



A NEWSLETTER FOR MUNICIPAL COUNCILLORS
January 2008

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

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- 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

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- Augusta* Adrian Wynands
- Beckwith* John Campbell
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- Elizabethtown-Kitley* Chris Babcock
- Merrickville-Wolford*
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- 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

A Chair and Vice Chair 2008

In a unanimous show of confidence, Alan Arbuckle (Ottawa) and Ken Graham (Smiths Falls) were both re-elected as Chair and Vice-Chair for a second consecutive year at the political helm of the RVCA by the 12-member Board of Directors. The dynamic duo have several important files on the go where leadership and continuity are important factors. The administrative functions of legal advisers, auditors and committee appointments were also dealt with at the January meeting.

The new RVCA Membership Directory showing the names and contact information for all municipal members is now available on our website (www.rvca.ca, select "About Us," look on the index to the left under "Corporate Information.")

Finances For New Building

Dell Hallett presented the new Office Financing Report showing the budget, recoveries and total cost of the new Rideau Valley Conservation Centre in Beryl Gaffney Park in Manotick as requested by the Board of Directors at its December meeting. The key elements show a very transparent process, that unanticipated costs were managed along the way, and that the final debenture is less than RVCA had originally anticipated. This is due in part to the diligence of the construction managers and to the very successful fundraising campaign by the Conservation Foundation. For a copy of the Report, please call Joan at ext 1177.



Upper Watershed Municipalities: Keeping The Water Clean for the Rest of Us

The Conservation Authority plays a number of roles in development control in the Upper Watershed:

- giving objective, professional advice to municipal approval authorities on site specific development applications received by the municipality
- participating, along with the community, in the development of Official Plan policies for each of the municipalities in the Upper Watershed (an excellent opportunity to incorporate lessons learned through experience with site specific applications over the life of the previous plan plus findings from watershed studies and recommendations from lake management plans)
- regulating land use through the "Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alteration to Shorelines and Watercourses" regulations
- inspecting and approving private septic installations for one of the upper watershed municipalities and involvement in the re-inspection of septic systems in some areas.

In terms of site-specific development, the observed trend in the Upper Watershed area is for people to redevelop to larger, four-season homes on modest-sized, waterfront lots. Sometimes, the property owner's plan does not conform with the municipal planning documents set up to guide the process of appropriate development. As a general rule, here's what we're looking for in a review of applications:

- Distance of development from watercourse, wetlands or habitat (called setback)
- Size of proposed development
- Soil type and depth
- Vegetation cover and type
- Slope to water (degree and height)
- Proximity to fish habitat
- Health of shoreline (Natural or Altered)
- Risks or hazards from flooding, steep or unstable slopes, erosion etc.
- Options to protect against adverse impacts (called mitigation measures)
- Water quality information, watershed and lake capacity studies.

In the vast majority of cases, RVCA recommendations are accepted by the municipal approval authorities. Out of the 139 applications reviewed in 2007, RVCA recommendations were adopted as is in 92% of the cases. Municipalities are well aware that the cumulative impacts of redevelopment over time have the potential to cause long term negative impacts on the aquatic environment and are diligent about making decisions that protect the long term health of their lakes and rivers.

Ongoing updates to Upper Watershed municipal Official Plans and Zoning By-laws continue to demonstrate municipal commitment by recognizing and promoting sound lakefront development policies for environmental protection.

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.rvca.ca.

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