

# Friends of the Jock River

**Annual Report  
2005**

Box 764  
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K0A 2Z0



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Editor's note: A significant number of projects approved at the February, 2005 AGM lacked resources (either funds or leaders) and were not performed. These projects have not been included in project reports.

For errors, omissions and comments, please call (825-8029) or e-mail ([brian.finch@rogers.com](mailto:brian.finch@rogers.com)).  
 Brian Finch

## 1. Membership List

The following were members as of December 31 2005:

<b>Family</b>	<b>Supporters</b>
Doug Arnold	Monquie Cazabon
Richard Bendall	Dean Hansen
Jim Bendall	Jim Howard
Linda & Wayne Bisailion	Brian Jones
Dennis Brown	Margaret Karl
Kelvin Burnett	Aleta Karstad
William & Nora Burnett	Frances Little
Lewis & Sharon Cardin	Marie-Odile Lui
Marion Corak	Eric Moore
Brian Finch	George Morris
Steven Foster	James Newton
Dan Gregson	Kira Obrazcova
Lucia & Tibor Horbasz	James Rennie
John Lowery	Gordon Sample
Rosemary & Peter MacArthur	Frank Stokes
Charles Pelton	Marlene Thomas
Keith & Pamela Preston	Len Warne
Dr. J.S. & Marsha Riordan	Doug Watson
Penny & Clyde Sauger	Bev Wigney

F & D Slingerland	Tom Wright
Susan Springthorpe	Friends of the Tay River
Arn & Janet Snyder	
Richard & Jean Marie Steward	
Colin & Alison Sutherland	
Doug & Pam Vaughn	<b>Volunteers</b>
Christine & Terry Weststrate	
	Niel Barrington
<b>Corporate</b>	John Foster
	James Gregory
Mountain Equipment CO-OP	Ron Maybury
Muskies Canada- Ottawa Valley Chapter	Irwin McCaffrey
Old Mill at Ashton	Michael O'Rourke
	John Palmer
<b>Sustaining Corporate</b>	Eric Snyder
	Tim van der Horn
Trailhead	Bruce Webster

## 2. Leadership List

### Officers of the Executive

President	Brian Finch	825-8029
Vice-President	Eric Snyder	258-9122
Treasurer	Brian Finch	825-8029
Secretary	Niel Barrington	823-3643
Director For Water Conservation and Usage	<i>vacant</i>	
Director For Projects and Actions	<i>vacant</i>	
Director For Membership Roster and Management	Irwin McCaffrey	228-7236
Director For Fund-Raising	<i>vacant</i>	
Director for Publicity and Public Relations	Niel Barrington	258-9122
Director at Large	John Palmer	843-9733
Note: John was appointed by the Board in April 2005		
Director at Large	Tom O. Wright	823-2436

### Committee Chairs

Membership Committee Chair	Irwin McCaffrey	228-7236
Projects Committee Chair	<i>vacant</i>	
Nomination Committee Chair	Niel Barrington	823-3643

## Project Leadership

Spring Tree Plant	Niel Barrington	823-3643
Munster Sewage	Brian Finch	825-8029
Jock River Stream Survey	Eric Snyder	258-9122
Richmond Conservation Area	Eric Snyder	258-9122
Ashton Dam Wildlife Ramp	Doug Watson	828-5461

## Other

Website	Eric Snyder, Doug Watson	
Editor of 2005 Annual Report	Brian Finch	835-8029

### 3. President's Report

Year 2005 marked the ninth year for the Friends of the Jock River and our major activity continues to be tree planting. We have reports for several tree plants, including Niel Barrington's report on our biggest one in May in the Stonebridge area

Starting in the spring, Richmond residents have had to cope with the smell of septic sewage coming from the Richmond end of the Munster sewage forcemain pipe, which started operation in April 2005.

Eric Snyder organized a strategic planning session held at the Barrhaven United Church on April 10, 2005, moderated by Laura McPherson-Hull of RANA International Inc. However, due to low attendance (only 3 board members, Brian, Niel and Irwin) and possible problems of "buy in" from non-attendees, only two issues were dealt with: mission statement; membership. Both issues are discussed further in reports.

We continue to push the City to establish a management or advisory team for the Richmond Conservation Area (RCA) near Richmond. The City may solve its problems by transferring management of the area to the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority.

The wetlands and water-taking issues in the Jock river watershed continue to be a headache. The reports presented in our annual report only touch on a few of the bigger issues. Ken McRae is a very active (but past) member who monitors the Ontario Environmental Bill of Rights bulletin board and has kept us informed. It was Ken who alerted us to the request for a permit to take water from the Jock River by the Riverbend Golf and County Club. FJR swung into action to alert residents in the watershed between Ashton and Heart's Desire and in September the request was rejected.

On the down side, some of our executive positions went unfilled in 2005 and I doubled up with both president and treasurer positions.

The shrinking of our core has meant that many projects that we felt were important to the environment and people in the Jock River watershed were cut in number or scope. Another consequence is the burn-out of the executive. New members must step up to the plate.

Brian Finch

**3.1 Incorporation**  
**and**  
**3.2 Update of FJR Constitution and By-Laws**

The documents for federal incorporation were prepared and filed in January 2003. There were some deficiencies in the application requiring a review of our constitution. A lack of time and mostly manpower has prevented this review.

In the strategic planning session mentioned in the President's report, the group worked on and successfully updated our mission statement:

Draft Mission Statement

The mission of the Friends of the Jock River is to improve the ecology of the Jock River watershed by building partnerships, leading the community in awareness and activities, and by challenging businesses, governments and the public to act responsibly in environmental issues.

While the draft was endorsed by the attendees of the May monthly meeting, the draft must be presented to the general membership and voted upon to be incorporated in our constitution.

Brian Finch

**4. Financial Reports**

**4.1. Treasurer's Report**

This year, all of our projects were internally funded but we will be speaking with the City in 2006 to cover the expenses for the Stonebridge Tree Plant 2005 through the Nepean Legacy Fund. There is more detail in the report on the Stonebridge Tree Plant 2005.

The Riverbend Permit to Take Water project proved to be expensive, due almost exclusively to photocopying and mailing costs.

Brian Finch

## 4.2. Financial Statements

### Balance Sheet 2005

			2005	2004	Variance
<b>ASSETS</b>					
	Chequing - TD-	\$	4011.35	4631.52	-620.17
	Canada Trust Account	\$			
	Petty Cash	\$	130.65	107.4	23.25
	Accounts Receivable (GST)	\$	240.93	240.93	144.59
	Other assets	\$	0	0	0
	Advances/Loans	\$	0	0	0
	Prepaid Expenses (Dequin)	\$	0	8.99	-8.99
	T-shirts 33 @ 8.5675 ea	\$	282.73	394.11	-111.38
	44 @ 8.855 ea.		389.62	0	389.62
			-----	-----	-----
	Total assets	\$	5055.28	4988.84	66.44
			=====	=====	=====
<b>LIABILITIES</b>					
	Accounts Payable	\$	0	0	0
	Other Liabilities	\$	0	0	0
	Total Liabilities	\$	0	0	0
	Equity - Beginning	\$	4988.84	4623.65	365.19
	Receipts Plus	\$	66.44	365.19	-298.75
	Dispersements for Year				
	Total Equities	\$	5055.28	4988.84	66.44
			-----	-----	-----

### Cash Flow 2005

<b>INFLOWS</b>		
	Donations	\$297.00
	Membership-Corporate	\$150.00
	Membership-Corporate sustaining	\$200.00
	Membership-Family	\$575.00
	Membership-Supporter	\$285.00
	Membership-Volunteer	\$100.00
	Miscellaneous Income	\$55.25
	T-shirt sales	\$345.00
	<b>TOTAL INFLOWS</b>	\$2,007.25
<b>OUTFLOWS</b>		
	Advertizing	\$22.20
	Bank Service Charges	\$60.00
	Total Licenses and Permits	\$25.00
	Office Supplies	\$157.92

	Postage and Delivery	\$125.13
	Food	\$12.99
	T-Shirt	\$433.76
	Richmond Clean-up	\$17.34
	Richmond Fair	\$70.00
	Richmond Sewer	\$21.40
	Riverbend PTTW 2005	\$877.63
	Stonebridge Tree Plant 2005	\$780.80
	<b>TOTAL OUTFLOWS</b>	\$2,604.17
<b><u>OVERALL</u></b>		
<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>		(\$596.92)

Brian Finch

## **5. Committee Reports**

### **5.1. Publicity Committee Report**

#### **5.1.1. Website**

Our website is located at [www.geocities.com/jockriver](http://www.geocities.com/jockriver), and we use [www.jockriver.org](http://www.jockriver.org) to transfer individuals to the geocities site.

