

RIDEAU VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY WATERSHED BRIEFS

September 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*

Jim Boldt *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

Conservation Authorities help ensure Ontario is prepared for a flood crisis

While Alberta continues to recover from devastating large scale flooding events caused by record setting rainfalls across the province, Ontario can take comfort in knowing it has implemented a system that helps reduce flood damages through effective flood forecasting, flood mitigation works, and managing development in floodplains.

The most severe flooding on record in Ontario occurred in October 1954 when

Hurricane Hazel passed into southern Ontario, killing eighty-one people and causing over \$180 million in damages. Following the devastating impact of Hazel, a floodplain mapping and flood forecasting and warning system was established in the province. Ontario's flood management system is often regarded as an example of good risk management. Ontario's 36 Conservation Authorities, local watershed management agencies that deliver services and programs that protect and manage water and other natural resources, work with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources under a provincial emergency management framework to deliver a flood management program to help safeguard the homes, belongings, and lives of Ontarians from flooding events. Conservation Authorities are responsible for monitoring and predicting flood flows and water levels within their watersheds, operating flood control structures such as dams, and disseminating flood messages to local municipalities and agencies. Flood forecast messages enable Conservation Authorities and Municipalities to prepare for, track and manage local flooding. Advance warning provides these agencies with the opportunity to put emergency plans into operation, evacuate communities if necessary, and secure property in areas that are more likely to flood. In parts of the province where Conservation Authorities don't exist, the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources provides a flood management program through their District Offices.

In accordance with the *Conservation Authorities Act* (1946), Conservation Authorities have the ability to restrict development in floodplains. While some may claim Conservation Authority permitting processes are unnecessarily restrictive, flood management programs delivered by the Conservation Authorities prevent loss of life and an average of well over \$100 million per year in reduced flood damages.

9/10

Canadians believe that a major disaster of the magnitude of **HURRICANE SANDY IS POSSIBLE IN THEIR COMMUNITY.**

68%

As large towns and cities across Canada continue to grow, large paved surfaces and extreme weather conditions dramatically increase the challenge of managing excess water caused by storms.

2013 RBC Canadian Water Attitudes Study

80 BILLION replacement cost for drinking water, wastewater and **STORMWATER INFRASTRUCTURE IN CANADA REPORTED TO BE IN "FAIR" TO "VERY POOR" CONDITION**

Canadians say that we should prepare for **THE POSSIBILITY OF A MAJOR DISASTER** that affects stormwater management systems

Upcoming Board of Director's Meetings

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

"Although Conservation Authorities and our partners have done a good job at minimizing risk, the reality is that flooding remains to be the leading cause of public emergency in Ontario, costing millions of dollars per year in damages," says Kim Gavine, General Manager of Conservation Ontario, the organization that represents the Conservation Authorities. Gavine also outlines that climate change impacts are a significant issue as they create more frequent and more serious flood events, "flooding can no longer be seen as a spring problem," she says, "It's an issue year round."

Conservation Ontario believes that additional investment is needed now to reduce costs later if we hope to minimize the risk and reduce overall cost to the public. Continued funding is needed for aging dams and dykes that require ongoing preventative maintenance, repair and replacement. In addition, supplementary funding is required to update floodplain maps to move from the traditional hard copy maps to modern digital mapping. This modernized mapping can be used to update emergency response plans and improve preparedness for future large floods. Fortunately technology has evolved, significantly reducing the cost to update and maintain floodplain mapping. The Federal Provincial Floodplain Damage Reduction Program, which historically provided funding for floodplain mapping, needs to be reinstated to update floodplain mapping and associated computer models. Not only will this information help in preparing emergency response plans but it will also support efforts by Environment Canada to provide improved weather forecasts and weather radar information.

Investment in hazard management is an important underpinning of the economy that can reduce disruption during disasters and return business to normal much more quickly. This is one of the factors that makes Ontario an attractive place to live and do business. Most importantly, this investment will help keep Ontarians safe and reduce impact to them during major floods.

Credit: Conservation Ontario

**Thank You Dave
David Crowley — 37 Years as RVCA Board Memeber Comes to an End**



Tree planting at Jasmine/Laporte Ravine; Mary Bryden and David Crowley, October 1985

The RVCA's longest standing, continuously serving Board member is stepping down. The Town of Perth's David Crowley has served the RVCA for 37 years — solid and steadfast in his support of watershed management and conservation efforts throughout the Rideau. Mr. Crowley, joined the RVCA in January 29, 1976 and served in numerous capacities throughout the years, including as Vice-Chair and as Chair. Since RVCA has been in existence only since 1966, it is clear that Dave has been involved in every major RVCA decision and has personally known most of the people in the environmental and municipal community in Eastern Ontario.










David with wife Jean Crowley honoured on May 27, 2010 for 35 years of continuous service with white pine planted on RVCA's Memory Lane.

A sincere thank you to you Dave from the people of the Rideau Valley for your years of service.

Highlights:

- Served as Vice-Chair from 1980-1984
- Served as Executive Committee Vice-Chair from 1981-1982
- Served as Chair from 1985-1989
- Served as Chair from 1992-1993
- Participated as Executive Committee member from 2007-2012

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