntary stewardship of the natural resources of the valley.

Mary sent congratulations to the winner of the 2006 Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation Conservation Award — Susan O'Brien MacTaggart and the Greater Bobs and Crow Lakes Association.

For 28 years, members of the Greater Bobs and Crow Lakes Association have worked diligently to protect their lakes in the upper Tay Valley. With a mandate to “preserve and enhance the quality of the environment around the greater Bobs and Crow Lakes”, there have been numerous phenomenal initiatives undertaken by this enthusiastic and driven group of volunteers over the years — projects like water quality testing, fisheries improvements, workshops, landowner outreach and more.

The RVCF highlighted one recent project undertaken by Susan and the Greater Bobs and Crow Lakes Association that catapulted the group to the top of the heap! This progressive group has just successfully completed the Greater Bobs and Crow Lakes Stewardship Plan. This Stewardship Plan, composed by Susan and her volunteers, outlines ways that the community can improve the health of their watershed. Acting on recommendations from the Tay River Watershed Plan, the group burst into action — applying for and receiving a Trillium grant of over \$71,000. After four years of work, the

GBCLA completed their Lake Stewardship Plan — which is only the second such plan to

exist in Eastern Ontario.

Lynn Preston, RVCA Watershed Planning Coordinator, has worked a great deal with Susan and her team. Lynn was invited to say a few words. Susan O'Brien-MacTaggart was on hand to accept the 2006 Conservation Award, on behalf of the Bobs and Crow Lakes Association.

The Friends of the Rideau receive Honourable Mention for their ongoing commitment to raising the profile and awareness of the beauty, history, culture and environmental significance of the Rideau Waterway. Rowena Cooper, on behalf of Ed Bebee, President of Friends of the Rideau, accepted the award.

The second Honourable Mention project started as a fun pastime and has grown into the most extensive website on the Rideau area. Established in 1996 by Ken Watson, Rideau-info.com is a wonderful tool for accessing a variety of information on the Rideau system – its history, ecology, communities and more. Congratulations to Ken for the creation, maintenance and ongoing commitment to telling people about the Rideau through his very useful Rideau Information Website. Mr. Watson was unable to attend.

The third Honourable Mention goes to Dwayne Struthers and Garnet Baker of the Leeds Stewardship Council for their leadership and dedication and personal effort in creating an environmental corridor between Bellamy Lake and Irish Lake in the Elizabethtown-Kitley area. The Lake to Lake Project has seen over 51 thousand trees planted on 12 privately owned properties — largely due to the one-on-one contact and gentle persuasion of these two gentlemen. The two men also brush hogged six sites themselves to ensure project participation. Dwayne Struthers and Garnet Baker were in attendance to accept the award for their outstanding work.

Mary expressed sincere thanks to everyone who is doing their part to take care of this beautiful part of Ontario in which we live.

5. Special Presentations

Mary Bryden proceeded with special presentations stating that it is an honour for the Foundation and the Authority to recognize outstanding long term contributions to RVCA conservation programs for the protection and enhancement of the Rideau Valley environment. Two groups in the upper watershed have shown consistent and generous efforts over many years: the Friends of Foley Mountain and OMYA (Canada) Inc.

a) Friends of Foley Mountain, Duncan McDougall

The Friends of Foley Mountain is a volunteer group who have played a huge role in planning, developing and financing of outdoor education and public information programs at the Foley Mountain Conservation Area in Westport. They make an annual donation of about \$10,000 and have spearheaded some of the most high profile infrastructure additions at Foley including the access ramp at Spy Rock, the Children's Nature Discovery Centre, the design purchase and installation of several 'memorial' seating benches along the most popular trails, the 2006 Mobility Trail- a very successful attempt to help people with physical disabilities to get into the Foley woods, and on and on it goes. The Friends are relentless in their vision of improving public facilities at "their" conservation area and we are sincerely grateful

Mr. Duncan McDougall was present to accept a paddle from the RVC Foundation. On behalf of the Friends of Foley Mountain, Mr. McDougall was pleased to accept the gift and thanked Rideau Valley Conservation for preserving Foley Mountain Conservation Area.

b) OMYA

Our other very special and generous sponsor over the past ten years is OMYA (Canada) Inc which operates a calcium carbonate plant at Glen Tay just west of Perth. OMYA approached us during the infancy of the development of the Tay River Watershed Plan with a major donation to fund many aspects of the research needed to create the Plan. That loyal and generous donation program has continued through the decade even after the Plan was complete. OMYA is now one of the major funders of the Rural Clean Water Program in the Tay Valley providing incentive grants for landowners to naturalize shorelines, repair septic systems, protect lakes against barnyard runoff and other water protection projects. It is a privilege to offer a small token of our appreciation for their watershed vision and community-minded commitment to the environment.

Mr. Larry Sparks, General Manager of OMYA and former Tay Valley Councillor, was not able to attend and will be presented with the gift at a later time.

6. RVCA Publications

Alan Arbuckle introduced Charles Billington, to say a few words concerning the Lower Rideau Watershed Strategy and the creation of the latest tabloid, the *Lower Rideau Reader*. The publication has been distributed to property owners in the Long Reach from Burritts Rapids to Mooney's Bay. Copies were distributed to RVCA Board Members with their Agenda for tonight's meeting and copies have been distributed to applicable municipalities.

7. Member Inquiries none

8. New Business

Cathy Willoughby stated she is extremely impressed with the *Lower Rideau Reader* including the three inserts, "Managing Aquatic Vegetation on the Rideau Canal", "Watch your Wake, Rideau Canal", and an information sheet, "Planning some work on your shoreline property? Who to call on the Lower Rideau River". The tabloid can be considered a resource for the entire watershed.

9. Upcoming Meetings

(a) RVCA Board of Directors, July 26, 2007

10. Adjournment 8:20 pm moved by Dwight Bennett and seconded by David Biggs

**Chair,
Alan Arbuckle**

**Recording Secretary,
Joan Sherwood**