We had agreed that our geocities site needed updating, and Vice President Eric Snyder and Chantelle Dooley submitted a prototype proposal. The executive were very pleased with it but wanted domain name that was owned and approved by FJR in 2004.

Although there have been no updates to our website since mid-year, we continue to get many hits and we average an e-mail or two per month routed through our website e-mail contact, Doug Watson. Questions tend to be from people considering buying homes in Richmond or Munster, or from university students working on journalism or environmental projects.

Brian Finch

### 5.1.2. Newsletter

We planned to put together several newsletters this year but got only one out - just in time for year end! Niel Barrington put together a 2 page wrap up of some of our projects and we e-mailed it, along with a wintry photograph of the Jock River, to friends and members at Christmas. Many thanks to Niel.

Brian Finch

### 5.2. Membership Committee

In the strategic planning session mentioned in the President's report, the group worked on issues relating to membership.

We identified 4 major themes, ranked in order of importance:

#### **Theme 1 -- Communication**

This theme is primarily about public relations:

- A. Internal:
  - informing and involving members in the working activities and issues
  - education
  - newsletter
- B. External:
  - build partnerships, outreach for new members
  - informing, involving and motivating communities in FJR activities
  - education
  - lobbying FJR's positions

#### **Theme 2 -- Corporate structure and bylaws**

This theme is primarily about:

- incorporating
  - long term existence
  - directors' liability
  - insurance
- board members
  - recruiting
  - dealing with conflict
- PR manager
- fee structure
  - review

- include youth
- consider student membership
- gift memberships
- program review
- set up membership committee

### **Theme 3 -- Activities for membership and community**

This theme is primarily about:

- creating and involving activities for the membership and public in/about the watershed
- contests/derbies

### **Theme 4 -- Partnerships**

This theme is primarily about:

- creating and maintaining partnerships for:
  - membership
  - financial
  - grants
- voice support
- sponsorship
- increase clout and visibility in the community

The session concluded with action items to set up meetings to discuss and to write up actions on specific membership themes. Looking back, the session provided us with many good ideas and a good action plan but we have to follow through in order to profit from the process.

Brian Finch

## 6. Project Reports

### 6.1. Restoration and Environmental Enhancement Projects

#### **General note about our tree plants:**

Tree planting in the riparian (river edge) zone of the Jock River, the area of primary interest to FJR, is considered to be difficult for a range of reasons: rodents (including beavers, mice and voles), low water levels (droughts - 3 in the last 7 years); high flood water levels (the tree species we chose tolerate flooding but too much can be a problem); ice damage; and snow mobile operators that use the river banks for thrills or transit. In addition, many of the open riverbanks are populated with particularly tough, tall grasses, such as canary grass, with extensive, resilient root systems. Prior to 2003, FJR made only passing attempts to protect newly planted trees from rodent predation or from

encroachment by grasses. We found that young deciduous trees were particularly susceptible to rodent (mouse and vole) attack and at least 1/3 of them were lost each year. We found that almost all deciduous trees showed some signs of bark damage from rodents even before the first winter set in. In addition, during the first summer, many healthy trees became surrounded by tall grasses that blocked the sunlight and, when winter arrived, the grasses were knocked down by snow, smothering the trees.

In 2003, we adopted a policy to protect all small, newly planted trees and shrubs from encroachment from tall grasses by installing carpet squares (min. 45 cm x 45 cm) around the base of the trees. The squares are pinned in place with 1 or 2 landscaping staples. The squares also retain moisture. We do not expect the squares to pose a problem for the trees in the long term as they disintegrate over a period of time, estimated at 3 - 5 years. (We first learned of the carpet square mulching technique from the Friends of the Carp River.) In addition, we protect all trees susceptible to rodent predation with spiral tree wraps. Mice and voles like the bark of most hard wood trees but do not appear to like softwoods, such as spruce, tamarack, cedar and fir. I do not believe they touch sumac. However, in severe winters, most young trees and shrubs are still fair game.

We have since learned that the spiral tree wraps must be removed after several years as the wraps do not degrade quickly and can tighten on rough bark as the tree grows. On one of our tree plants, a few 2+m spruce trees had toppled over because the trunk under the tree wrap had been restricted to about half the diameter of the rest of the trunk.

### **6.1.1. Stonebridge Spring Tree Plant**

The Friends of the Jock River had secured a grant of \$9,500 (pay as we go) for a large, multi-year tree plant/naturalization project from the City's Nepean Legacy Fund. We had planned to naturalize a City-owned 800 metre by 30 metre wide strip of farmland along the south shore of Jock River between Cedarview and Greenbank Roads but early in the new year, planning for the project hadn't really gone anywhere. Vice President Eric Snyder jumped in to produce a significant 20 page document laying out a multi-year plan with the following objectives: (i) to increase the percent forest cover in the lower reach, Reach One, of the Jock River watershed, (ii) to mitigate against the impacts of agriculture on the aquatic ecosystem of the river in this area, (iii) to increase native biodiversity and productivity within the riparian and littoral zones of the river between Cedarview and Greenbank roads and (iv) to improve recreational access to the river.

The plan involved planting almost 6,000 trees and shrubs within the riparian zone (primarily in deciduous) and in a buffer zone (cedar) between the riparian zone and the cultivated fields. Eric also proposed tallgrass prairie ecosites in one or two small open sites within the riparian zone and a walking trail through the cedar-hardwood mixed forest zone.

Unfortunately, in going for the final approval from the City we discovered one month before our planned planting date of May 7<sup>th</sup> that the City was about to announce the start of a new design study for the development of the entire portion south of the Jock River between Greenbank and Cedarview,

almost to Barnsdale. Since a tree plant might have interfered with future plans, approval was refused.

The Scouts had already committed to attend our tree plant. We had 1,000 trees on order through the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority, and without the City's approval, no funds to pay for them and nowhere to plant them. In addition, the Nepean Legacy Fund grant required that we plant the trees on City-owned property within the previous City of Nepean, and we still had to both find a site and get approval. The three aspects of the problem were overcome: the RVCA found a benefactor to pay for the trees (thank you RVCA); we found a site near the Stonebridge Community; and the City approved our significantly revamped proposal just days before the planned May 7<sup>th</sup> date.

The area selected was a narrow strip of land between the path that runs the length of the soccer fields and the river in the Stonebridge area, just downstream of the Jockvale Bridge and adjacent to many previous FJR tree plants in the Jockvale flood plain. There were some nice, pre-existing trees in the portion closest to the river and our intention was to expand and strengthen this forested buffer with 800 white pine trees and 200 deciduous trees and shrubs

The first Saturday in May has been the traditional spring tree plant day for Scouts Canada and the Friends of the Jock River. While the Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts of the Western District Ottawa usually come out in strength, this spring their numbers were down, likely due to some scheduling conflicts with some packs. Also, the participation from FJR members was poorer than expected.

We had about 40 people in all, but this figure included some very young cub scouts who planted about 10 trees each. The weather was perfect and about 700 trees were planted. However, that left about 300 seedlings left over, which were planted in several sessions over the next month. Our hard working core of volunteers also finished the important tending work.

The trees were doing well, thanks to good growing conditions through the spring and summer. It was shaping up to be one of our most successful plants but in October, President Brian Finch got a nasty surprise when he went out to check on the seedlings. About half of the new trees had been mown down by a City of Ottawa Parks and Recreation Maintenance employee. It seems strange that he or she would not have noticed the carpet squares we used for mulch, despite the high grass. In retrospect, it is obvious we should have placed warning signs along the perimeter of the planted area.

The good news is the City has agreed to re-plant the area and we are currently providing staff with details.

Respectfully submitted

Niel Barrington and Brian Finch (with excerpts from Eric Snyder's planning document)

### **6.1.2. Twin Elm IKEA Tree Plant**

Earlier in the spring, Mike Rosen from the Tree Canada Foundation contacted me to ask if FJR could again provide a tree planting site and the supervising expertise for an IKEA-sponsored tree plant. Ikea was to provide labour by way of employee volunteers and funding (from its retail Christmas tree sales) to the Tree Canada Foundation to buy trees.

Since the Stonebridge, Jockvale and Cedarview site (NW corner of bridge crossing) were fully planted, we decided to put the trees in at the Twin Elm Bridge site owned by Alastair and Mary Munro (SE corner of bridge crossing). This site is a 10 + m wide x 1 km long strip along the shore in a field used to pasture cattle. A fence installed by FJR and the landowner keeps the cattle out of the riparian strip and out of the river.

FJR has planted in this field 3-4 times over the years but only a few trees out of many hundreds planted in the riparian zone have survived against considerable odds due to beavers, droughts (3 in the last 7 years), cattle (after breaking through the fence), spring floods and ice. The site was a good candidate for re-planting. Because of the early June plant date, the trees chosen for planting were established trees in pots, rather than smaller and much younger bare root seedlings. From our past experience, the success rate of potted trees has been very good.

