



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  
August 2009

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**RVCA Has Maps – Lots & Lots of Maps**

Six Public Information Sessions are being held in September and early October to invite residents to come and view various mapping projects around the watershed. The maps are prepared using current provincial and engineering standards. But “checking” of the science by the landowners who have first-hand knowledge of the behaviour of a river is a very important step. It allows the community to assess the “reasonableness” of the draft maps and gives people a level of comfort with RVCA work. Here’s the meeting schedule:

1. Sep 10 – Richmond Arena, draft Hazard Maps of the Van Gaal Drain (for affected landowners)
2. Sep 12 – Richmond Arena, draft Hazard Maps of the Van Gaal Drain as part of the City of Ottawa’s Open House on the Richmond Community Design Plan
3. Sep 29 – Smiths Falls Legion, new or revised Regulatory Limits mapping for Barnes Creek, Kemptville Creek and North Branch; Blueberry Creek outlet to the Tay River; Rideau River around Smiths Falls
4. Sep 30 – Maplewood Community Centre, Oxford Mills; same as Sep 29
5. Oct 5 – Rideau Valley Conservation Centre, Manotick; same as Sep 29
6. Oct 6 – Perth Legion; draft Hazard Maps for the Tay River from Christie Lake to Glen Tay



## Types of Maps Produced

- Hazard maps (also known as flood risk or flood plain maps)
  - show the flood-prone lands around lakes, rivers, streams and wetlands that we expect to be under water during a major flood event; in our area, this major flood is the statistical 100-year-storm (an event that has 1% chance of being equaled or exceeded every year); we are obliged by provincial policy to use the 1:100 year flood in defining hazardous lands for land use planning and development control purposes
  
- Regulation Limits maps
  - show the limits of the regulatory interest of RVCA in the areas around lakes, rivers, valley lands, unstable slopes and wetlands; this includes the flood lines but also extends to any standard allowances required (often by provincial law) around these features to protect lives, property and the environmental benefit of the feature itself.

## Hazard Maps

RVCA produces local hazard maps for our member municipalities based on accepted engineering methods and the most current information available. These maps help keep people and property safe by showing the extent of the dominant hazard along watercourses (flood risk, steep or unstable slopes, etc). The maps provide defensible and cost-effective planning and public security information for our municipalities.

## What the Maps Are Used For

At a glance RVCA, municipalities, septic offices and interested landowners can see the extent of hazard lands on their property and work to comply with the applicable regulations to keep them and their family safe. The maps are used in the day-to-day regulatory, plan review and conservation work of the RVCA and the municipalities.

## How the Maps are Produced and Approved

Stage	Function
Stage 1: Hazard Maps	1) RVCA Board of Director financial approval for new or updated mapping project 2) engage professionals (CA technical staff or outside consultants) to create the draft maps with Conservation Authority staff supervision 3) public information session to test the “reasonableness” of the draft flood lines 4) modify the draft maps based on public information session 5) RVCA Board of Director approval of engineering report
Stage 2: Add Regulation Limits	1) Engage professionals to add regulatory limits around flood plains and other hazards 2) RVCA Board of Director approval of final Regulatory Limits mapping 3) Submission to the Provincial Peer Review and Regulations Committee (excluding minor modifications which can be made locally with documentation) 4) Approval of modified schedules by Minister 5) Maps in use for public safety

Average cost per km of mapping (based on RVCA experience):

- To obtain air photos/topographic data:.....\$2,000 / km (common first step)
- To create final hazard maps (using RVCA expertise):.....\$2,000 / km
- To create final hazard maps (outside consultants): .....\$8,000 / km

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