



A N E W S L E T T E R F O R M U N I C I P A L C O U N C I L L O R S  
November 2009

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## Summary: Rideau Lakes Watershed Plan

"The emphasis in this document is on maintaining and improving the water quality of the recreational lakes system. This important "driver" was unanimously mentioned as the key to the continuing economic, social and environmental health of the watershed. . .

The recommendations are not quick fixes; they set the stage for the continuing slow and steady improvement in lake health for generations to come. The long-term health of the lakes will ensure the long term prosperity and well-being of the municipalities and residents.

The goal is sustainable development across the Rideau Lakes area. Land development is not the issue. The issue is "sustainable" development by which the environment is not irrevocably damaged or consumed. By reinforcing sustainability, the ongoing development process does not need to be the large destructive force that many people believe it to be. The time is right for a preventative maintenance plan to protect these irreplaceable lakes and shores from unnecessary degradation. This document provides a list of reasonable directions to protect the lakes with some tried and true, well-established best management practices."

(excerpt from page 2, Rideau Lakes Watershed Plan)

## RVCA Reaction

On November 26, 2009, the RVCA Board accepted the Plan and took the first steps towards implementing the seven key recommendations with the following resolution:

"That the Board of Directors receive the report entitled *Rideau Lakes Watershed Plan – Priorities and Recommendations*, dated August 2009, and authorize its being finalized for publication and distribution;

That copies of the finalized report be distributed to all member municipalities, and government agencies, non-government organizations and individuals who participated in earlier consultation sessions regarding watershed management in the Rideau Lakes portion of the RVCA area of jurisdiction;

And that the report be accompanied by a covering letter and attachments designed to invite feedback and to describe the actions that RVCA intends to take in implementing the Report's recommendations in 2010 and beyond."

# Summary of Key Recommendations and RVCA Commitments

Action Recommended in the Rideau Lakes Watershed Management Plan (2009)	What RVCA Intends To Do	New Funding Required	Value
<b>Land Use Planning and Development Control</b>			
▶ quantify the value and importance of healthy lake environments to the Eastern Ontario economy	▶ discuss the idea of commissioning an economic study with counties, municipalities and provincial ministries	▶ no	▶ \$5,200
▶ increase compliance with Site Plan Approval conditions and restrictions on all waterfront developments	▶ collaborate with municipal planning officials in preparing a proposal for follow-up inspections aimed at achieving compliance with conditions of site plan approval - what kind of staffing would be necessary, what efficiencies can be achieved through partnership across municipal and CA boundaries, how could it be financed, would amendments to site plan control procedures be necessary (e.g. security deposit requirements)?	▶ no	▶ \$5,300
▶ expedite completion of Regulation Limits mapping on lake shorelines and river and stream valleys to support effective and uniform implementation of Ontario Regulation 174/06 made under Section 28 of the Conservation Authorities Act	▶ delineate flood hazard areas on lake shorelines using approximate methods, and plot Regulation Limits; assign top priority to inland lakes according to shoreline length (ahead of local streams and rivers) in recognition of higher development pressure on recreational lakes	▶ no	▶ \$42,300
<b>Stewardship</b>			
▶ expand private on-site sewage system re-inspection program	▶ increase our capacity to undertake re-inspections under a voluntary program delivered through a CA/health unit partnership, with funding support from participating municipalities; increase from approx 400 inspections/yr in TVT, DNE and North Frontenac to 600/yr throughout Rideau Lakes and Tay River watersheds	▶ yes	▶ \$20,000
▶ increase incentive grant funding for RVCA's Shoreline Naturalization Program	▶ increase staffing assigned to shoreline stewardship	▶ yes (incentive grants; no new staff required)	▶ \$45,000
<b>Monitoring and Reporting</b>			
▶ intensified and coordinated water quality monitoring to track trends over time; improved reporting; application of lakeshore capacity modelling	▶ continue the present level of effort in Upper Rideau (including Tay River watershed) within RVCA baseline and Watershed Watch programs; examine the need for additional stations/sampling and the potential for coordination with others; consider the merits of investing in lakeshore capacity modelling	▶ no	▶ \$150,000
▶ expanded shoreline stewardship work – complete shoreline surveys (inventories) and establish targets within lake-based plans	▶ commit staff time to development of practical and useful shoreline inventory methods, in cooperation with others	▶ no	▶ \$12,000

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