Mike Rosen chose the appropriate trees/shrubs for the site: 7 white spruce (appr. 1.8m tall); 4 red maple (appr. 2.2m); 8 bur oak (appr. 2m); 25 silky dogwood; 10 highbush cranberry; and 10 red osier dogwood.

On June 7<sup>th</sup>, the group of about 10 IKEA employees proved to be a highly spirited, enthusiastic bunch who worked hard until all the stock was planted and protected.

FJR was paid \$50 for the carpet squares, landscaping staples and spiral tree wraps we supplied for the Ikea plant.

Brian Finch

### **6.1.3. Stonebridge Fall Tree Plant**

On November 12<sup>th</sup>, a mild Saturday just before freeze-up, the Friends of the Jock River had an ad hoc, mini-tree plant in the Stonebridge area adjacent to the area we planted in the spring. The site is delineated by the NW end of the Levesque sports field, the walking path leading west to Jockvale Road and the inside of the right angle turn in the Jock River to the north and west. While we have planted this same general area many times before (about 5-6 times over the last 9 years), we had an opportunity to add a new type of tree to the site. We planted 65 walnut trees that I had grown from nuts in my back yard. The trees were spread sparingly throughout the area primarily because we didn't have too many of them and because these trees have the potential to become quite large. Given the

rich, moist soil on the site, I expect that most of the walnut trees will survive, adding considerably to the diversity of this natural area.

Brian Finch

#### **6.1.4. Twin Elm Shoreline Restoration**

There is little to report. The runoff in spring 2005 was low and there was no damage to the fence.

Brian Finch

#### **6.1.5. Ashton Dam Wildlife Ramp**

For many years, the Ashton Dam on the Jock River has been an impassable barrier to wildlife attempting to utilize the river system as a travel corridor. The dam was built directly underneath the Ashton Station Rd. Bridge over the river in "downtown" Ashton, and, as a result, animals traveling up or down the river or river bank are forced to go up the embankment and over the busy road, resulting in many needless road kills.

In fact, it was just such an incident that spurred Friends of the Jock River member Doug Watson to take action. While driving through Ashton back in 2001, Doug noticed a beautiful adult otter lying motionless on the side of the road, killed by a passing vehicle. Doug pulled over to investigate further. He scrambled down the embankment to find the dam was built between the two bridge abutments forming a solid 8 foot high wall over which no animal could climb. Doug then began what would become a four year search for a solution to this problem.

A longtime member of the Friends of the Jock River, Doug brought the matter to the attention of the FJR. Doug took on the leadership of the project and started by arranging a meeting with the Greater Ashton Community Association, the City of Ottawa (staff), Beckwith Township (a councillor) and the RVCA. FJR floated several solutions: removing the gates on the dam; removing the entire dam; or retaining the dam (including repair of gates) and installing a wildlife ramp over the top of the dam. Ashton residents were partial to the dam so the ramp suggestion won out. The RVCA had the gates repaired some time after the meeting.

While Doug's ramp proposal was a simple log secured to the abutment at the top of the dam, the situation was complicated by the fact the dam is jointly owned by the City of Ottawa and Beckwith Township (it sits right on the boundary between them); maintenance of the dam is the responsibility of the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA); and fish habitat is the responsibility of the Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans (delegated locally to the RVCA). Many letters had to be sent off to gain all the necessary approvals from the various authorities. We received the final letter of approval from the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority October 18, 2004 but the project was

pushed into 2005 because of the approaching cold weather. A date was set for installation in the fall when the river flow was low.

Doug selected a cedar log, 14 inches wide at the butt and about 24 feet long from the FJR cedar log collection held in the Munro field for fence repair and special projects such as this one. Doug and fellow FJR member Brian Finch attached another log to the side of the narrower part of the log and trimmed the top side to help critters get a good footing on the log.

On Saturday morning, September 10<sup>th</sup>, a group composed of Doug, Brian, and other fellow FJR members Irwin McCaffrey, and Niel Barrington, and Ashton resident Ian Slater installed the log in just over an hour. The wildlife ramp was heavily secured with a chain to prevent dislodgement during the spring run-off and it will remain in place for many years.

Val Broeders, owner of the Old Mill at Ashton and corporate member of FJR, treated the installation crew to refreshments and lunch when the job was completed.

The installation went remarkably well and we can all take satisfaction from the knowledge that animals such as turtles, frogs, mink, otters and beavers now have a way of getting around the dam without having to risk life and limb by crossing the busy roadway located above the dam.

Submitted by  
Doug Watson (assembled from Doug's reports through the year - Ed.)

#### **6.1.6. Richmond Shoreline Garbage Clean-up**

Every year, the Friends of the Jock River organizes a garbage clean-up in Richmond. On Saturday, September 24<sup>th</sup>, 7 participants, including 2 student volunteers, collected a trailer full of junk from the river and the shoreline areas. The McBean Street Bridge continues to be one of the favorite spots to dispose of trash, judging from the amount of garbage found in the river beneath the bridge. Also, the bush party scene in Richmond is apparently as healthy as ever, based on the numbers of beer and rum bottles collected.

An eclectic mix of items was retrieved, including 3 complete bicycles, 2 bicycle frames, a pole lamp, a fire extinguisher, 2 car tires, 2 car wheels complete with tires in excellent condition, a street sign (Cockburn), a metal T-post, a patio umbrella, a garage door opening mechanism, 3 BBQ grills, a car muffler (with 2 crayfish inhabitants that were returned to the river), a kid's scooter, a pair of kids skis, a disposable diaper (filled), 51 beer bottles and cans, and dozens of recyclable glass, aluminium and PET containers that when crushed filled 3 blue boxes.

The group was unable to remove a dish washer from the river just downstream of the bridge as we had only a canoe and a light-weight hook. We couldn't even get the dish washer off the bottom. We will collect it latter with heavier equipment.

All of the beer containers were returned for deposit (\$5.25 was added to the Friends of the Jock River bank account). Metal items and other blue box recyclable items were recycled.

The garbage bags and gloves used for the clean-up were left over from the previous year's clean-up in Richmond and we will still have plenty for the 2006 clean-up.

Our number of participants was down from the previous year's project, despite the good weather, announcements published in the local newspapers, and leaflets spread around the community and distributed at the Richmond Fair held the previous weekend. In 2004 we had about 25 participants.

Brian Finch

### 6.1.7. Summary of Previous Tree Planting Sites

The following is a listing of tree planting sites from previous years and their current status:

- **Downstream of the Eagleson Road Bridge crossing of the Jock River (both sides).** This area was one of our earliest tree plants and is covered extensively with tough, tall (shoulder height) grasses, likely canary grass. In addition, the small field adjacent to the Eagleson bridge abutment, in the SE quadrant of the crossing, is used extensively by snow mobilers in the winter and fishermen at other times to access the river. None of the hundreds of trees planted in this small field has survived. Those on the same side much further down river have fared better and some are over 2m tall. All of the trees planted on this site were spruce or white pine. On the NE side of the crossing, only spruce were planted and a half dozen or so have survived.
- **Richmond Conservation Area adjacent to Eagleson Road.** Heavy grasses do not have a strong hold in the area and a significant number of the planted trees have thrived. Many of the trees are over 3m tall. The soil in the area is fertile and a bit on the wet side, possibly due to seepage from old sewage lagoons.
- **Twin Elm Bridge downstream 100m (both sides).** This was one of our very first tree plants. These two areas are covered completely with dense, tall (shoulder-height) grasses, likely canary grass, which makes for an extremely challenging environment for tree seedlings and shrubs. I have been unable to find any surviving trees or shrubs from the tree plant.
- **Twin Elm Bridge 300m upstream (south-west side; referred to as the Foster property in previous years).** The area was planted extensively in 2002 with a wide range of softwood and hardwood trees and at least once in an earlier plant. Year 2002 was the first time we planted tamarack trees, which are doing very well in the wet areas of the property despite some damage from ice movement during run-off. The success rate of the rest of the trees is much better than some of the other tree plants and many of our trees are now visible from the Richmond Road. FJR placed a

sign on the property, beside the Richmond Road, to identify the site. Watch the property over the next few years as our trees grow and start to change the character of the shoreline.

- **Twin Elm Bridge 1,000m upstream (south-east side; referred to as the Munro property in previous years).** This site is a 10 + m wide x 1 km long strip along the shore in a field used to pasture cattle. A fence installed by FJR and the landowner keeps the cattle out of the riparian strip and out of the river.

