



A NEWSLETTER FOR MUNICIPAL COUNCILLORS
January 2010

Board of Directors

Alan Arbuckle, Chair
Ken Graham, Vice-Chair
John H. Miller, Past-Chair
Glenn Brooks
Barclay Cormack
David Crowley
Steve Desroches
Clive Doucet
Ed Hand
Andy Jozefowicz
Michael McEwen
Maria McRae

**Conservation
Advisory Board**

Athens Andy Jozefowicz
Augusta Adrian Wynands
Beckwith John Campbell
Central Frontenac John Purdon
Clarence-Rockland vacant
Drummond/North Elmsley
Michael McEwen
Elizabethtown-Kitley vacant
Merrickville-Wolford Kim Weedmark
Montague Larry O'Grady
North Dundas Estella Rose
North Grenville Barclay Cormack, Chair
Perth David Crowley
Rideau Lakes Rob Dunfield
Smiths Falls Ken Graham, Vice-Chair
South Frontenac Larry York
Tay Valley John H. Miller
Westport Bradley Wing

City of Ottawa

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

RVCA'S Evolving Municipal Structure

Out With The Old

During 2009, some municipally-appointed members expressed concern about their ability to participate in the work of the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority. Attendance at the Advisory Board meetings was dropping. It was felt that the Board of Directors made the decisions, that the Advisory Board meetings were simple updates of ongoing projects and that the many rural reps not elected to the Board had little input and influence on RVCA affairs.

At that time, there was a **seven-member Upper Rideau Advisory Board** (composed of the municipally-appointed members from Central Frontenac, Drummond/North Elmsley, Perth, Rideau Lakes, South Frontenac, Tay Valley and Westport) and a **nine-member Middle Rideau Advisory Board** (composed of the municipally-appointed members from Athens, Augusta, Beckwith, Elizabethtown-Kitley, Merrickville-Wolford, Montague, North Dundas, North Grenville and Smiths Falls).

From among these 16 municipal representatives, three were elected from each Advisory Board (six in total) to also sit on the RVCA Board of Directors to represent all 16 municipalities outside of the City of Ottawa (a system called shared representation). Those six elected rural Directors were joined by six members appointed directly to the Board by the City of Ottawa in recognition of its preponderant portion of the total municipal levy (about 90%).

In With The New

Board Chair Alan Arbuckle struck a committee to look into options to improve the situation. The committee talked with municipal reps from all over the watershed for three months. On November 26, 2009, the Board passed a motion to the effect that the two former advisory boards be combined into **one new Conservation Advisory Board for 2010** AND that the member municipalities be polled as to their preference for the current system of shared representation or direct representation for all municipalities on the RVCA Board of Directors.

The new Conservation Advisory Board (CAB) met for the first time on January 21 and elected its first six members to the Board of Directors for 2010: Barclay Cormack (Chair), Ken Graham (Vice-Chair), and Dave Crowley, Andy Jozefowicz, Michael McEwen and John H. Miller (members-at-large). The six City of Ottawa appointments to the 2010 Board are Alan Arbuckle, Glenn Brooks, Steve Desroches, Clive Doucet, Ed Hand and Maria McRae.

The composition of the 2010 Board of Directors was then known. On January 28, the election for Chair and Vice-Chair of the Board took place resulting in Alan Arbuckle and Ken Graham respectively resuming office.

Municipal Discussion

At the moment then, for 2010, we have a sixteen-member Conservation Advisory Board chaired by Barclay Cormack and a twelve-member Board of Directors chaired by Alan Arbuckle. The discussion with the member municipalities and a decision about their preference for shared or direct representation on the Board is pending. The decision will affect the size and composition of the Board of Directors. That discussion will start after the levy and budget discussions of the next few weeks.

If municipalities choose shared representation, RVCA will remain with a Board of Directors of 12 members (six rural [elected from sixteen potential municipally-appointed reps] and six from the City of Ottawa). If municipalities choose direct representation, RVCA could have a Board of Directors of 22 members or more (one from each of the sixteen rural municipalities plus a number to be decided from the City of Ottawa).

RVCA prides itself on being a local grass roots municipally-driven organization. Municipalities must know that their representatives have the respect, the power and the opportunity to be heard at the RVCA Board table. Period.

RVCA Executive Committee

At that same meeting, the Executive Committee was struck for 2010. This group acts as the "Hearing Committee" to give people applying for permission under RVCA regulations a chance to have a second hearing if they are not satisfied with the result of dealing with RVCA staff. This year's very experienced Executive Committee consists of Alan Arbuckle, Ken Graham, John H. Miller, David Crowley and Ed Hand with Barclay Cormack as alternate.

Delegation Guidelines

The January Board meeting also approved the use of the *Delegation Guidelines* described in last month's Watershed Briefs ... the how, when, who and why if you want to bring some conservation business directly to the Board of Directors. The "Guidelines" can be found on the RVCA website at www.rvca.ca.

Van Gaal Flood Plain Maps (Jock River)

Van Gaal Flood Plain Mapping was successfully resolved by staff from RVCA, City of Ottawa and Mattamy Homes. RVCA accepts the flood plain lines as presented in November, 2009 as the best available information and approves immediate use of the information in municipal land use planning and development approval work. Further more, **the Board also adopted a policy that, from this point forward, the administration and enforcement of flood plain activities will begin immediately on the release of any new or updated flood plain mapping product even if it is in draft form.**

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