



A NEWSLETTER FOR MUNICIPAL COUNCILLORS
November 2007

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SPC Appointed at Joint SPA Meeting

For the first time our two Source Protection Authorities (Mississippi Valley and Rideau Valley) met jointly as they appointed the Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Committee. Appointed to the committee are:

- Scott Bryce (Westport), Alex Cullen and Christine Leadman (City of Ottawa), Paul Knowles (Carleton Place) and Eleanor Renaud (Elizabethtown-Kitley) representing all watershed municipalities
- Richard Fraser and Peter McLaren (agriculture), Domenic Idone (aggregates), Beverly Millar (small business) and Jim Riopelle (golf courses) representing economic sectors
- George Braithwaite (rural general public), Carol Dillon (Friends of the Tay), Patricia Larkin (non-governmental organizations), Randy Malcolm (Algonquins of Ontario) and Mary Trudeau (Ottawa Riverkeeper) representing other interests

These members will be working with SPC Chair Janet Stavinga to guide drinking water source protection planning work in the two watersheds over the next five years. The first order of business for the Mississippi-Rideau SPC is a provincial training session in late November followed by their first Source Protection Committee meeting on December 17, 7 p.m. at the Baxter Conservation Area in Kars. The public will have a chance to meet this distinguished group of citizens at a "Meet and Greet Hour" at 6 p.m. prior to the start of their first meeting.

The formation of the local Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Committee is a result of the *Clean Water Act* (CWA) which was passed by the Ontario Legislature in December, 2006. The CWA is part of Ontario's response to the Walkerton tragedy of 2001. The CWA prescribes a process of watershed-based research, analysis and actions rooted in good science, public participation and sustained effort for keeping Ontario's municipal drinking water safe (sommer.robertson@mrsourcewater.ca).



Award Winning Baxter Interpreter!

Congratulations to Baxter Conservation Area's Peter Goddard – recipient of the Dorothy Walker Award for outstanding commitment to the development of leadership qualities in Ontario youth through outdoor education. Peter has been involved in youth leadership development throughout his 20+ years of professional involvement in outdoor education.

"I truly cannot think of a more worthy recipient for this prestigious Award," said Ron Williamson, teacher at John McCrae Secondary School and member of the Council of Outdoor Educators of Ontario (COEO). Baxter's Outdoor Education program is one of the busiest and most successful in Eastern Ontario. Almost 5,000 school age children and organized youth groups pass through Peter's programs each year. Congratulations Peter!

Ron Williamson, member of the COEO and RVCA's Baxter Interpreter Peter Goddard.



RVCA Office Move

Our move to the new RVCA headquarters is finally upon us. To facilitate a quick, efficient transfer, the RVCA will be closed on Friday, December 7 and again on Monday December 10. Doors will reopen on Tuesday but services may not be up to full capacity as staff get settled in. . . a little patience is appreciated.

The New RVCA Conservation Centre – did you know that . . .

- . . . the RVCA's new office has been oriented on the site to maximize passive solar heating and natural lighting.
- . . . three quarters of the construction waste has been diverted from landfill or reused.
- . . . more than 15% of the materials used in construction are themselves made of recycled material and an additional 20 per cent were extracted or manufactured locally.
- . . . low-emitting glues, solvents and carpets are used throughout to increase staff comfort and protect their health.
- . . . the building is designed to consume 40 per cent less energy than a similar-sized building using current industry standards.

"Building to LEED standards costs more money at first, but the payback comes very quickly in energy savings alone. Our member municipalities felt it was important that the Conservation Authority show leadership in environmental matters starting with the construction of our new office space", commented RVCA Chair Alan Arbuckle.

Harassing Honkers at the Beach!

In June a crew of Canada geese decided to make Rideau Ferry Yacht Club Conservation Area home. By August the numbers had swelled to over 50 birds. Protected by the *Migratory Birds Convention Act*, it is illegal to harm or injure, damage nests or move eggs without a permit or risk of substantial fines. An attempt was made to scare our feather friends away with a bear banger which worked – briefly. A strategy was then devised with the assistance of the Community Stewardship Council of Lanark County, that was cost effective and not intrusive to the geese. Snow fencing with beacon lights was placed on the shore along the sand adjacent to the water. The geese didn't like traversing the fence and found the lights disruptive. The beach was cleaned and replacement sand was placed. In 2008 plans are to install low wire retractable fencing that will not be obtrusive to look at but will hinder access and hopefully keep the beach area goose free (kristy.giles@rideauvalley.on.ca).

Watershed Planning Update

Middle Rideau Watershed Plan

Staff continue to collect background information and data on all aspects of the Middle Rideau Watershed (includes the geographic area from Poonamalie to Burritts Rapids). Data collection is expected to be completed soon as work on the plan moves forward (lynn.preston@rideauvalley.on.ca).

Rideau Lakes Watershed Plan

Work on the Rideau Lakes Watershed Plan is well underway. At this point, the vision and mission statement, goals, objectives, and actions for the plan have all been developed. Currently, the indicators and targets of the plan are being developed. Next steps in the process will identify the management strategies that will be used by the watershed's stakeholders to carry out the recommendations. The final plan should be completed by fall 2008 (lynn.preston@rideauvalley.on.ca).



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