This site was planted over three different years prior to about 2001. Only a few trees out of many hundreds planted in the riparian zone have survived against considerable odds due to beavers, droughts (3 in the last 7 years), cattle (after breaking through the fence), spring floods and ice. For example, not one of the six, 4-foot high potted cedars supplied by Ontario Hydro after the ice storm survived after being cut off at ground level by beavers. About 100 spruce are surviving well in the field near the railroad tracks, although they remain small and misshapen due to the cattle. More recent tree plants in fall 2004 and spring 2005 have been much more successful. Both latter tree plants were small, totaling about 100 trees and shrubs but the plants were much more mature on transplanting and were very well protected.

- **Jockvale Road Bridge crossing, downstream about 30m (north side) and 1,000m (south side).** The tree plant on the south side extends all the way down the side of the sports fields (W. Levesque Sports Fields). Both of these areas showed some natural re-growth (primarily elm, ash and birch) before we started planting in the area and these trees are now doing very well. The rest of the area was covered with tall grasses but only a small part near the river bank appeared to be covered with canary grass. The areas have been planted and replanted over quite a few years by FJR. The evergreens, likely over a thousand, are doing well; 40 -50 of our deciduous trees are present but multiple leaders from ground level indicate heavy predation by rodents. Tree wraps have been applied to these older trees over the past two years and the effects of this protection are showing. Our trees are starting to have a strong influence over the appearance and character of the area. The few walnut trees planted in the higher portions near the sports fields last fall (2004) survived nicely.

Additional tree plants in the spring and fall of 2005 are mentioned under items **Stonebridge Tree Plants - Spring and Fall.**

The Barrhaven trunk sewer extension was installed through portions of both areas. The City's landscape architect contractor recommended a route around the perimeter of the tree plant areas to minimize the impact. In addition, he had many of the trees in the path of the pipe moved rather than cut down or bulldozed. By the fall, the pipe was complete but the landscaping part of the project will not be finished until the spring as the landscape architect does not believe in planting trees in the fall.

- **Greenbank Road Bridge crossing, upstream, north side.** This area is a strip about 15 m x 800 m that touches the riverbank in a few places but for the most part is inshore of a strip of native

shoreline trees. The area was planted in 2003 and 2004 with just under 2,000 trees and, to date, the success rate has been very high.

A City employee working with the City's stormwater ponds indicated that the City may convert the stormwater pond/overflow basin adjacent (inland) from the tree plant site into an embayment of the river to provide for fish spawning habitat. The embayment and tree plant would complement one another nicely.

- **The park alongside Royal York in the Village of Richmond.** This park, owned by the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA), has been transformed over the past decade or so from a rather bleak, flat stretch of dry grass into an attractive, partially naturalized community park. The RVCA has added a handful of trees (generally 3+m tall) every few years and the transformation happened so slowly, most residents probably didn't notice. In 2001, FJR planted the shoreline area and a portion that aligns with Colonel Murray St. and is perpendicular to the shore. This latter area was planted extensively, covered with a landscaping fabric and mulched with wood chips. The area is currently thick with vegetation. The elderberries are doing extremely well but only a few dozen cedar trees are evident. The cedar seedlings purchased that year were particularly small and barely peeked over the mulch. The big surprise is that the Manitoba maples are doing so well they risk taking over -- curious since WE DIDN'T PLANT ANY MANITOBA MAPLES. The mulch was obtained from landscapers operating in the area and it is now evident that the 5+ cm of mulch we applied was a mixture of maple wood chips and many Manitoba maple keys. The trees in the shoreline area are doing well and were tended in 2004.

- **Half Moon Bay (Greenbank Road).** The area near the road was planted with about a dozen caliper trees, a few of which were broken off by motorists. The shore area on the south and east portion of the bay was planted with seedlings and many have survived, although the multiple leaders on all of the deciduous trees indicate there has been heavy predation from mice and voles. Tom Wright, a FJR member living on the opposite side of the river, has since installed tree wraps on the majority of the trees.

Brian Finch

#### **6.1.8. Cedar Logs**

The cedar logs donated by the former Goulbourn Township in 1999 were piled in the Twin Elm field owned by Mary and Alastair Munro. Approximately half the pile remains as a back-up in the event the fence along the shoreline of the same property needs repair.

Brian Finch

### **6.2. Monitoring, Assessment and Planning Projects**

#### **6.2.1. Jock River Stream Assessment**

Eric Snyder headed up the Jock River Stream Assessment project. Bev Wigney, one of the stream assessment participants, provided the following on Feb. 28, 2006:

"On June 6, 2005, Eric Snyder and I, along with a staff member from RVCA, conducted our THIRD annual stream survey work day with Grade 10 science students from Bell High School. This year, this highly successful project attracted 26 students and 3 science teachers for a full day of learning about stream survey methodology as well as insect identification in the field on location at Stonebridge Park.

"On June 24, 2005, Eric Snyder, Bill Bowman and I, spent the entire day with Brian Coad and his summer intern, Krystal Lapierre, from the Canadian Museum of Nature, surveying fish species and critical fish habitat at a number of sites in the Jock River watershed. The photos from that day can be found at: <http://www.pbase.com/crocodile/fishsurvey>

"On August 3, 2005, Eric Snyder and I along with Greg Hutton, spent the entire day surveying several sites on the Jock River with Noel Alfonso and Krystal Lapierre from the Canadian Museum of Nature. Photos of that day may be found at: [http://www.pbase.com/crocodile/jockfish\\_aug03\\_2005](http://www.pbase.com/crocodile/jockfish_aug03_2005)

"And finally, on August 30, Eric Snyder and I spent the entire day, again with Noel Alfonso and Krystal Lapierre from the CMN, surveying a number of sites in the Jock River system, some of which had been suggested by Ken McRae. Photos may be found at: [http://www.pbase.com/crocodile/jock\\_fish\\_survey\\_08\\_30\\_2005](http://www.pbase.com/crocodile/jock_fish_survey_08_30_2005)"

At this time it is uncertain whether the data have been added to the RVCA's "Watershed Information System" on its web site map at <http://www.rideauvalley.on.ca/sitemap/index.html>. To get to the WIS, click on "Watershed Information System" along the top bar and then click on the orange blue and white WIS icon near the centre of the page. Go to "WIS sites" and select "Stream Assessment" under "Aquatic and Terrestrial". The WIS is not easy to use so take the tutorial.

Brian Finch

### **6.2.2. Munster Hamlet Forcemain Sewer**

The issue relates to the installation of an 11 km forcemain sewer line from Munster Hamlet to the pumping station in Richmond. In Richmond, Munster sewage then enters the 14 km long Richmond - Glen Cairn forcemain sewer line before entering the City's gravity sewer system to the treatment plant (ROPEC) located at Green's Creek in Ottawa's east end.

FJR's concerns started with the environmental assessment of solutions to problems with the Munster sewage lagoons. The City and consultants concluded that a sewer to Richmond was the preferred option; we (and many others) preferred a less expensive, environmentally responsible, on-site treatment plant that would have treated the sewage to tertiary quality (virtually swimming pool quality) and discharged the effluent to the Jock River. This option would have retained the water within the watershed while augmenting the flow of the upper Jock River with water of better quality than is currently in the Jock. The added flow would have been particularly important during the summer months in dry years. The major problems with the pressurized sewer pipe relate to its route through the largest provincially significant wetland in Eastern Ontario, which is also the source for Richmond's aquifer, and through the Village of Richmond which relies on the shallow aquifer for its domestic water. The individual wells average less than 30 feet.

Our concerns extended to the Richmond - Glen Cairn line as the Munster sewage would increase the load by 1/3 through the pressurized pipe that, as of October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2004, had failed 6 times in its relatively short 20 year lifetime.

The Munster treatment solutions project has been full of complaints and appeals: FJR and 8 others filed "bump-ups" of the Environmental assessment (turned down); FJR and 3 others filed OMB appeals of City's pipe decision (won but City fudged conclusions on re-evaluation); FJR and the Richmond Village Association jointly filed a request for an investigation to the Environmental Commissioner for Ontario (MOE refused request); the executive of the Richmond Village Association asked the Ontario Ombudsman to look into issue (pending); and a private resident of Richmond filed a complaint with the Professional Engineers of Ontario against 4 engineers involved in the project (pending).

More information on the issue is available at [www.OttawaSewergateFiasco.com](http://www.OttawaSewergateFiasco.com).

There are four aspects to report for 2005:

#### **1. October 26, 2004 break in the Richmond-Glen Cairn forcemain sewer**

On the anniversary of the October 26, 2004 break in the Richmond-Glen Cairn forcemain sewer I sent a note to Richard Hewitt of the City asking him for a report on the break. The following is abstracted from his reply:

The City's SCADA system detected a pressure drop in the sewer at 11:10 a.m. on October 26, 2004 and by about 3:45 p.m. sewage was diverted to the lagoon C in the Richmond Conservation Area. The Ministry of the Environment was notified and by the evening of 27 October, the broken section of pipe had been removed and replaced, the bypass to the storage lagoon was closed and the Richmond force main was re-pressurized.

