

News Release

FINAL REPORT — BEST USE STUDY FOR DICKINSON SQUARE

MANOTICK, July 24, 2006 — A public meeting will be held Thursday, August 3, 2006 at the Manotick Arena for the presentation of the final report of the *Best Use Study: Dickinson Square Historic Buildings*. This study, commissioned by the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority and undertaken by Commonwealth Historic Resource Management Limited and TCI Management Consultants, examines alternate uses for the land and buildings and acceptable disposition options as the Authority prepares to move its headquarters off the Square to a new office in Beryl Gaffney Park in 2007.

Over the past several months, a number of interviews with key stakeholders, the distribution of questionnaires and an open house have taken place to identify a range of options that blended the interests of the community and the needs of the RVCA.

A number of scenarios are outlined as part of this study. The preferred public option was for all five buildings in Dickinson Square (Watson's Mill, Dickinson House, Carriage Shed, Ayers Building and the Weaver House) to remain in public ownership. The RVCA, City of Ottawa and Dickinson Square Heritage Management Inc. are already working towards this goal.

RVCA has been on Dickinson Square in the heart of old Manotick for 35 years and is very proud of the heritage conservation work it was able to accomplish in the early years. Restoration, upgrading and maintenance of Watson's Mill, the Dickinson House, the Carriage Shed, the old Bank Building, the Weaver's House and the Miller's Oven Restaurant were all accomplished with the guidance of the former Dickinson Square Advisory Committee and the leadership and financial accountability of RVCA.

RVCA's mandate has changed over the years to focus entirely on environmental protection of the Rideau Valley watershed, particularly the long-term health of the Rideau River and its tributaries. This role has now outgrown the lovely but inefficient office space it occupies in the historic buildings of Manotick. It is clearly time for a new chapter in the life of RVCA and Dickinson Square.

Special thanks to the members of the Best Use Study Steering Committee for their leadership and guidance throughout the study process.

To download a copy of the final report, visit www.rideauvalley.on.ca/best_use.

– end –

For more information:
Cliff Craig, RVCA Project Manager
613-692-3571 or 1-800-267-3504 ext. 1132
cliff.craig@rideauvalley.on.ca

