

# News Release

## YOUNG WHITE PINE COMMEMORATES WATERSHED STRATEGY

LOWER RIDEAU WATERSHED, May 29 2007 — After five years of work, ten government agencies have completed a ground-breaking cooperative document called the Lower Rideau Watershed Strategy. The groups met yesterday to celebrate their partnership with a commemorative planting of a vigorous young white pine, Ontario's provincial tree, at the Chapman Mill Conservation Area located along the shores of the Lower Rideau.

The Lower Rideau Watershed Strategy (LRWS) is a master set of objectives that all agencies will use to guide and help coordinate watershed management efforts on the lower Rideau for years to come. The study will move us towards harmonized governmental efforts on the lower Rideau. Government partners have agreed on the Strategy's recommendations and will work together to address five major issues. Environmental management is a priority using an "ecosystem approach."

"The LRWS is an exceptional example of teamwork and cooperation between numerous government organizations," said Alan Arbuckle, Rideau Valley Conservation Authority Chair. "By working together, we will better coordinate the many regulatory and operational activities of the numerous organizations involved with management of the Lower Rideau area. We will also be more effective in protecting and improving the river as an important cultural, recreational and environmental feature of the Ottawa and northern Leeds and Grenville landscape."

The \$300,000 project, focusing on the Rideau watershed from Burritts Rapids to Rideau Falls, was funded by the City of Ottawa, municipalities of the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority and the Ministry of Natural Resources. Seven other organizations participated in a Technical Advisory Committee to ensure that special interests and local knowledge were represented and also to encourage endorsement of the new strategy through their respective organizations.

Special guests at this event included:

- Alan Arbuckle, Master of Ceremonies and Chair of the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority
- Andy Brown, Chief Administrative Officer, Municipality of North Grenville
- Steve Burns, District Manager, Ontario Ministry of the Environment
- Carol Christensen, Environmental Sustainability Manager, City of Ottawa
- Alex Gardner, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Kemptville District Manager
- Dell Hallett, General Manager, Rideau Valley Conservation Authority
- Spencer Martin, Eastern District Manager, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
- Bruce Reid, Director of Watershed Science and Engineering, Rideau Valley Conservation Authority and Project Manager for the LRWS

Event photos and media kits are available upon request.

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More information:

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