

News Release

FINAL HERITAGE BUILDING ON DICKINSON SQUARE

MANOTICK, OCTOBER 11, 2007 — The Ayers Building on historic Dickinson Square in the heart of old Manotick is seeking the same level of heritage protection that the Mill, the Dickinson House, the Carriage Shed and the Weavers House already enjoy. Ayers owner, the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA), has agreed to apply for heritage status through the Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee in the City of Ottawa before RVCA vacates the premises and moves to modern new quarters.

The Ayers Building, also known as the little red brick building across the road from the big yellow house near Watson's Mill in Manotick, is the only heritage building of the five on the Square which does not yet have heritage status. It is known as the Ayers Building in honour of former RVCA Chairman Frank E. Ayers. It has had a long and distinguished community history as village bank, village library, meeting venue and finally as renovated office and boardroom space for RVCA and community groups.

Dickinson Square Heritage Management Inc (DSHMI), a volunteer group working towards a "Heritage Cultural Centre" on the Square, will undertake the application process with the City. It could take about 8-12 weeks to complete. Heritage status is expected to protect the exterior historic look and integrity of the old building and allow interior renovation to accommodate modern uses.

"Thank you to RVCA for the opportunity to complete the heritage protection of the historic Dickinson Square buildings. This designation will help ensure our collective efforts to preserve this absolutely amazing community asset found nowhere else in the Ottawa area", said Ted Ross, a Director of DSHMI.

RVCA Chair Alan Arbuckle of Manotick commented "We're pleased to help consolidate the heritage and community values of this local historic complex. We are proud of our 36-year record of heritage building restoration and maintenance on Dickinson Square and hope that future owners will respect these vintage structures as worthy parts of the watershed, the Canadian Heritage Rideau River and the new Rideau Canal World Heritage Site."

— end —

More information:

Cliff Craig

Rideau Valley Conservation Authority

613-692-3571 ext 1134

cliff.craig@rideauvalley.on.ca

