



A NEWSLETTER FOR MUNICIPAL COUNCILLORS
November 2008

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Britannia Village Flood Control Project

The RVCA, in cooperation with the City of Ottawa, is moving forward on the remedial flood control project for the Britannia Village community with the preparation of detailed design drawings and construction specifications for the Britannia Village Flood Control Project.

Portions of Britannia Village, located in the City's west end on the shores of the Ottawa River's Lac Deschênes, are constructed within the Ottawa River flood plain. These low-lying properties in the village are regularly prone to spring flooding. Community-based efforts to "flood-proof" were made after the last serious flood in May 1979, but more recent studies show that the protection works were only partially completed and they could be overtopped by the 1:100 year flood. A 1992 RVCA study suggested that the flood protection system could be upgraded where the cost of flood protection would be less than the value of future flood damages.

After dialogue within the community, led by Ward Councillor Alex Cullen and the Britannia Village Community Association, Ottawa City Council approved a financing arrangement for the project. The new flood protection measures involve the construction of an earthen berm and modifications to existing sea walls on waterfront properties and will eliminate flooding of 97 existing homes and the local streets that serve them. The project will be managed by the RVCA and cost-shared between the City of Ottawa and the property owners that will benefit from the improvements.

Planning and design will be done in accordance with Conservation Ontario's Class Environmental Assessment for Remedial Flood and Erosion Control Projects. Before awarding a contract for construction of the project, RVCA will prepare a Project Plan to be made available for review by interested individuals and agencies. A Community Liaison Committee, consisting of individuals who express an interest in the project, will also be formed to assist the RVCA through the design and construction process (bruce.reid@rvca.ca).

Section 28 Fee Increase

Minor fee increases to the RVCA planning and regulatory programs come into effect January 1, 2009. These programs have operated on a cost-recovery basis since 1997 so as to minimize pressures on the municipal levy. It gives our municipal partners the advantage of utilizing technical expertise through RVCA staff, but with costs directed to those who need and use the service the most. The scope, complexity and volume of applications received continues to grow while our staff complement remains the same. This, when combined with mandated response times, increases our need to increase fees with the hope of increasing service levels while reducing turnaround times. Watch for more details from RVCA Planning Director Don Maciver as he informs municipal and industry colleagues (don.maciver@rvca.ca).



photo credit: Purdue University

Healthy Butternut Trees – Got One?

The RVCA continues its search for Butternut trees. Do you know of any on your municipal properties? Butternut canker disease is threatening the existence of butternut across its entire natural range. In 2005, butternut was listed as an endangered species by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada and has been adopted onto the Endangered Species list by the Canadian Wildlife Service under the *Species at Risk Act*. A "Recovery Strategy for Butternut" has been drafted and both a National and Provincial Butternut Recovery Team are in place. RVCA is working closely with these teams to try to ensure this valuable and unique part of our natural heritage is not lost from the forests of eastern Ontario. There is a very high canker infection rate in Eastern Ontario and we are encouraging landowners to maintain their healthy butternut trees. This will ensure plenty of seed for the next generation of butternut trees and will lessen the risk of potentially-resistant butternut being cut down or destroyed. Finding genetic resistance to the fungus, though not yet proven, is one of the goals of the National Recovery Strategy for butternut.

This summer and fall, RVCA staff:

- reassessed newly-located and possibly-resistant trees
- collected leaf samples from any trees that continue to be canker free to test for hybridity
- ordered 2,000 butternut seedlings for distribution in 2010
- assessed survival of butternut seedlings planted in 2006, 2007 and 2008
- maintained successful grafts from April 2008 in the greenhouse complex at the Ferguson Forest Station to be planted in the new "Eastern Ontario Butternut Archive" site at the Ferguson Forest Centre.

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Special thanks to all our partners including the Government of Canada Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk, the Ontario Species at Risk Stewardship Fund, Ministry of Natural Resources – Kemptville District, Forest Gene Conservation Association, Ferguson Forest Centre, Stewardship Councils, Conservation Authorities and local landowners (rose.fleguel@rvca.ca).

Season's Greetings from the RVCA Board and Staff

Happy holidays everyone. The RVCA office will close on Wednesday, December 24 at noon and will re-open on Monday, January 5, 2009 at 8:30 am.