



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  
January 2009

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- Alan Arbuckle, Chair
- Ken Graham, Vice-Chair
- John H. Miller, Past-Chair
- Glenn Brooks
- David Crowley
- Steve Desroches
- Clive Doucet
- Ed Hand
- Andy Jozefowicz
- Michael McEwen
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City of Ottawa

- Alan Arbuckle
- Glenn Brooks
- Steve Desroches
- Clive Doucet
- Ed Hand
- Maria McRae

## Spring Floods – It's Time to Review Municipal Preparations

### Peak Flows\* over the Years

1978 – 527
1988 – 273
1998 – 460
2008 – 495
2009 – ?

\*cubic metres per second (cms)  
on Rideau River at Carleton  
University

Now is the time for municipalities to review their flood emergency response plans to ensure that all employees, equipment, expectations and communications are in place – just in case. Are you prepared to react even if high water occurs on a weekend or during the March Break, for instance? Property owners in flood vulnerable areas should have a flood response plan ready that is specific to their property and needs. Should a flood occur, the first response is up to the individual homeowners. If the flood conditions develop to a point where homeowners or occupants require assistance, Municipal Emergency Response Plans may need to be activated to help those in need.

When warranted, RVCA will send useful information to municipal emergency managers and the public. Three types of messages are used:

*Watershed Conditions Bulletin* – contain information about current conditions in the watershed that set the stage for the possibility of flooding (if the right weather patterns should develop). “Be informed and aware.”

*Flood Advisories* – when it is determined that flooding could result from an approaching weather system which is expected to bring heavy rain or warm air causing a rapid snowmelt. “Be prepared to activate your flood response plans, if it becomes necessary.”

*Flood Warnings* – when it is determined that flooding conditions will definitely be experienced. “Activate your flood response procedures now.”

**Please ensure that your municipal emergency contact personnel and contact information are properly identified and up-to-date in the Conservation Authority files.** Please contact Diane Downey at 613-692-3571 ext 1126 or [diane.downey@rvca.ca](mailto:diane.downey@rvca.ca).

**Any residents in your municipality who want to receive flood messages directly at their own home computer can call or e-mail Diane Downey to get on the flood message list.**

**Any residents in your municipality who want to know if they are in a flood vulnerable area should call RVCA Resource Specialists at 613-692-3571 or 1-800-267-3504 ext 1128 for Kellie or ext 1132 for Megan for an appointment to view the flood risk maps.**

## 2009 RVCA Board Members

Congratulations to Alan Arbuckle of Ottawa, re-elected Chair for 2009 and Ken Graham of the sensational separated Town of Smiths Falls as his Vice Chair.

Welcome to Andy Jozefowicz of Athens, newly-elected Vice Chair of the Middle Rideau Advisory Board and now member of the RVCA Board of Directors.

## Rural Clean Water Projects Over the Years

(helping people do the right thing for the environment through incentives)

RVCA has been helping people with clean water projects since 1992 when the provincial Clean Up Rural Beaches (CURB) Program was available. In 1999, the City of Ottawa started the Ottawa Rural Clean Water Program and in 2002, RVCA started a similar program for landowners outside the City of Ottawa.

The following chart gives an overview of the success of these programs showing over \$1.4 million in grants to private landowners to undertake clean water projects over the past 17 years. Almost 800 projects have been approved for a total project investment of \$6.6 million across the Rideau watershed.

The most common type of projects include well upgrades/decommissions, septic system repairs, livestock restriction from watercourses, erosion control/grassed waterways and surface and wash water disposal/treatment. More detailed breakdown of projects by municipality or project type is available from Martha Bradburn at 613-692-3571 ext 1136 or 613-258-5425 or martha.bradburn@rvca.ca.

Sub Watershed	Projects Approved	Grant Dollars Approved	Total Project Cost
Jock River	82	\$153,209.09	\$495,911.04
Kemptville Creek	53	\$79,137.99	\$277,635.50
Lower Rideau	365	\$588,792.29	\$4,167,030.40
Middle Rideau River	116	\$307,191.46	\$774,696.65
Ottawa River East	19	\$40,635.46	\$176,153.97
Ottawa River West	2	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Rideau Lakes	42	\$68,424.26	\$273,455.06
Tay River	91	\$166,167.93	\$453,549.09
Watershed - Other	10	\$12,048.75	\$47,306.22
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>780</b>	<b>\$1,417,107.23</b>	<b>\$6,667,237.93</b>



Photo: Simon Lunn

### Special thanks to our community-minded partners at:

- Agriculture Adaptation Council (Agriculture and Agrifood Canada)
- AON
- City of Ottawa
- Community Foundation of Ottawa
- Golder and Associates
- Kemptville Truck Centre
- Lanark Stewardship Council
- Monterey Inn Resort and Conference Centre
- OMYA Canada
- Ontario Farm Environmental Coalition
- Ontario Healthy Futures Program
- Ottawa Dragon Boat Festival
- TD Friends of the Environment Foundation
- TOMLINSON

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