

# Friends of the Jock River

Annual Report  
2007

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Website: [www.jockriver.org](http://www.jockriver.org)



## Table of Contents

Item	Page
1. Leadership List	4
2. President's Report	4
3. Financial Reports	5
3.1 Treasurer's Report	5
3.2 Financial Statements	5
4. Membership	7
5. Website	7
6. Project Reports	7
6.1 Restoration and Environmental Enhancement Projects	7
6.1.1 Monahan Spring Tree Plant	7
6.1.2 IKEA Tree Plant	9
6.1.3 Monahan Fall Tree Plant	9
6.1.4 Greenbank/Jockvale Road Garbage Clean-up/ Half Moon Bay Restoration	10
6.1.5 Stonebridge Vegetation Management Plan	10
6.1.6 Tree Plant Signage	11
6.1.7 Half Moon Bay Tree Wrapping	12
6.2 Monitoring, Assessment and Planning Projects	12
6.2.1 Munster Hamlet Forcemain Sewer	12
6.2.2 Trail Road Dumpsite Leachate	13
6.2.3 Jock River Reach 1 Subwatershed Study	14
6.2.4 Jock River Reach 2 Watershed Study	14
6.2.5 Riverbend Golf Course Rezoning Application	15
6.2.6 Riverbend Golf Course Water Taking	16
6.2.7 Designation of Provincially Significant Wetlands in Goulbourn	16
6.2.8 Richmond Conservation Area Community Advisory Team	17
6.2.9 Emergency Flood Action Information	18
6.2.10 Heart's Desire Weir	18
6.3 Other Projects	19
6.3.1 Human Resources and Social Development Canada Student Employment	19
6.3.2 Fundraising: T-Shirt Sales	20
6.3.3 Upper Jock River Race	20
7. Nomination Committee Report	20

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

## 1. Leadership List

### Officers of the Executive

President	Brian Finch	825-8029
Vice-President	<i>vacant</i>	
Treasurer	Brian Finch	825-8029
Secretary	Niel Barrington	823-3643
Director For Membership Roster and Management	Tom O. Wright	823-2436
Director for Publicity and Public Relations	Niel Barrington	823-3643
Director at Large	Kelvin Burnett	825-1042

### Committee Chairs

Nomination Committee Chair	Niel Barrington	823-3643
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### Project Leadership

Tree Plants	Niel Barrington	823-3643
Clean-ups	Tom O. Wright	823-2436
Richmond Conservation Area	Brian Finch	825-8029

### Other

Editor of 2007 Annual Report	Brian Finch	825-8029
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## 2. President's Report

The major activities the Friends of the Jock River for year 2007, our eleventh year, were clean-up, tree planting and the monitoring of development activity in the watershed.

Looking back over the past 11 years, I believe we are continuing to have a positive influence in the watershed. It is good to see that some of our trees planted when we first started are now over 4 m tall; the fenced shoreline along the Munro property at Twin Elm continues to recover slowly, although I note that some of the native trees are expiring of old age; and wildlife is using our ramp over the Ashton dam. We continue to be recognized for our continuing work in the watershed as shown by our nomination for the "2007 Service Club/Non-Profit Organization of the Year" award from the Nepean Chamber of Commerce.

In this 2007 version of our annual report, we report on our involvement and participation in the Greenbank Road/Jockvale Road clean-up, and our 3 tree plants.

On the monitoring side:

- we report on the new community advisory team for an expanded Richmond Conservation Area (RCA);
- we have several reports on wetland destruction (or threat thereof) and water-taking issues in the Jock River watershed; and
- we report on several bylaw/planning issues that will have or could have an impact on the environmental health of the watershed.

Not all of the monitoring issues we have been involved in (for example the Jockvale Road expansion) have been listed.

Some of our executive positions went unfilled in 2006, notably the vice-president position and several directors' positions. In addition, I doubled up on the president and treasurer positions. The small size of our board and leadership core has meant that some projects important to both the environment and the people in the Jock River watershed had to be cut back or dropped entirely.

I urge new members to consider a position on the board.

Brian Finch

### 3. Financial Reports

#### 3.1. Treasurer's Report

This year, our big tree plant in May was funded by several groups: Trees Canada and the City of Ottawa funded the larger potted trees and the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority funded the purchase of the smaller, bare root trees and the spiral tree wraps. The funding from the RVCA was for the implementation of the 2001 Jock River Watershed Plan and was paid for in 2008. We received funds from the City under the Community Environmental Grants Program (CEPGP) directed to our tree plant signage project. Funds were received in 2006 and all expenses were in 2007.

