

Media Release

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JANET STAVINGA TO CHAIR MISSISSIPPI-RIDEAU SOURCE PROTECTION COMMITTEE

Ontario Environment Minister Laurel Broten has announced Janet Stavinga, well-known watershed personality and well-respected former City of Ottawa Councillor, as her choice for Chair of the new Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Committee (SPC). Ms Stavinga has accepted the position and starts work in late September helping to select and orient the 15-member SPC for our area.

Janet served for twelve years as an elected municipal official, first as a Councillor and Mayor in the former Township of Goulbourn, then for six years as an Ottawa City Councillor. In 2006, Janet announced a sabbatical from political life.

As City Councillor, Janet served as Vice-Chair on the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA) Board of Directors as well as Chair of the Steering Committee for the Renfrew County-Mississippi-Rideau Groundwater Study. She understands the diverse challenges within watersheds, the importance of decision-making based on natural systems, and the necessity of partnerships to implement sustainable solutions.

Mississippi Valley Conservation (MVC) Chair Mark Burnham is very pleased with Minister Broten's selection. "Janet will be a superb leader. We have worked with her on many water-related issues in the past and have great confidence in her ability and in her knowledge of our watersheds. We look forward to working with her again in this new capacity", said Mr Burnham.

Alan Arbuckle, RVCA Chair, commented "Minister Broten has chosen a very competent individual to lead our Source Protection Committee as we embark on the long journey towards producing local Source Protection Plans. We offer our sincere gratitude to all candidates who let their names stand for this position. Our region is clearly rich in human watershed resources and we thank you all."

Following formation of the full SPC, committee work starts on the long process of developing the Source Protection Plans to protect municipal drinking water sources in the Mississippi and Rideau Valley areas.

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