



A NEWSLETTER FOR MUNICIPAL COUNCILLORS
January 2007

Board of Directors

Alan Arbuckle, Chair
Ken Graham, Vice-Chair
John H. Miller, Past-Chair
Dwight Bennett
David Biggs
Glenn Brooks
David Crowley
Steve Desroches
Magda Kubasiewicz
Michael McEwen
Maria McRae
Cathy Willoughby

Upper Advisory Board

Central Frontenac John Purdon
Drummond/North Elmsley
Michael McEwen, Vice-Chair
Perth David Crowley, Vice-Chair
Rideau Lakes Rob Dunfield
South Frontenac Larry York
Tay Valley John H. Miller, Chair
Westport Bradley Wing

Middle Advisory Board

Athens Andy Jozefowicz
Augusta Adrian Wynands
Beckwith John Campbell
Clarence-Rockland vacant
Elizabethtown-Kitley Chris Babcock
Merrickville-Wolford
Cathy Willoughby, Chair
Montague Larry O'Grady
North Dundas Estella Rose
North Grenville
Dwight Bennett, Vice-Chair
Smiths Falls Ken Graham, Vice-Chair

City of Ottawa

Alan Arbuckle
David Biggs
Glenn Brooks
Steve Desroches
Magda Kubasiewicz
Maria McRae

Board of Directors 2007

For the first time in many years, RVCA has a new Chair and new Vice-Chair at the same time. Mr. Alan Arbuckle of Manotick has succeeded John H. Miller of Perth as Chair of the Board of Directors. John had five successful years as Chair but must now step aside according to rules established by the Board. Mr. Arbuckle, a retired Communications Manager, has four years of experience on the Board since being appointed by the City of Ottawa in 2003.

Mr. Ken Graham, representing the Town of Smiths Falls, is the new Vice-Chair. Mr. Graham, a Councillor and recently-retired Senior Investigator for the Ministry of the Environment, was appointed by Smiths Falls in 2004 and joined the Board of Directors in 2005.

Other members of the Board of Directors include five rural members (Dwight Bennett from North Grenville, former Chair David Crowley from the Town of Perth, Councillor Michael McEwen from Drummond/North Elmsley, Past-Chair John H. Miller from Tay Valley Township, and Cathy Willoughby of Merrickville-Wolford) and five members from the City of Ottawa (David Biggs, Magda Kubasiewicz, and Councillors Glenn Brooks, Steve Desroches and Maria McRae). RVCA believes that the balance between rural directors (elected from appointed municipal representatives in the rural areas) and urban directors (appointed directly by the City of Ottawa) is an important contributing factor to the success of the Board in dealing with matters on a watershed basis.

Some of the key projects on line for 2007 include increased monitoring, analyzing and reporting on watershed conditions; increased activity in the Source Water Protection program in cooperation with the Province; greater support for municipal septic system re-inspections; continued effort at reforestation on a watershed scale; provision of watershed information for municipal decision-making; continued support role in watershed and lake management planning and implementation; operation of the public education programs and conservation area services; and managing the construction and move of staff into a new headquarters building in Manotick.

New Executive Committee

The Executive Committee is a sub-committee of the Board of Directors which hears applications for permits associated with RVCA's Fill, Construction and Alteration to Waterways Regulation. Any citizen has the right to ask for a hearing before the Executive Committee if permission is not granted or granted with conditions by qualified staff. There are traditionally about five hearings per year. The Executive Committee has five members automatically including the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Board. The members for 2007 are Alan Arbuckle, Ken Graham, Maria McRae, John H. Miller and Cathy Willoughby. David Biggs and David Crowley are alternates.

New Office Headquarters Committee

There remain many ongoing decisions to be made around the new Office Headquarters Building. To direct and assist Cliff Craig, Project Manager, will be the Office Committee consisting of Alan Arbuckle, Ken Graham, Glenn Brooks and John H. Miller.



Time to Review Municipal Flood Response

RVCA has the responsibility for Flood Forecasting and Warning (FFW) in the Rideau River watershed. RVCA's FFW system is in operation 12 months a year, monitoring the weather and the watershed, and issuing advisories as the local situation warrants. Should a flood event occur, the first response is up to the individual homeowners. If the flood is beyond the capability of the homeowner to combat, municipal Emergency Response Plans kick-in to assist those in need. NOW is the time to review your municipality's flood emergency response plan and make sure all employees, equipment and communications are in place just in case.

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.

- ☎ 613 692 3571
- ☎ 800 267 3504
- ☎ 613 692 0831

New Planning Fees for March 1

New plan review fees will go into effect on March 1 following recent approval by the Board of Directors. RVCA's fees charged for environmental review of site-specific plans by developers have not been keeping up with costs. The goal is cost recovery so as to minimize impact on municipal levy. Recent reviews have become very complex, very difficult and of long duration causing an imbalance in staff resources used and revenue produced. In January, Don Maciver, Director of Planning, brought, as directed, a cohesive set of new planning fee recommendations back to the Board for review. They were approved. The Board further directed that letters be written informing municipal approval authorities that the new schedule of fees would be posted on the RVCA website and that notices will be placed in local newspapers informing the public and the development community.

Board Instructs Reduced Levy

The preliminary Budget for 2007 was presented to the Board in December. The Board requested that staff sharpen the pencil and bring back options to reduce the program levy for 2007 by 2%. This was echoed by the Middle Advisory Board at their mid-January meeting. At the January Board of Directors, General Manager Dell Hallett reported that the mission had been accomplished. The 2007 budget, to be voted on February 22, now includes a further municipal saving of \$73,000. Directors agreed that any relief afforded to municipalities is much appreciated. So far, staff has not been asked to make any budget presentations to municipal councils for 2007.

First Annual Rideau Valley Watershed Checkup 2006

Our first annual summary of watershed conditions, a 16-page report called *Annual Rideau Valley Watershed Checkup 2006*, will be available for distribution at the Joint Advisory Board on February 22. It is not a complete catalogue of all the data and information our staff collects each year. It is an attempt to start telling the "health of the watershed" story using a few common indicators based on the six "sub-watersheds" which make up the Rideau Valley. Each year, we plan to choose different indicators such as wetland area, biodiversity, forest cover, water quality, flood damage centres, or development pressure to add to our knowledge and report on various aspects of watershed health in a user-friendly way.



This document compliments other watershed reporting already being done including watershed plans (and their five-year updates), annual workplans and summaries of past years work, *Around the Rideau* municipal newsletter, *Watershed Briefs*, and the continuous uploading of newly-collected data to the Watershed Information System on the RVCA website. The WIS is fast becoming the best and most current repository of watershed information available.