We normally track GST (itemized under Accounts Receivable (GST) in the Balance Sheet) to facilitate the GST refund process but the tracking was dropped because the GST rate was changed mid-year 2006. This does not affect our ability to apply for and recover these funds from Revenue Canada.

Brian Finch

#### 3.2. Financial Statements

##### Balance Sheet 2007

			2007	2006	Variance
<b>ASSETS</b>					
	Chequing - TD - Canada	\$	2317.56	3037.25	-719.69
	Trust Account				
	Petty Cash	\$	65	40.65	24.35
	Accounts Receivable (GST)	\$	240.93	240.93	0
	Other assets	\$	0	0	0
	Advances/Loans	\$	0	0	0
	T-shirts 65 @ 8.731818182	\$	567.57	619.96	(52.39)
			-----	-----	-----
	Total assets	\$	3,191.06	3,938.79	(747.73)
			=====	=====	=====
<b>LIABILITIES</b>					
	Accounts Payable	\$	0	0	0
	Misplaced inventory (T-shirts)	\$	0	31.19	-31.19
	Total Liabilities	\$	0	31.19	-31.19

	Equity - Beginning	\$	3,938.79	5055.28	-1116.49
	Receipts Plus	\$	-695.34	(\$1,085.30)	389.96
	Dispersements for Year				
	Total Equities	\$	3243.45	3938.79	-695.34
				-----	-----

**Cash Flow 2007**

<b><u>INFLOW</u></b>		
	Donations	
	Designated	\$636.00
	Unrestricted	\$20.00
	Membership-Corporate	\$50.00
	Membership-Corporate sustaining	\$200.00
	Membership-Family	\$350.00
	Membership-Supporter	\$120.00
	Membership-Volunteer	\$80.00
	Grant-HRSDC	\$4370.00
	Reimbursed Expenses	\$90.00
	T-shirt sales	\$60.00
	<b>TOTAL INFLOWS</b>	<b>\$5976.00</b>
<b><u>OUTFLOW</u></b>		
	Advertizing	\$15.94
	Bank Service Charges	\$60.16
	Liability Insurance	\$90.00
	Memberships Other Organizations	\$15.00
	Office Supplies	\$45.55
	Postage and Delivery	\$85.99
	Printing and Reproduction	\$576.63
	Projects	
	HRSDC	\$4370.00
	Monahan Tree Plant 2007	\$918.50
	Tree plant signage	\$910.20
	Meals	\$160.00
	<b>TOTAL OUTFLOWS</b>	<b>\$6671.34</b>
<b><u>OVERALL TOTAL</u></b>		<b>(\$695.34)</b>

Brian Finch

**4. Membership**

The year 2007 saw a significant increase in membership because we extended a special membership to all participants (about 200) in the Upper Jock River Race.

A new sustaining corporate member is Mattamy Homes which is building a significant housing development at Half Moon Bay on the Jock River. Mattamy has shown an interest in promoting the park around this bay and involving the Friends of the Jock River in its plans.

The present membership in the following categories:

Volunteer	8
Supporter	8
Family	14
Corporate	2
Sustaining Corporate	2
Special membership	~200

## 5. 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), a website name we purchased in 2004, to transfer individuals to the geocities site.

For the past approximately 2 years we have made minimal updates to our website so some of the information was getting a little stale. In December, we asked longtime FJR member Doug Watson to do a little house cleaning by removing some of the older material.

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, from new residents looking for a spot to fish or canoe, or from university students working on journalism or environmental projects.

Brian Finch

## 6. Project Reports

### 6.1. Restoration and Environmental Enhancement Projects

#### 6.1.1 Monahan Spring Tree Plant Report

On the weekend of May 4<sup>th</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> and the evening of Wednesday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, the Friends of the Jock River held its annual spring tree plant, always our biggest event of the year. We planted a strip of land on both sides of the path going around the south-western edge of the Monahan storm water ponds on Monahan Creek, (hideously re-named "Monahan Drain"). This tiny tributary runs south from the Glen Cairn/Bridlewood area into the Jock River just below the Bow of the Jock Park. This year was the third and final year in the planting plan for the storm water ponds developed by the forestry staff at the City of Ottawa in conjunction with the FJR and the City's stormwater pond operator.

We had 500 potted trees and shrubs and 670 bare root trees for this tree plant.

