

Public Advisory Committee Holds First Meeting to Discuss Rideau Lakes Watershed Plan

The first meeting of the Public Advisory Committee (PAC) was held on Nov. 14. The PAC is made up of interested citizens in the Rideau Lakes area (extending from above Wolfe Lake west of Westport to the Lower Rideau Lake) who would like to assist in developing a plan that will help improve the health of the Rideau Lakes and the surrounding lands.

The committee discussed the importance of getting information out to the public to ensure they understand that they have a role in protecting their local environment, economy and health.

Terms of Reference were agreed to and listed the issues that will be addressed in the plan. These include: water quality, weed growth, fisheries management, shoreline development and health, tourism and recreation and balancing the economy with personal and environmental health.

The vision that watershed stakeholders have for the area is:

All residents, visitors and other stakeholders re knowledgeable environmental stewards committed to working together to ensure this unique watershed is diverse, healthy, safe and clean, where the thriving local economy exists in harmony with the thriving ecosystem for future generations.

With that lofty goal in mind, the PAC members stated they would like to assist members of the public to get involved in the plan (which will ultimately affect everyone living in the vicinity of the Rideau Lakes) by allowing themselves (the members) to be information contacts.

If any member of the public would like to discuss the local issues affecting their watershed with members of the PAC or would like to know more about the watershed and the watershed planning process, contact one of the following:

Doug Moore, Rideau Ferry	infomaplecrest@igs.net
Maggie Leach, Bass Lake	284-8344
Peter Au, Rideau Roundtable	aaapeterau@cogeco.ca
Norman Peterson, Upper Rideau Lk	npeterson@rideau.net
Nick Stow, Gartner Lee Ltd.	nstow@gartnerlee.com
Ted Joynt, Smiths Falls	tjoynt@sympatico.ca
Sarah Cooke, Smiths Falls	sarah_cooke@hotmail.com
Allan MacCallum	283-1738
Bob & Anne Bradley	273-4466

The PAC's next meeting will be in the new year where the goals and objectives for the future of the Rideau Lakes area will be discussed.

For more information on the watershed planning process, contact Lynn Preston, Watershed Planning Co-ordinator, RVCA at 1-800-267-3504 Ext 1171 or lynn.preston@rideauvalley.on.ca.

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For more information: Lynn Preston, Watershed Planning Co-ordinator
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