

RIDEAU VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY WATERSHED BRIEFS

February 2013

A newsletter for municipal councillors

2013 Board of Directors

Andy Jozefowicz *Athens*
 Lee Armstrong *Augusta*
 Sharon Mousseau *Beckwith*
 Tom Dewey *Central Frontenac*
 No appointment *Clarence-Rockland*
 Ray Scissons *Drummond/North Elmsley*
 Lyle Pederson *Elizabethtown-Kitley*
 Jim Anderton *Merrickville-Wolford*
 Vince Carroll *Montague*
 Gerry Boyce *North Dundas*
 Barclay Cormack *North Grenville*
 David Crowley *Perth*
 Rob Dunfield *Rideau Lakes*
 Ken Graham, RVCA Chair *Smiths Falls*
 Mark Tinlin *South Frontenac*
 John H. Miller *Tay Valley*
 Bradley Wing *Westport*

City of Ottawa

Alan Arbuckle, RVCA Past Chair
 David Chernushenko
 Steve Curtis
 Ed Hand, RVCA Vice Chair
 Magda Kubasiewicz
 Scott Moffatt

RVCA Annual General Meeting

The RVCA's Annual General Meeting was held on February 28. Smiths Falls appointee Ken Graham was re-elected as Chair of the Conservation Authorities' 22 member board — one from each of the 16 rural municipalities and six representatives from the City of Ottawa. Ed Hand, Ottawa's citizen representative returns as Vice Chair. The board welcomed its newest member, Ottawa Councillor Scott Moffatt, who is replacing Councillor Steve Desroches who sat on the Board for six years. The RVCA Executive Committee, which is a sub-committee that oversees hearings relating to RVCA development applications, remains the same in 2013 with Ken Graham, Ed Hand, Alan Arbuckle, John Miller, Lyle Pederson and David Crowley (alternate) as committee members (dell.hallett@rvca.ca).

Budget Approval

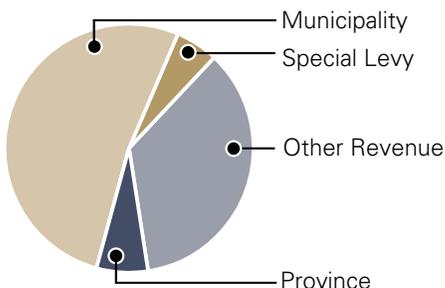
The RVCA's Board of Directors unanimously approved the 2013 budget of \$9.2 million. Levy request is \$4,770,000 which is an increase of 181,000 from the 2012 budget. The City of Ottawa pays 90 percent of the levy leaving the 17 remaining municipalities to share the outstanding levy of \$466,536 based on assessment apportionment.

Municipal levy makes up about 52 percent of the RVCA budget with other funds coming from the province, special project levies and other sources such as permits, user fees and fundraising efforts (dell.hallett@rvca.ca).

Where does the money go?



Where does the money come from?



Next Board of Director's Meeting

Thursday, March 21, 2011
7:00 p.m. at the RVCA
Conservation Centre
in Manotick

Municipal Tools Now Available:

1. *RVCA Annual Report*
2. *Lower Rideau Subwatershed Report*

View both online at www.rvca.ca under "What's New" or contact Diane Downey at diane.downey@rvca.ca or 613-692-3571 ext. 1126

Coming Soon:

- Flood Forecasting and Warning Messages (as conditions warrant)
- *Around the Rideau* — March/April Edition

Recommended Reading:

- Planning in the Face of Climate Change, *Municipal World*, March 2013, vol. 123, number 3
- Innovative Programs to Protect Greenlands, *Municipal World*, February 2013, vol. 122, number 2

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Municipal Flood Response

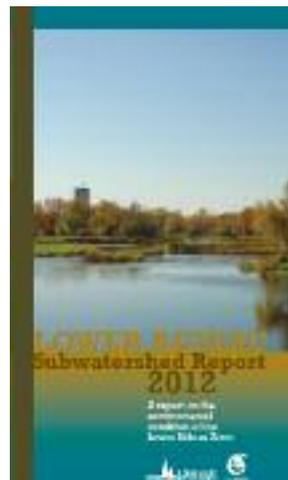
RVCA has the responsibility for Flood Forecasting and Warning (FFW) in the Rideau watershed. RVCA's FFW system is in operation 12 months a year, monitoring weather and the watershed, and issuing advisories as the local situation warrants. Should a flood event occur, the first response is up to the individual homeowner. If the flood is beyond the capability of the homeowner to combat, municipal Emergency Response Plans kick-in to assist those in need. Now is the time to review your municipality's flood emergency response plan and ensure all employees, equipment and communications are in place just in case (patrick.larson@rvca.ca).

It's not contradictory to say we could see floods and droughts at the same time," says Environment Canada's senior climatologist Dave Phillips. "It's going to be one wild swing from one extreme to the other."

LET YOUR RESIDENTS KNOW!

Not sure if you are in a flood vulnerable area? Property owners can find out by contacting an RVCA Resource Specialist at 613-692-3571 or 1-800-267-350 ext. 1128 or 1132.

Need to know about the flow? Stay informed by following RVCA on Facebook, Twitter (RideauValleyCA) or get flood messages sent directly to your email account (contact diane.downey@rvca.ca to learn more).



Lower Rideau Subwatershed Report

The Lower Rideau Subwatershed Report is now available. This is the fourth in a family of subwatershed reports that summarized the health of the Rideau's six subwatersheds. These subwatershed reports that look at four indicators of watershed health: water quality, forest cover, wetland cover and riparian cover. These reports are completed in a six year cycle, allowing staff to complete more monitoring and see trends over time.

The RVCA is committed to gathering and monitoring relevant information about the condition of our watershed resources and features. These efforts help us better understand watershed trends and help focus resource management actions where they are needed the most. They also help us evaluate the effectiveness of watershed management policies and programs.

Completed Reports:

- ▶ Middle Rideau 2009
- ▶ Jock River 2010
- ▶ Tay River 2011
- ▶ Lower Rideau 2012

Coming Soon:

- ▶ Kemptville Creek 2013 — February 2014
- ▶ Rideau Lakes 2014 — February 2015

Municipalities Making Move to Protecting Greenlands

More and more Ontario municipalities are looking towards opportunities to protect local "greenlands." Greenlands are natural areas targeted for conservation. These areas can include hazard lands/floodplain, valley and stream corridors, woodlots, wetlands and other ecologically significant features. Municipalities are seeing the long-term benefit of protecting ecologically sensitive land that "provides direct community benefits, such as air and water purification, erosion and flooding regulation, pollination, as well as spiritual, aesthetic, and recreational values (credit: Robert Orland, *Municipal World*)." Municipalities are doing this through official plans — regulating land use through planning policies — and stewardship — maintaining functions through best management activities. However, more and more municipalities are looking to directly secure land through a public agency or land trust to ensure permanent protection. Conservation Authorities and Conservation Foundations are ideal partners for municipalities who do not want to take the title or responsibility of managing sensitive lands. Various funding models currently exist and are worth a look — check out Robert Orland's story in February's *Municipal World*. If your municipality is interested in protecting greenlands for conservation purposes, a chat with RVCA and Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation staff is a good place to start (charles.billington@rvca.ca). Working together, we can provide long-term protection of valuable green resources.