The City hired the consulting engineering firm of R.V Anderson Associates (RVA) to conduct an investigation of the force main break. The break in the force main occurred in a section where

the pipe entered a 45-degree elbow fitting. The fractured surface of this section is evidence of localized damage that occurred sometime prior to the actual break, perhaps during initial installation. In the course of operation of the force main system the pipe was subjected to varying pressure loads and eventually fractures in the pipe material began to develop. One small crack, approximately 10 cm in length, eventually grew to the point of penetration through the pipe wall.

There is evidence that the section of pipe surrounding this small crack was subsequently eroded by the abrasive effect of leaking water mixing with soil particles. This in turn led to the localized weakening that caused the break of October 26.

Note: A copy of the report titled "Richmond Force Main Break Investigation Report" dated February 2005 is located at the Richmond Library along with other information for the Munster Project.

There is no indication in the report of the length of time the pipe leaked before failing completely. While the City maintains there was no environmental damage, there was a trail of raw sewage flowing into the river for up to 4  $\frac{1}{2}$  hours.

An article in a February 17, 2006 press article quoted one City employee as saying incorrectly that the 2004 break was "the result of construction".

## **2. Possible February 2005 break in the Richmond-Glen Cairn forcemain sewer**

On February 27<sup>th</sup> we were certain that there was another break within 100m of the break described above. FJR member Tim van der Horn discovered a steaming hole in the ice of the Jock River that we thought was break number 7 in the short 21 year lifetime of the Richmond-Glen Cairn forcemain sewer. The hole in the ice was within 12 m of the sewer pipe and the seeping "water" had the characteristic grey colour and odour of sewage. I called the Ontario Ministry of the Environment and they in turn contacted the City within minutes (excellent response). A City crew was on site a few hours later. Members of the Richmond Village Association and the press were also notified of the leak.

The sample of the liquid I sent for analysis came back with a coliform count of 10, which is considerably less than a count of 1,000++ that would be expected for sewage. The City also took a sample and a more extensive battery of tests also indicated the effluent was not sewage.

## **3. Odour problem with Munster sewage**

The Munster sewage force main pipeline was put into service in late April 2005 without any fanfare or announcements to the public or Richmond residents. Shortly thereafter, Richmond residents were inundated with a strong sewage smell coming from the Richmond pumping station that continued on and off through the spring, summer and fall. As some residents put it, "at times the smell was strong enough to choke a maggot".

Richmond residents complained to MOE, which issued 2 orders against the City to fix the problem. Initially, the City denied there was an odour problem but recanted six weeks later after MOE inspectors confirmed the existence of odours coming from the Richmond Pumping Station. The City installed a bioscrubber without success and then a bio-filter. Unfortunately, the problem has continued intermittently into the winter, despite the colder temperatures.

The City proposes to finalize the design and proceed with construction of a permanent polishing biofilter to treat exhaust stack emissions. An application for a new Certificate of Approval for modifications to the facility is to be submitted to the Ministry of Environment.

Richmond residents continue to push for MOE to uphold the orders by shutting down the pipeline and establishing an on-site treatment facility in Munster.

The affected Richmond residents in proximity to the pump house are apprehensive about the City's ability to solve the odour problem and, with the coming warmer weather, fear they will lose the use of their back yards for another summer.

Note: many engineers warned both the City and its consultants during the environmental assessment process that the low volume of Munster sewage in the 11 km pipe would become septic and release hydrogen sulfide.

#### **4. Audit of Munster sewage options process**

The cost of the process to replace the leaking sewage treatment lagoons and spray fields in Munster with a sewer pipe to Richmond is currently estimated to be in the range of \$32 million. Further, the cost of refurbishing/replacing the old lagoons in Munster slated for 2006 (est. \$1 million) and the cost of a permanent polishing biofilter for the Richmond pumping station (\$ unknown) must still be added in. The City's auditor will conduct a forensic audit but it is unlikely to be done until 2007.

I await its outcome with interest.

Brian Finch

#### **6.2.3. Trail Road Dumpsite Leachate**

In November of 2004, City Council approved on-site solutions for the two problems in the vicinity of the Trail Road dumpsite: leachate contained in the current, lined Trail Road Dumpsite; and groundwater contaminated with volatile organic compounds (VOC), specifically chlorinated hydrocarbons, moving south from the old Nepean dumpsite. Different processes are required for each. City staff is dealing first with the contaminated groundwater from the Nepean Landfill as there is an outstanding MOE Order to solve the problem by May 31, 2006. The design of the

groundwater extraction and treatment system was to be tendered sometime in July with construction planned to start in early September. Construction was expected to be completed by the end of the year with commissioning and start up of the plant to follow. The City feels it is on schedule to meet the MOE deadline. The ground water will be stripped of the VOCs and the water discharged to an existing pond in a sand quarry immediately to the south of the dumpsite on Moody.

On the Trail Road leachate issue, City staff met with MOE in August and December on the effluent objectives for the Leachate Treatment Plant and there is agreement for the following discharge parameters: total phosphorous, total ammonia, total suspended solids, biological oxygen demand, volatile organic compounds and heavy metals. The City has agreed to a MOE request that toxicity testing be done using actual species from the Jock River to establish acceptable levels for total dissolved solids (TDS) and chlorides. The City plans to proceed with this work in the new year.

Note that MOE is paying close attention to the treatment plant as the effluent will be discharged into a ditch that runs into the Jock River. As such, a discharge of this nature to a sensitive watercourse like the Jock River is unique in Canada.

Brian Finch (with excerpts from City staff e-mails)

#### **6.2.4. Greenbank Widening and Transitway Extension**

The City of Ottawa is currently planning two separate projects that are linked together by one specific feature: they are crossing the Jock River via a shared bridge. It is this linkage that is one of the major concerns for the Friends of the Jock River.

The first project is the widening and realignment of Greenbank road from Malvern to Cambrian, and the second is the extension of the Southwest Transitway from Strandherd, linking with the proposed O-Train, then continuing south on Greenbank across the Jock.

I am a member of the Public Consultation Group for these two projects, and I have been able to review and comment on proposed locations of the crossings, design elements and other features and to express the FJR's goals with respect to the preservation of the Jock River.

At this point, the recommended crossing location (slightly west of the current bridge) is a well-thought out solution with respect to location. The footings are at a strong point, the span is viable, and some riverbank rehabilitation will be encouraged.

There are interesting dynamics with respect to this project because the South Nepean Town Centre Design Plan and Light Rail plan all factor in. Plans for the development of the areas south of the Jock figure prominently. We as citizens, and as an organization need to remain in the loop in the consultations for all of these projects to properly manage the Jock River watershed.

Respectfully submitted

John R. Palmer

#### **6.2.5. Jock River Reach One Subwatershed Study**

I had initially requested to be involved with the study but there was no public liaison committee for the study so it has proceeded with no oversight or input from the FJR. The draft interim report, 4 cm thick, was released November 15, 2005, and both Niel Barrington and I will be reviewing it.

Brian Finch

#### **6.2.6. South Nepean Town Centre Design Plan Study**

The City of Ottawa initiated a design study in 2004, for the future South Nepean Town Centre, an area that extends from Strandherd Drive to the Jock River and from Kennedy-Burnett stormwater facility west of Greenbank Road to the future extension of Longfields Drive south of Strandherd Drive.

The final draft of the South Nepean Town Centre Urban Design Study is now available. The Design Study includes a concept plan for development (including infrastructure, roads, transit and parking, building types, land uses, densities, pedestrian links, open spaces, natural features, etc.), design guidelines, development phasing and a strategy for implementation.

City staff has now begun preparing the South Nepean Town Centre Community Design Plan (CDP), which will be based on recommendations of the Urban Design Study. The CDP will be the statutory planning document that will guide development in the Town Centre.

Information on both the final draft of the Study and the preliminary direction and next steps for the Community Design Plan was presented in October 2005, and a public open house will be held in early 2006 to present the draft secondary plan and community design plan.

To date, it appears that much of the shoreline within the design plan area will be used for passive recreation or left natural in conservation areas.

Brian Finch (with excerpts from City of Ottawa literature)

#### **6.2.7. Barrhaven South Community Design Plan Study**

Preparation of a Community Design Plan has begun for undeveloped lands south of the Jock River, east of Highway 416, west of Jockvale Road, and north of Barnsdale Road in South Barrhaven. A consulting team, led by FoTenn Consultants Inc., is carrying out this study in consultation and coordination with City of Ottawa Staff.

