

# RIDEAU VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY WATERSHED BRIEFS

July 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*

Pat Barr *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

## Fond Farewell to Dell Hallett, RVCA General Manager



After 24 years as RVCA General Manager, Dell Hallett has announced that he is retiring at the end of July. Dell arrived as the RVCA General Manager in 1989 and has been a guiding force in the Conservation Authority's development of cost-effective, relevant services for municipalities and watershed residents that balance environmental, economic and social needs.

"Dell's ability to make the organization useful to many layers of government, to build partnerships and to inspire outstanding contributions from his staff has been responsible for the current high regard for the Conservation Authority in many quarters," said Ken Graham, Chair of the RVCA Board of Directors.

As general manager, Hallett navigated through tumultuous financial times, especially throughout the mid-1990s with significant financial cuts by the provincial government. Creative programming along with grant proposals and special funding arrangements were pursued to sustain and eventually expand upon municipally-valued conservation programs. In recent years, the conservation authority has increased development in its monitoring and water science department — coupled with source water protection — making the conservation authority a source of reliable watershed information for municipal and landowner use. The conservation authority is expanding its stewardship efforts in partnership with property owners and community groups to increase watershed health and resiliency. One of Hallett's greatest achievements was moving his 50-plus staff from seven buildings to Eastern Ontario's first gold certified LEED building in 2007.

"Dell has been a great champion for our watershed's health. He has built financial and human resources that have allowed for significant environmental projects throughout the Rideau valley," said Graham. "Our watershed communities have benefited from his leadership. He will be missed."

## Welcoming Sommer Casgrain-Robertson, RVCA's new GM

RVCA Chair Ken Graham is pleased to announce that Ms Sommer Casgrain-Robertson has been selected as the new General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer of the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority. Ms Casgrain-Robertson will take up her new duties starting August 1, 2013.



Ms. Casgrain-Robertson has been with the RVCA for over 10 years and has gained wide experience within the RVCA organization and among our member municipalities. Most recently, she was Co-Project Manager for the Mississippi-Rideau Source Water Protection program where she earned great respect among the many and varied partners for her hard work, excellent preparation and diligent consensus-building. She has an excellent reputation at the municipal, regional and provincial levels. "We are confident that Ms Casgrain-Robertson will continue the tradition and move us to a new level of municipal service and engagement," added Mr Graham.

**Upcoming Board of Director's Meetings**

Thursday, July 25, 2013  
7:00 p.m. at the RVCA  
Conservation Centre  
in Manotick

Thursday, September 26, 2013  
7:00 p.m. at the RVCA  
Conservation Centre  
in Manotick

## Help us Track Algae Blooms and Excessive Aquatic Vegetation

Are you noticing algae blooms and an increased growth of aquatic plants on your waterbody? We want to hear about it! The RVCA has created a survey for lake and river users that asks questions about algae and aquatic plants on their waterbody. This survey is being conducted in response to an increasing number of concerns about algae and aquatic plants in recent years. The survey should take 15-20 minutes to complete and can be completed online at [www.surveymonkey.com/s/plants-algae](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/plants-algae) or visit the RVCA website ([www.rvca.ca](http://www.rvca.ca)) for more details. For a paper copy or for more information, contact KAITLIN at [kaitlin.brady@rvca.ca](mailto:kaitlin.brady@rvca.ca) or ext. 1195.



## Flooding along Cranberry Creek

A Farmers' Forum was held on June 20, 2013. Hosted by Nepean-Carleton MP Pierre Poilievre, the meeting was to address the causes and solutions for farm flooding in the Cranberry Creek Catchment area


- ▶ Ottawa had rain on 22 of the 30 days, ending Monday, June 17
- ▶ In those 30 days we had 173.3 millimetres of rain
- ▶ A local landowner's rain gauge recorded 220.6 mm May 1 to June 15
- ▶ There have been only two similar events in 27 years
- ▶ The flooding situation is unique to Cranberry Creek with no problems reported on other drainage systems outletting to the Long Reach of the Rideau Waterway, such as Stevens Creek in Rideau Ward of Ottawa, or Arcand Drain in North Grenville.
- ▶ Parks Canada's spring-summer water levels are generally between 85.50 m and 85.55 m above sea level
- ▶ Parks Canada is committed to managing the water levels at the low end of the operating range at 85.50 m
- ▶ Staff gauges would be installed for community monitoring
- ▶ City of Ottawa Drainage Superintendent indicated that engineers' reports going back to 1895 show the need for an engineered drainage solution for Cranberry Creek
- ▶ It was recommended that the Council of the City of Ottawa appoint an Engineer to address drainage improvements including the re-installment of the dyke and pumping station and channel improvements in the drain
- ▶ When the updated report is complete, landowners will have the opportunity to decide if and how to move forward with this drainage option


Get a summary of the Cranberry Creek Subcatchment at [www.rvca.ca/watershed/subwatershed\\_reporting/lower/lower\\_rideau.html](http://www.rvca.ca/watershed/subwatershed_reporting/lower/lower_rideau.html) ([dell.hallet@rvca.ca](mailto:dell.hallet@rvca.ca)).


## Ken Graham Honoured by Rideau Community Health Services


Rideau Community Health Services (RCHS), serving Lanark, Leeds and Grenville since 1974, honoured our very own Ken Graham, who for over 30 years has been donating much of his time to improving local governance, environmental organizations, recreational services and health and social services.


Each year at its annual general meeting the board of directors of RCHS recognizes one individual for "outstanding contribution to our community." This year that honour goes to Ken Graham for his decades of service as a Smiths Falls town councillor and community volunteer. Examples of Graham's contributions include about 20 years as a Town of Smiths Falls council member, and as an active volunteer with the Rideau Environmental Action League, Rideau Valley Conservation Authority, Lanark Leeds and Grenville Public Health Unit, TriCounty Addictions Services, Perth Smiths Falls Hospital and the Ontario Municipal Water Association to name a few. Congratulats Ken!


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