

## The Kemptville Creek Watershed Plan

The Kemptville Creek Watershed Plan (KCWP) was published in 1999 by the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA) and its member municipalities. As per the Adaptive Watershed Management cycle and the RVCA's goal to ensure the objectives of these plans are achieved, this watershed plan is undertaking its first review to determine the effectiveness of the recommended action strategies.

### Purpose of the KCWP Update

Using the multi-stakeholder and ecosystem approach to watershed management, the Kemptville Creek Watershed Plan – Update was initiated to

- Identify changes that have taken place in the watershed since the completion of the KCWP
- Identify the issues currently affecting the Kemptville Creek watershed
- Identify the relevance of the goals, objectives and management strategies outlined in the original document
- Identify new goals, objectives, management strategies (if needed) to fit current issues
- Map out the work plan of the RVCA and other stakeholders for the next several years for the purpose of watershed management in the Kemptville Creek watershed

### Issues

It was decided that the success of implementation would be increased if a few key issues were focused on and resolved. The issues identified by the watershed community to be addressed in this update include:

- **Water Levels**- and how water quantity is managed. This includes addressing the operation of the Oxford Mills dam, beavers and their management and channel obstructions
- **Surface Water Quality** - Focus is on Barnes Creek, the North Branch and Mud Creek. Identify sources of impairment and improve conditions

- **Groundwater quality and quantity** - This includes protection of the source of drinking water.
- **Development in the Kemptville area** - The area is growing rapidly. Development must proceed with good environmental controls in place to minimize adverse impacts to the ecosystem. Planning tools are needed to facilitate this.
- **Education and Outreach** - Community involvement is imperative for improved conditions. Give the information, tools and opportunities needed for improved planning, stewardship and land management practices

### Objectives

Through stakeholder consultation, it was determined that the objectives from the original report were all currently relevant. The following objectives were added to those of the original report:

- Reduce Nutrient Loadings in North Branch of Kemptville Creek and Mud Creek
- Educate and Motivate all stakeholders to become land and water stewards
- Facilitate participation of stakeholders in stewardship activities/lifestyle
- Facilitate communication, co-operation and action of all agencies having a role in watershed management
- Manage and protect the natural features of the Kemptville Area in a sustainable manner.

### Watershed Management Strategies

The time frame for the implementation of these recommendations for this review was set at three years. A working group has been recommended to address each of the above issues, including a group to address the concept of a one-window approach to resource management and shoreline permits. The following working groups will undertake the following actions:

# Executive Summary

### **Surface Water Quality**

- Initiate water quality investigations and a sub-watershed plan on Barnes Creek
- Continue baseline monitoring
- Develop a septic-re-inspection program
- Promote stewardship incentive programs for land management

### **Surface Water Quantity and Groundwater**

- Develop a water level management strategy
- Manage beaver activity and dams as they affect water levels
- Undertake hydrologic modeling to determine the effects of changes to the creek system
- Identify flood and high water prone lands
- Monitor water levels and water level complaints
- Develop dam operation policies for the Oxford Mills dam
- Identify and Protect Groundwater Recharge/Vulnerable Areas  
Undertake Groundwater Monitoring

### **Development in the Kemptville Area**

- Map critical shoreline areas to determine areas requiring protection/recreational enhancement
- Establish planning tools for implementation of recommendations
- Establish stormwater management guidelines for existing development
- Establish Groundwater Management Guidelines for Existing Development/Land Uses
- Establish Wellhead Protection Management Policies
- Establish Habitat Value Targets for the Town of Kemptville
- Develop Groundwater Management Policies

### **Education and Outreach**

- Develop education programs/opportunities
- Promote and expand the use of stewardship programs
- Create the Kemptville Creek Community Action Group
- Expand and promote a Volunteer monitoring program
- Link findings, recommendations of watershed plan update to existing and future studies

### **One Window Permitting**

Develop a streamlined permit/governance process

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

These working groups will meet as frequently as necessary to implement the recommendations of the plan. Each group will report on the previous year's efforts and make recommendations for the following year's activities in order to track the success of implementation and determine alternative methods to approach issues if necessary.

An annual meeting will be held to bring together all stakeholders to discuss actions for each upcoming year. At the end of the three year implementation cycle it is hoped that momentum and communication will lead to dealing with the remainder of the issues as identified in the 1999 document. This watershed plan will be reviewed in 2012.