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# RVCA News Release

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## ONTARIO MOVES TO PROTECT THE LOCAL ENVIRONMENT

MANOTICK, NOVEMBER 15, 2005 — The Ontario government has directed Conservation Authorities (CAs) to amend their flood plain regulations to include protection for wetlands, valleylands and lake shores within their watershed jurisdictions. The amended regulation is known as the Generic Regulation because it creates a uniform set of rules for use in all CAs across Ontario. The changes come into effect in May 2006 in all areas of the province.

This Generic Regulation gives CAs the ability to regulate and protect the local environment in a number of ways. The amendments will complement and expand environmental protection to eventually include wetlands and valley lands in addition to flood plains and watercourses throughout the Mississippi and Rideau valleys. This expanded protection regime will be phased in over several years.

In the early stages after May 2006, protection of provincially significant wetlands currently identified on municipal Official Plan maps will be the priority. As surveys and background work permit, other wetland areas and valley slopes will be included. The province's intention is to have more control of sensitive wetland areas and other zones that have an effect on the quality and quantity of water available or other environmental functions.

At the same time, development restrictions on mapped flood plain areas will help prevent loss of life and property as we move into a period of increasing climate change and severe weather phenomena such as heavy unseasonal rainfall and floods. Flood plain mapping will be extended to include several new areas in the Rideau Valley including about 2 km upstream of Glen Tay on the Tay River, about 5 km of new mapping on Steven's Creek in rural Ottawa, almost 7 km of new mapping on Kemptville Creek up to the Oxford Mills Dam, 20 km of new mapping on the Jock River upstream to Ashton, and the long-awaited 54 km of new mapping of the Ottawa River shore between Shirley's Bay and the Clarence-Rockland boundary in the east. Mississippi Valley Conservation's floodplain mapping will be extended to include Dalhousie Lake and Constance Creek.

Four public Information Sessions were recently held to show the new maps and discuss the amended regulations with landowners and concerned citizens. About 120 people were present to discuss the Generic Regulation and its impact on their properties in the area. The final touches are now being made to the local package of changes.

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For more information:

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