The study involves the review of future land use, transportation and infrastructure for approximately 490 hectares of "developing community", "mixed use", and "major open space lands". The study will be completed in early 2006 and will establish the arrangement of the public road network, municipal water and storm water management and sanitary sewer infrastructure, transit linkages, the location of residential, commercial and institutional uses, schools, parks and open space linkages.

The City has had two public consultations and a third is to occur January 26, 2006. In the second consultation, the public was invited to comment on aspects such as areas of environmental concern, recreation and the routes of several major roadways and public transportation corridors.

Both Niel Barrington and I have been monitoring this study.

Brian Finch (with excerpts from City of Ottawa literature)

#### **6.2.8. Riverbend Application for Permit to Take Water**

In February, Ken McRae, former member and Director for Water Conservation and Usage, alerted FJR to an application on the province's Environmental Bill of Right (EBR) bulletin board for a permit to take water (PTTW) by the Riverbend Golf and Country Club (Riverbend). The club is, situated on Franktown Road.

Riverbend proposed to take a maximum of 2,046 litres/minute or 736,560 L/day of water from the Jock River over a maximum of 100 pumping days in the period April 15 to October 1 for the next 10 years. Under the club's previous permit, which expired April 2004, the club was allowed to remove a maximum of 227,300 L/day for a maximum of 15 days a year between June 1 and August 31. As such, the new proposal requested significant changes: maximum taking days up 667 percent; maximum daily water removal up 324 percent; and calendar period extended by 2  $\frac{1}{2}$  months. The proposal also stipulated certain "stop pumping" and "resume pumping" points based on water heights.

FJR first had to inform residents in the watershed and had to do it quickly as MOE allows only 30 days to make comments. We put together a package including a copy of the MOE posting, a one page explanation of FJR's concerns, and a draft letter of objection that residents could send to MNR. We mailed out 2,300 copies of the package to residents living in the watershed from Ashton, Heron Lakes, Munster Hamlet, Stapleton Village, Richmond and downstream to Fallowfield Village. Packages were hand delivered to residents in the Jockvale and Greenbank portions of the river. Residents of Heart's Desire and Stonebridge were provided with the same package in electronic form, forwarded through their respective community associations. In addition, everyone on our e-mail list of friends and members of the Friends of the Jock River was contacted and some of them obviously forwarded the e-mail notice on to others in the environmental community.

The technical report submitted by the Riverbend Golf & Country Club was analyzed in detail. We were fortunate to have some "in-house" expertise: FJR member Sharon Cardin, an environmental engineer, analyzed the turf management part of Riverbend's technical submission, as did another member experienced in the maintenance of golf courses and a holder of a valid pesticide license. Both had

valuable comments that were incorporated into our detailed 10 page letter to MOE objecting to the request. It would be nice to reproduce the entire letter but following excerpts summarize the major points:

"The Riverbend Golf & Country Club's application for new PTTW is flawed due to confusing inconsistencies in information given, lack of explanations or scientific rationale for key conclusions and absence of necessary flow information. The consultants' reports do not provide a coherent background and rationale in support of the PTTW request."

"The loss of significant amounts of water per day for extended periods during the summer will have negative downstream consequences for: aquatic vegetation and wild life; canoeing opportunities; and sport fishing."

"The large water takings of the type requested would place the entire downstream aquatic system in a deficit position during periods of declining flow and would exacerbate the effects of severe droughts (such as the 3-4 droughts we have experienced in the last 6-7 years)."

"The cumulative impacts of current water taking in the Jock river watershed have not been evaluated on a watershed-ecosystem basis and are not supported by sufficiently long periods of flow data. No scientific analysis has been carried out to determine what amount of flow is needed to properly sustain the natural functions of the Jock River."

MOE rejected Riverbend Golf & Country Club's application for new PTTW on September 29, 2005. The EBR posting indicated that 208 comments were received and it gave the following reasons for the rejection:

"The major issue identified by the comments was the availability of water in the Jock River. These concerns are consistent with the Ministry's concerns related to the proposed water taking. This Ministry has received correspondence from the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority and the Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans that questions if the Jock River conveys enough water to allow for fisheries habitat and migration at the same time as a water taking of this nature. Therefore the Ministry of the Environment has determined that the proponent has not provided adequate data to support this water taking with respect to preventing adverse impacts to the natural functions of the ecosystem."

Note that the golf club has been operating without a PTTW since April, 2004. While the club can legally take up to 50,000 litres per day, the club has a poor record on water taking issues and we remain concerned that the golf club might attempt to take more than the allowed amount. We (and others) have requested that MOE use a sealed gauge or other monitoring device on the club's pump. This matter is currently under discussion with MOE.

Brian Finch

### 6.2.9. Designation of Provincially Significant Wetlands in Goulbourn

Late in 2004, a professional wetlands evaluator hired by the City of Ottawa identified 20 additional wetlands to be complexed to the Provincially Significant Goulbourn Wetlands Complex, in the former Township of Goulbourn. MNR has confirmed the findings.

A large number, perhaps all, of the 60 private landowners upon whose lands these 20 wetlands were identified, are strongly opposed to having any part of their lands designated as Provincially Significant Wetlands (PSWs) in the City of Ottawa's Official Plan (OP). They claim that wetland designations affect the value of rural properties and place restrictions on future opportunities for changing land uses (i.e., development). They feel that the "wet" character of many of their lands is due to improper drainage design or poor maintenance of the drains by the municipality and they also contend the evaluation process, based on the identification of wetland plant species, is unscientific. A number of them formed a group, the Goulbourn Landowners Group, to oppose the designations. At least 3 of these landowners cleared the vegetation from their properties with the express purpose of removing the wetland designations, and several others threaten to do likewise. MNR has confirmed that the cleared lands are no longer Provincially Significant Wetlands.

Apparently there are no municipal or provincial laws or regulations on the books that prevent the wholesale destruction of wetlands plant species, the removal of the organic soils that provide the habitat for the growth of many wetlands plant species, and the excavation of drainage ditches through PSWs - shocking, but true!

I have talked with the president and members of the Landowners Group on several occasions and they consider themselves environmentalists but feel so aggrieved of the perceived "theft" of their land they are willing to destroy the natural value of their land. Their positions would not be so anti-environmental or entrenched if the communal value of their lands was recognized by way of incentives or other mechanisms to compensate the landowners for the environmental stewardship of their lands, for their (perceived or real) loss in value or for their reduced opportunities for development.

On the issue of loss of value, Denis Jacobs, Director, Planning, Environment & Infrastructure Policy, Planning & Growth Management Department, City of Ottawa, has stated that the designation of a property as a PSW does not devalue the land. I have asked him for concrete examples to support his statement but he could not provide them.

Ned Lathrop, Deputy City Manager, Planning and Growth Management Department, City of Ottawa, sent out a Nov. 8th, 2005 letter to the affected landowners indicating that the City has stopped its OP Amendment process until after a number of issues have been addressed. I have questioned several City employees about this since both the wetland evaluation process and the requirement that the City add the PSWs to the City's OP are within Ontario provincial government jurisdiction, not municipal jurisdiction. Some were as puzzled as I was.

Mr. Lathrop also stated "that the Ministry of Natural Resources has initiated a review of the criteria used to add or complex new wetland areas to existing Provincially Significant Wetlands." However, Ken McRae has asked MNR for clarification and received a reply indicating that MNR would like to review the evaluation criteria but has yet to set a date to do so. A review, once started, would still have to go through a public consultation process and the review from start to finish would take some time to complete.

In a nutshell, no PSWs on privately owned lands are protected from destruction by their owners. To compound the problem, there are many wetlands that have not yet been evaluated, mapped and classified. Further, many of the wetlands that have previously been evaluated, mapped and classified were done so improperly, and many previous evaluations were stopped before completion because of a lack of MNR funding. Many wetlands evaluated as non-provincially significant by MNR actually have larger boundaries, which may upgrade their classifications.

Complicating the actual evaluation process, MNR wetlands evaluation staff and authorized private wetlands evaluation consultants are very often denied access by property owners to their lands, to properly and fully carry out wetlands evaluations. Ken McRae has indicated that all 60 of the landowners involved with these 20 recently officially identified wetlands, with the possible exception of one, denied access to their properties for the City's wetland evaluator.

As FJR has said in past annual reports, the Ontario government needs to change this unacceptable situation and permit MNR wetlands evaluation staff and MNR's authorized private evaluators to go onto any lands, private and public to properly evaluate, map and classify wetlands.

The Ontario government must also act to prevent the destruction of wetlands and to introduce a system of stewardship (with both carrot and stick elements) for private and public wetlands.

