

RIDEAU VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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MINUTES

Joint Rideau Valley
Conservation Authority
Advisory Board Meeting

June 26, 2003

#2/03

Present:	Alan Arbuckle Stanley Brunton David Crowley David Hahn Allan McCallum John H. Miller, Chair Wendy Stewart	Stephen Bird William Buffam Gerry Furlong Charles Long Michael McEwen Estella Rose Cathy Willoughby
Regrets:	Dwight Bennett Alison Conley Robert Pedherney Janet Stavinga	William Buckler Jan Harder Boyce Peters Bill Stevenson
Guests:	Cam McLeod Mary Bryden Dorothy Hearty Murray Hunt	David Taylor Farrell Crook Karen Hunt Marc Towaij
Staff:	Charles Billington Dell Hallett Bruce Reid	Sommer Casgrain-Robertson Ewan Hardie

1. Introductions

John Miller asked all members, staff and guests to introduce themselves.

2. Declaration of Interest

None

3. Approval of Minutes, Meeting , February 27, 2003

Motion 1	Moved by:	Allan McCallum
	Seconded by:	David Crowley

That the minutes of meeting #1/03, February 27, 2003 be approved.

Motion Carried

4. Presentation to David Ballinger, Parks Canada, Rideau Canal Office

Dell Hallett introduced David Ballinger, Director of Canal Operations, Rideau Canal and presented him with a commemorative canoe paddle for their participation in the Chapman Mills Conservation Area.

"It's a pleasure for me to introduce to you one of our key partners in the long term conservation of the Rideau, Mr Dave Ballinger, Director of Rideau Canal Operations for Parks Canada.

It is my very great honour to offer a small token of our appreciation to Dave and his colleagues at Parks Canada, Rideau Canal Office for their generous and far-sighted participation in our recent Chapman Mills Conservation Area project in the city of Ottawa.

Chapman Mills is a 16-hectare shoreline area near the Carleton Lodge Seniors Home that is now in public ownership thanks to an amazing, community-inspired partnership between MINTO Developments, the South Nepean Development Corporation, the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority and Foundation, and Parks Canada. SNDC offered the land, Minto offered the development funds, and Parks Canada offered an adjacent piece of property that completed the package very nicely. The charitable status of the Conservation Foundation facilitated the generous donation of the development funds from MINTO while the RVCA owns and manages the property. All in all, a very nice project with the environment and the local people being the big winners. Chapman Mills is already in use in all seasons of the year by the growing numbers of people in the Chapman Mills and Winding Way communities.

As I mentioned, as a small token of our appreciation for the pivotal role of Parks Canada in the project, it is a distinct honour to offer Dave a commemorative canoe paddle with sincere THANKS FROM THE PEOPLE OF THE RIDEAU VALLEY. We hope it will find a permanent home on the boardroom wall in Smiths Falls. Thank you very much."

5. Presentations to Mary Bryden, former member Board of Directors, RVCA and Charles Long, former chair, RVCA

John Miller introduced Mary Bryden and Charles Long and presented them with a token of appreciation for their services to the environmental community.

"I now have the privilege to introduce two people who have been sitting with us as Board members for many years.

Mary Bryden has consistently represented the Gloucester area of the former Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton and the new City of Ottawa since 1980 when she was first appointed by council. She was part of the famous “two Maries” (Mary Bryden and Mary Cooper) who consistently brought the Authority back to earth with their sound observations and solid common sense. Mary’s community-based connections and partnerships are important to RVCA in developing conservation projects that work for real people. Mary was a member of the former Executive Committee and the Board of Directors for twenty years prior to her retirement in 2002. Mary was an active participant in many of the difficult yet satisfying projects that the Conservation Authority has been involved over the past twenty years. Projects such as Rideau Ferry Yacht Club Conservation Area, watershed planning, provincial downloading, budget discussions and municipal levies, staffing issues, amalgamation problems and all of the other conservation agenda items that crop up month after month. Mary continues her link and her commitment to the environment as Chair of the Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation.

Charles Long was first appointed to RVCA by the former Township of South Elmsley in 1992. Charles was a Board member virtually from the start serving as Vice-Chair from 1994 – 1998. Charles was elected Chair of RVCA from 1999–2001 at that time representing the Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton followed by the City of Ottawa after amalgamation. In his twelve years with conservation, he has been involved in major discussions and major milestones along the road to environmental health in our valley, perhaps most notably steering the RVCA during the very difficult Walkerton crisis. He currently sits on the Board of Directors where his experience and perspective is much appreciated.

Would these two individuals, Mary Bryden and Charles Long, please come forward to receive a token of our appreciation for their services to the environmental community.”

6. RVC Foundation Conservation Award Winners for 2002

Charles Billington introduced the Conservation awards and explained what the awards have come to represent. He displayed the Conservation Award plaque and noted that it is a who’s who of environmentally dedicated citizens.

