

RIDEAU VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY WATERSHED BRIEFS

April 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

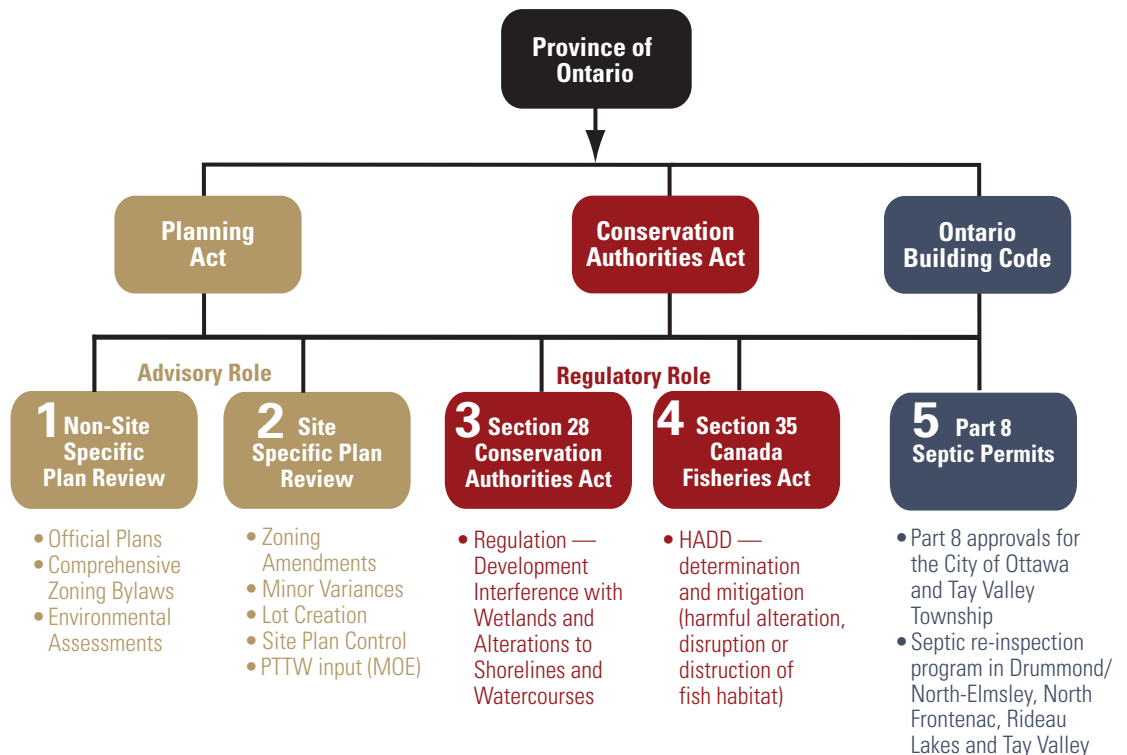
Alan Arbuckle, RVCA Past Chair
 David Chernushenko
 Steve Curtis
 Ed Hand, RVCA Vice Chair
 Magda Kubasiewicz
 Scott Moffatt

Understanding RVCA's Planning Advisory and Regulatory Services

The RVCA conserves natural resources in the Rideau Valley for everyone's benefit. As part of its mandate, the RVCA reviews development proposals submitted to municipalities within or adjacent to hazard lands and natural areas. We also regulate construction in environmentally sensitive areas such as floodplains, wetlands, shorelines and waterways. These efforts are undertaken by an expert team of planners, engineers, biologists and hydrologists who ensure clean water, natural shorelines and sustainable land use throughout the watershed. Although, good planning balances society, economy and the environment, the RVCA's ultimate client is our local environment.

The RVCA reviews, advises and regulates on a range of development activities, including:

- Non-site specific plan review — larger scale planning activities covering wide planning areas
- Site specific plan review
- Section 28 — *Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses Regulation*
- Section 35 — *Canada Fisheries Act*
- Part 8 Septic Approvals — *Ontario Building Code*



RVCA's Advisory Role

1) Non-Site Specific Plan Review — The Authority offers the services of specialist staff to advise municipalities on larger scale planning projects such as the development of official plans and zoning by-laws. The Conservation Authority may also participate in the Environmental Assessment Process. This work continues to grow in complexity (examples include servicing studies in North Grenville, hazard designations in the comprehensive zoning by-law for the amalgamated City of Ottawa and contributions to the environmental assessment for Light Rail and new bridge crossings also in Ottawa).

2) Site Specific Plan Review — The RVCA acts as the lead in review of “site specific” planning applications where natural hazard issues (flooding, unstable slopes and soils) are involved. We represent the “provincial interest” in these reviews. In this role, we undertake technical reviews related to ground water, storm water, fisheries or wetland impacts necessary for municipal approval of development applications. Some 1,200 site specific planning application reviews, which are performed on a cost recovery basis through the collection of fees for services, are processed annually.

RVCA's Regulatory Role

3) Section 28 of the Conservation Authorities Act — The RVCA protects and regulates important environmentally sensitive areas such as in floodplains, adjacent to unstable slopes, in and around wetlands and along shorelines and waterways. Regulation occurs based on our delegated responsibilities to administer *Ontario Regulation 174/06— the Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses Regulation*. Any work near a lake, river, stream or wetland, requires approval from a Conservation Authority. This includes construction and alterations to buildings, site grading, as well as changes to a watercourse or wetland (straightening or interfering). Just over three hundred applications were received in 2012 — two denied were and there were 19 violations with 12 of these being resolved.

4) Section 35 of the Canada Fisheries Act — Since 1998, the RVCA has reviewed development and regulatory applications under Section 35 of the *Canada Fisheries Act*. This work is done to determine if proposed work in or around water could harmfully alter, disrupt or destroy fish habitat. Projects that are designed and constructed properly can avoid negative impact on fish. We review options to relocate, redesign, and/or mitigate potential harmful impacts to fish habitat to avoid a HADD. If an agreement can not be reached, projects are referred directly to Fisheries and Oceans Canada for further review. Matters related to the release of deleterious substances are also monitored under Section 36 of the Act. In 2012, 112 reviews were completed. Recent changes to the *Canadian Fisheries Act* may result in, as yet unspecified, changes to our role.

5) Part 8 Septic Review — RVCA staff, in partnership with two other local conservation authorities (MVC and SNC), act as the municipal approval authority for private sewage systems for the City of Ottawa and Tay Valley Township. The Ottawa Septic System Office (OSSO) and Mississippi Rideau Septic System Office (MRSSO) are the regulatory authorities that inspect systems, issue permits, maintain records and enforce Part 8 of the *Ontario Building Code*. In 2012, over 600 applications were reviewed in Ottawa and 75 in the Tay. In 2004, the MRSSO started re-inspecting older septic systems along lake shores at the request of local municipalities. This program ensures properly functioning systems and gives landowners education and stewardship options. Over 350 re-inspections took place in 2012 — 19 in Drummond/North-Elmsley, 40 in North Frontenac Township, 78 in Rideau Lakes Township and 213 in Tay Valley Township. Special outreach efforts were also made as our Mississippi Rideau inspector provided septic presentations to several lake associations.

Next Board of Director's Meeting

Thursday, May 23, 2013
7:00 p.m. at the RVCA
Conservation Centre
in Manotick

If you have any questions about the RVCA's Planning Advisory and Regulatory Services, please contact:

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