Submitted by

Brian Finch (also with extracts from conversations, e-mails and letters from Ken McRae)

#### **6.2.10. Country Club Village and Canadian Golf & Country Club Service Road Environmental Assessment Study**

Ken McRae was a public representative on the Public Advisory Committee (PAC) on the City of Ottawa's and Ministry of Transportation's Country Club Village (CCV) and Canadian Golf & Country Club (CG&CC) Service Road Environmental Assessment (EA) Study. Ken represented the Friends of the Jock River on the committee while he was still a FJR member and we asked him to stay on as our representative.

The main issue for us relates to the Provincially Significant Huntley Wetlands Complex. The golf club and a number of local residents were urging the committee to put a service road through the wetland when Highway 7 is expanded from 2 to 4 lanes, to provide them with insignificantly shorter driving distances and driving times. Ken pointed out that the expansion of Highway 7 through the wetland will

have a very negative effect on the wetland and that the addition of an unnecessary service road through the wetland will only make it worse.

The report for the study on June 4, 2004, recommended that no additional service road be built, however, the study report was withdrawn in September, 2004, under curious circumstances, for further study. The final study report, released November 25, 2005, reversed its recommendation and opted for the service road option that runs through approximately one kilometre of the Provincially Significant Huntley Wetlands Complex.

Ken found many problems with this Environmental Assessment Study, including significant gaps in information (both environmental and financial), serious errors in data resulting in flawed or incorrect sub-studies conclusions, information that was withheld from PAC members, and flaws in PAC voting.

In January 2006, Ken, and Selena Walker, representing the Goulbourn Wetlands Group, filed a "Part II Order Request" (an appeal) to the Hon. Laurel C. Broten, Minister, Ontario Ministry of the Environment, under the Ontario Environmental Assessment Act in regard to the Environmental Assessment Study.

Brian Finch (from conversations, e-mails and letters from Ken McRae)

#### **6.2.11. Richmond Conservation Area Membership, Management and Sewage Storage Issues**

Eric Snyder headed up the issue relating the Richmond Conservation Area but Eric has not filed a report. The following is based on his 2004 report and my involvement with the issue in 2005.

For the third consecutive year, the FJR has been unable to undertake ecological monitoring projects or restoration and enhancement projects within the RCA, initially because FJR had been refused membership on the City's RCA Management Team (RCAMT) and more recently, because the RCAMT ceased to exist. Further, the City had not established a successor group. We also lobbied the MOE to ensure that commitments made during the Class Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Richmond Pumping Station and Forcemain upgrade, which were intended to mitigate against impacts on the RCA from the storage of sewage in Richmond Lagoon Cell C, would be respected by the City of Ottawa. MOE has not responded to these efforts.

In June 2005, the City tried to set up a meeting concerning a new RCA consultative group with some of the previous members of the RCAMT, the Richmond Village Association, FJR and the Ottawa Field Naturalists (?), supposedly to discuss membership and terms of reference for this new group. However, the meeting never came about.

In the fall, I learned that the City was considering the transfer of the management of the RCA, other than the sewage works component, to the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority. Since then, I had an opportunity to meet with Lyn Preston of the RVCA to brief her on the recent history and our concerns

about the RCA, the RCAMT, and the Richmond Pumping station EA. I also indicated likely interests by the Richmond Village Association, and the Ottawa Field Naturalists in membership in a consultative or advisory group. While the RVCA was still in negotiations with the City over a possible transfer, I am hopeful the transfer will be successful.

Brian Finch

#### **6.2.12. Jock River Reach 2 Watershed Plan**

In June 2003, the FJR was invited to participate and monitor the activities of the planning group for the Jock River Reach 2 Watershed Plan. The area of study is the part of the Jock watershed above Moodie Drive, below the Richmond Fen Wetland and comprising the tributaries: Flowing Creek (rising in wetlands just south of Stittsville), Monahan Drain (near Glen Cairn) and Leamy Creek (south of the Jock near Twin Elm). The study was paired with the Mud Creek Watershed Plan, which relates to an adjacent watershed with similar characteristics but flowing into the Rideau at Manotick.

The purpose of the Jock River Reach 2 and Mud Creek Subwatershed Studies is to produce a complete assessment of the environmental condition of the subwatersheds and assess the potential impacts of existing and future land use activities on the subwatershed's natural system. To date, an Existing Conditions Report has been produced that documents the natural resources (fisheries, wetlands, forests, stream erosion, water quality and quantity, and groundwater) within the study area. Phase 2 of the Study will develop management strategies that can effectively address impacts and stressors on the natural environment based on community goals and objectives. There have been two open houses for these studies.

Brian Finch

#### **6.2.13. South Nepean Collector Sanitary Sewer**

I had monitored the environmental assessment of the South Nepean Collector Sanitary Sewer and I am now keeping an eye on the installation. The first phase of the sewer will serve Stonebridge, new developments west of Heart's Desire, and, eventually, the new Barrhaven town centre. The route is from the intersection of old Highway 16 (Prince of Wales Drive) and Woodroffe and will proceed under the Heart's Desire Forest to the weir on the Jock River (tunnel), across the Jock River (ditch/coffer dam), through the Stonebridge golf course (ditch), along the side of the Levesque sports fields (ditch), through the old fields/re-growth area to the west of the soccer fields (ditch), under the Jock River (ditch/coffer dam) to the intersection of Jockvale and Bren-Maur. The sewer is a gravity sewer with a siphon structure under the Jock River crossing at the weir.

One of the City's consultants Corush, Sunderland, Wright Ltd., a landscape architectural firm, was well aware of the location of and our concern for the FJR tree plant locations on both sides of the river just downstream of the Jockvale Bridge, as well as the environmental value of both the Heart's Desire Forest and the treed shoreline by the Heart's Desire Weir. The firm played a major role in

"tweaking" the route of the pipeline to reduce the damage to these areas. The final route skirts most of the tree plant area and VERY few of our planted trees have been affected. My personal thanks to Jerry Corush.

In January 2005, the City started construction of the crossing at the Heart's Desire weir but their settling pond proved to be inadequate for the volume of water pumped out of the coffer dams. The river bottom below the coffer dams had been disturbed in the construction of a previous sewer crossing of the river and the water leaking into the coffer dams was just too much. The contractor started to discharge large amounts of water over the forest floor in Heart's Desire Forest, but was stopped by the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO). Provincial MNR and MOE were also involved in various capacities. Eventually, the water was discharged on the north side into a large filter sock installed in a small, shallow abandoned quarry in the forest, and on the south side into the Stonebridge Golf Club ponds. Following several starts and lengthy stops, the crossing was completed just before spring break-up.

The City also ran into difficulties tunneling under the forest and kept FJR and the Heart's Desire Community Association informed through e-mails and on-site meetings of changes required to complete the project. As of the end of 2005, the tunneling and ditch connection to Highway 16 was almost finished. This part of the project had been planned to take months but took over a year.

The other crossing of the river just downstream of the Jockvale Bridge went quickly, apparently without any hitches.

By the fall, the shorelines had been planted but there didn't appear to be a sufficient number of trees in place so I requested the landscape plans for the shoreline areas at both crossings and I spoke to Jerry Corush. He explained that he has not had much success with trees planted in the fall and prefers to leave most of the planting for the spring. The shorelines were planted only to stabilize them through the spring break-up.

I was impressed by the wood cribbing constructed entirely of wood using wood pins installed up the steep south shore of the weir crossing.

Brian Finch

#### **6.2.14. Alternative Sewage Treatment Solutions for Outlying Communities**

The tertiary sewage wastewater treatment plant in Manotick, built by Seprotech an Ottawa company, has been bettering the already tight requirements set by MOE for the past year. While this treatment plant lies outside the Jock River watershed and technically outside our mandate, the technology has potential for use within the watershed, for example, as an alternative to piping Munster Hamlet's and Richmond's sewage into the city's gravity system.

Since the efficacy of the process is now proven, it should be considered for sewage treatment in all the outlying subdivisions and rural villages within the Ottawa municipal region, as an alternative to piping sewage long distances to the City's ROPEC treatment plant. This new plant has established a new baseline for tertiary sewage treatment in Canada and the City should be showing it off with pride to all of Ontario and the rest of Canada. I have been urging Councillor Glenn Brooks to sponsor a tour of the facility.

Brian Finch

### **6.3. Education Projects**

#### **6.3.1 Richmond Fair**

The Richmond Fair was held September 15 to 18, 2005. FJR shared the cost of a booth with the Richmond Community Association and Irwin McCaffrey and I alternated manning the booth. We handed out notices for the Richmond shoreline clean-up that was to be held the following weekend, tried to sell FJR T-shirts (2 sold), and talked to people about environmental issues.