Charles presented the first Honourable Mention award to Lawrence Renton (who was absent) who he described as a one man environmental movement in the area of the Brian Dean Farm. Charles described how Mr. Renton had planted thousands of trees, created wildlife habitat, and preserved a 40 acre wetland all for future generations. Mr. Renton will be presented with a certificate that reads “for forestry, wildlife habitat and wetland enhancement on private property, sincere thanks from the people of the Rideau Valley.”

Charles presented the second Honourable Mention award to Maureen Towaij (accepted on her behalf by her son Marc Towaij) who is a member of CMAG (Citizens Mining Advisory Group) and has been very successful in defeating a large percentage of the mining claims that have been staked in Tay Valley which could have had devastating

environmental consequences. Marc Towajj was presented with a certificate that read “for leadership and dedication to environmental protection through challenging recent mining claims in Tay Valley Township, sincere thanks from the people of the Rideau Valley.”

Dorothy Hearty of the RVC Foundation presented the 2002 Conservation Award to the Environmental Committee of Ottawa South and Muskies Canada / Ottawa Valley Chapter. Mike Lascelles accepted on behalf of both groups who were presented with plaques that read “for 10 years of Rideau River stewardship and enhancement in the Brewer Park area and the Rideau River, sincere thanks from the people of the Rideau Valley.”

7. Preview of the RVCA’s Watershed Information System

Bruce Reid introduced Ewan Hardie, GIS Specialist, RVCA, who provided an overview of the RVCA’s new Watershed Information Management System. His power point presentation is attached. Bruce explained that the RVCA recognizes that up until now we have not done a sufficient job of communicating our monitoring data and information with the public. In the three year workplan more money from the municipal levy will be directed towards monitoring and the means to get the data and interpretation out to member municipalities and the public. The RVCA believes that an information system will allow interested parties to access the historical data sets that the RVCA has and new data that is continually being collected and interpreted. After the presentation there was discussion regarding the overall budget and whether there is sufficient funding to setup and operate this new system effectively, Dell Hallett replied that monitoring and reporting activities will see increased funding over the next three years as per the three year workplan. There was also discussion regarding sharing of information with other groups and the possibility of adding data from other groups to our information system. Both Ewan and Bruce responded that the technology is limitless and once the RVCA has the system up and running with all of our data sets, discussions will begin with other groups regarding the amalgamation of data.

8. Preview of Source Protection Planning

Dell Hallett, General Manager, RVCA gave a preview of Source Protection Planning and what it entails. His presentation is attached. Discussion followed Dell’s presentation and included funding concerns and legislation restraints. Dell explained that the feeling he had been getting from the Province is that “substantial” funding will be provided (it will not fall on municipalities) as the provincial government is committed to fulfilling the recommendations of the O’Connor report. Dell also commented that new powers may be provided to

municipalities through existing legislation to control potential impacts on source protection (ie septic system reinspections).

9. Sandi Slater Memorial Walk Project

John Miller provided a RVC Foundation update about the Sandi Slater Memorial Walk on the RVCA's newly acquired Miesel Woods property.

"This is an information item about a very unusual and inspiring piece of work going on in our watershed and on one of our recently-acquired properties.

You will recall the Meisel Woods, a lovely piece of Canadian Shield land donated to RVCA by Mr John Meisel, retired professor from Queens University. The Meisel property is a magnificent 131 acre parcel of prime Precambrian landscape in the Tay River watershed near Crow Lake in Central Frontenac. It includes steep shorelines, a 60 acre private lake known as Beaver Lake and lots of mature upland forest.

Joe and Sandi Slater are neighbours of John Meisel and had spent a lot of time wandering around Beaver Lake drawing strength and enjoying the peace and quiet of the Woods. As a result of the unfortunate loss of Sandi Slater recently, Joe Slater has undertaken a fundraising effort to build the Sandi Slater Memorial Walk through the Meisel Woods so that others may enjoy the experience that brought the couple so much happiness during Mrs Slater's lifetime.

The work needed to achieve Mr Slater's vision has been planned in two phases: first of all, the parking lot and entrance way with signage, a commemorative plaque and sprucing up of the existing 1.5 km trail system is scheduled for official opening this fall assuming all of the resources needed are in place.

Phase II of the project (also depending on adequate funding) includes about 100 m of board walk through a soft maple swamp at the north end of the lake, a small bridge over a stream on the south end and completing the loop trail around Beaver Lake for a total distance of about 3 km of new trail.

Joe Slater, an experienced and well-respected environmentalist in the Tay Valley area, and neighbour John Meisel are committed to spearheading the fund raising efforts and have already raised over \$10,000 for the project. The finished work will provide another public amenity and conservation site for people to enjoy in the upper watershed area. Hats off to Mr Slater and Mr Meisel for their determination and vision in carrying this excellent project forward. Contributions by the way marked "Sandi Slater" are gratefully accepted through the Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation at the Manotick office."

10. Members Inquiries

None

11. Adjournment

8:45 pm

Moved by:
Seconded by:

Wendy Stewart
Michael McEwen

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Chair,
John H. Miller

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Recording Secretary,
Sommer Casgrain-Robertson