Immediately adjacent to us was a booth manned by the Rural Council and the Goulbourn Landowners Group (see report above), which made for some interesting conversations. At the time, they were only threatening destruction of the forested areas in order to remove the Provincially Significant Wetland designations and I spent quite some time arguing against the destruction of their wetlands. It was also a good opportunity to understand their positions and to confront them on some misunderstandings.

Brian Finch

### **7. Fundraising Report**

#### **7.1 T-Shirts**

In January 2004, we ordered 100 sand-coloured shirts printed with the FJR logo (main component is the heron drawn by Eric Snyder) in a dark green colour. Sales through 2004 and the first part of 2005 proceeded at a steady pace and eventually some sizes sold out. In April 2005, we purchased an additional 50 shirts to fill our complement of sizes. For the sake of a little diversity, we ordered the shirts in powder blue with the logo in a dark blue. Because of the lower volume purchased, our cost has increased so we decided to increase the selling price of our T-shirts to \$20, effective May 2005.

Sales for the remainder of 2005 have been slow. Total sales for the year have been 18 shirts and one shirt was given to Meredith Brown to thank her for the talk she gave at our AGM in February 2005.

Brian Finch

## 8. Plans for 2006

### 8.1 Work Plan for 2006

#### **1. Presidential Projects**

- 1.1 Update Constitution and By-laws to deal with the requirements for incorporation: In view of various amendments over the past years, the president will update the FJR constitution and by-laws. This may be done as part of a broader strategic planning exercise for the FJR.

#### **2.0 Secretarial Projects - none anticipated**

#### **3.0 Membership Projects**

- 3.1 Human Resources Database: The director of membership will enter all human resource information, currently in possession of the FJR, into a database.
- 3.2 Membership Database: As part of the above project, the membership director will upgrade the existing membership database.
- 3.3 Ottawa Volunteer Network: Once the FJR has obtained liability insurance, the membership director will pursue FJR membership in the Ottawa Volunteer Network.
- 3.4 Membership strategies: The director of membership will initiate a process to evaluate and implement the strategies that came out of the strategic planning session in April 2005.

#### **4.0 Treasury Projects**

- 4.1 Incorporation: In addition to regular duties, the treasurer will complete the process of having the FJR incorporated.
- 4.2 Liability Insurance: The treasurer will undertake to obtain liability insurance for the FJR.

#### **5.0 Committee Projects**

##### **5.1 Publicity Committee**

- 5.1.1 Public Relations Strategic Plan: The Publicity Committee will review and implement the strategic plan tabled in 2004.
- 5.1.2 Website: The Website Committee will maintain the website with updated project descriptions, minutes, agendas and reports. The links page will function as a community resource for those needing ecological and regulatory information relating to the environment.

##### **5.2 Fundraising Committee**

- 5.2.1 Ecological Restoration and Enhancement Funding: The Committee will pursue various funding sources to cover the costs of restoration and enhancement projects in 2005.
- 5.2.2 T-Shirt Sales: The Fundraising Committee will promote T-shirt sales and design a marketing strategy for the T-shirts to promote the FJR.

#### **6.0 Projects**

##### **6.1 Ecological Restoration and Enhancement**

- 6.1.1 Riparian Planting at the City's Stormwater Pond - Hope Side Rd. and Eagleson Rd.: Restoration and Enhancement Team will begin preliminary planting at site.
- 6.1.2 Shoreline Restoration at Twin Elm Site: Additional planting and maintenance will be done at this site. Fence repair will be conducted, as needed.
- 6.1.3 Tree Planting Maintenance at Jockvale (both sides of Jock), Half-Moon Bay, Richmond Road and Stonebridge sites: Additional planting and/or maintenance will be done at these sites.
- 6.1.4 RVCA Stream Survey: The FJR will continue to work with the RVCA on this project.

- 6.1.5 *Shoreline Garbage Clean-ups*: The FJR will continue to seek opportunities to organize or participate in shoreline clean-ups throughout the watershed.
- 7.0 Water, Environmental Protection and Monitoring**
- 7.1 *Richmond Conservation Area Membership, Management and Sewage Storage Issues*: The FJR will continue to pursue various issues relating to the RCA.
- 7.2 *Munster Hamlet to Glen Cairn Sewer*: The FJR will continue to monitor these installations.
- 7.3 *Applications on the EBR Registry*: The FJR will continue to monitor the EBR registry and comment on applications of concern.
- 7.4 *Jock River Reach 1 & 2 Subwatershed Studies*: The FJR will continue to work with the Subwatershed Study groups and to strive for an ecosystem approach.
- 7.5 *Barrhaven South Community Design Plan Study*: The FJR will continue to monitor.
- 7.6 *Marlborough Forest Management*: The FJR will continue to monitor progress towards establishing a Marlborough Forest Departmental Consultative Group, and will ask to participate in the group if it is established and if we can find a coordinator.
- 7.7 *Greenbank Road Corridor Crossing and Transitway Extension*: The FJR will act as a stakeholder in this planning process.
- 7.8 *South Nepean Collector Sanitary Sewer*: The FJR will continue to monitor the project.
- 7.9 *Alternative Sewage Treatment Solutions for Outlying Communities*: The FJR will continue to advocate for the appropriate use of high tech, tertiary sewage treatment throughout the region.

Brian Finch

## 8.2 Budget for 2006

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Presidential Projects</b>	Projected income (\$)	Projected cost (\$)
1.1	Update Constitution and By-laws	-	-
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Secretarial Projects</b>	-	-
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Membership Projects</b>		
3.1	Human Resources Database	-	-
3.2	Membership Database	-	-
3.3	Ottawa Volunteer Network	-	40
3.4	Membership Strategies	-	-
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Treasury Projects</b>		
4.1	Incorporation	-	-
4.2	Liability Insurance	-	500
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Committee Projects</b>		
5.1	Publicity Committee		
5.1.1	Public Relations Strategic Plan	-	-
5.1.2	Website	-	25
5.2	Fundraising Committee		
5.2.1	Pursue Ecological Restoration and	-	-

	Enhancement Funding		
5.2.2	T-Shirt Sales	1,440	-
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Projects</b>		
6.1	Ecological Restoration, Enhancement and Monitoring		
6.1.1	Riparian Planting at City's Hope Side Road Stormwater Pond	9,000	9,000
6.1.2	Shoreline Restoration at Twin Elm Site	-	-
6.1.3	Tree Planting Maintenance at Previous Planting Sites	-	200
6.1.4	RVCA Stream Survey	2,500	2,500
6.1.5	Shoreline Garbage Clean-ups	-	200
<b>7.0</b>	<b>Water and Environmental Protection</b>		
7.1	Richmond Conservation Area Membership, Management and Sewage Storage Issues	-	-
7.2	Munster Hamlet to Glen Cairn Sewer	-	-
7.3	Applications on the EBR Registry	-	-
7.4	Jock River Reach 1 & 2 Subwatershed Studies	-	-
7.5	Barrhaven South Community Design Plan Study	-	-
7.6	Marlborough Forest Management	-	-
7.7	Greenbank Road Corridor Crossing and Transitway Extension	-	-
7.8	South Nepean Collector Sanitary Sewer	-	-
7.9	Alternative Sewage Treatment Solutions for Outlying Communities	-	-
<b>General</b>	<b>Income</b>		
	Anonymous Donations	50	
	Receipted Donations	300	
	GST Rebates	300	
	Corporate Membership	100	
	Family Membership	500	
	Supporter Membership	225	
	Volunteer Membership	200	
	<b>Expenditures</b>		
	Advertising		100
	Bank Charges		60

	Books and Subscriptions		50
	Office Supplies		300
	Photocopy Costs		200
	Photographic Supplies		10
	Photographic Development		10
	Postage		250
	Memberships in other organizations		10
	<b><u>Total Income</u></b>	14,615	
	<b><u>Total Expenditures</u></b>		13,455
	<b><u>Income minus Expenditures</u></b>	1,160	

Brian Finch

**9. Nomination Committee Report**

The Nomination Committee will submit nominations for the Board of Directors at the Annual General Meeting. I bring to the attention of all members that the Nomination Committee would be pleased to accept nominations for any of the positions prior to the meeting (please call Niel Barrington at 823-3643). Nominations will also be accepted from the floor during the AGM. In all instances, those nominated must be members in good standing and must agree to the nomination. The posts on the Board are:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| President                                   | Vice-President                                |
| Treasurer                                   | Director for Water Conservation and Usage     |
| Secretary                                   | Director for Membership Roster and Management |
| Director for Projects and Actions           | Director of Fund-Raising                      |
| Director for Publicity and Public Relations | Directors at Large                            |

The Board is also seeking interested candidates for the Editorial Board for the FJR Newsletter, the Management Board for the FJR Website, and the Internal Auditor.

Niel Barrington  
 Nomination Committee Chair