In the week preceding the tree plant we employed a mini-high hoe, a first for us, to dig 500 holes for the potted plants. This terrific labour-saving device was especially important, as the ground had a very high clay content, which would have made for some tough manual digging with shovels! Our special thanks to

Ian Watson, owner of Above and Beyond Landscaping for donating the machine and the time of one of his employees.

On Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, FJR relied upon the usual assortment of roughly 75 boy scouts, cub scouts and scout leaders, a few high school students (fulfilling their community service obligations), only a few FJR members (where were the rest of you guys??) and a smattering of local residents pitching in to fill out the work crew. A new development this year was the actual onsite participation of City of Ottawa forestry staff, three of whom joined in on Saturday to help put in the 500 potted trees supplied by the city. In previous years, staff has been able to offer advice and invaluable help in securing the necessary approvals for our tree plant, but had never before pitched in with a shovel. We can also thank Julie Jackson of Ottawa Forestry staff for supplying the on-site water truck, which is another first for an FJR tree plant. Both City manpower and water truck proved to be a huge assist to the efficiency and effectiveness of the tree plant. Water, as you know, is a crucial component of a successful tree plant. In previous years, we have relied on countless buckets of water from the ponds for the water, which certainly works but is very labour intensive.

All this mechanized help meant we were really able to devote our time and energy to just really getting the trees planted carefully and well watered, which should really result in great survival rates.

All of the 500 potted plants and approximately 70 of the bare root stock were planted on Saturday.

The next day, a beautiful spring Sunday, Brian and Niel were assisted by one scout leader, two university students, 3 high school students working their volunteer hours, two Ottawa residents and two local residents to put in about 530 bare root trees.

A small, dedicated contingent of Girl Guides assisted by Brian and Niel finished the tree plant on the following Wednesday evening by planting the last 70 seedlings specially set aside for the Guides.

The trees came from a variety of sources:

- 500 potted trees and shrubs purchased by the City's Forestry Services in partnership with the Tree Canada Foundation (matched funding from each). The list of plants included approximately equal amounts of: red maple; sugar maple; silver maple; hackberry; red oak; basswood; serviceberry; pussy willow; red osier dogwood; and sumac. All of the trees were "whip" sized (most about 2 m tall). The City supplied the spiral tree wraps.
- 650 bare root trees purchased by the Friends of the Jock River from the RVCA. The funding for the trees was promised by the RVCA for implementation of the 2001 Jock River Watershed Plan. We were compensated for our costs of \$480.52, including tree wraps, in January 2008 (reason for delay: our accounting was submitted only in December). The list of trees included: bur oak (100); red osier dogwood (50); white oak (50); sumac (150); white pine (200); and white spruce (100). All the bare root seedlings were 2 years old (1 year greenhouse/ 1 year field). FJR supplied the spiral tree wraps for all trees except the evergreens.
- 20 butternut bare root seedlings provided free by the RVCA under its Butternut Recovery Plan. They were 1 year old and about 40-60 cm high. The RVCA supplied the mulch (Tassu cardboard collars), landscape staples and spiral tree wraps.

City staff at the old Goulbourn City Hall on Huntley Rd. lent us two portable tents for the weekend and Ottawa Forestry staff rented a portable toilet.

Follow up visits over the summer and fall confirmed the little trees are doing quite well, and it is a great feeling to walk around the ponds and know that someday, when the trees have grown into a veritable forest of green, we will have created a little oasis in the sea of concrete and asphalt now enveloping the west end of our fair city.

Niel Barrington

### **6.1.2. IKEA Tree Plant - Monahan**

For the fourth consecutive year, Mike Rosen, President, Tree Canada Foundation, asked FJR to provide a tree planting site and the supervising expertise for an Ikea-sponsored tree plant. Ikea provides the Tree Canada Foundation with funding from Ikea's retail Christmas tree sales and the Foundation manages the Ikea tree plants across Canada for Ikea volunteer employees.

I suggested the Monahan Stormwater Treatment Pond area, the site of last year's Ikea tree plant and the site of the FJR spring tree plant (see separate report). I secured the approval from the City to hold the tree plant on Tuesday, May 29, 2007. Mike Rosen purchased about 50 substantial trees and shrubs, most in pots but some larger trees in burlap-wrapped root ball form. Trees Canada supplied spiral tree wraps and special plastic mulch while FJR supplied buckets for watering in the plants.

The planting site was in the south-eastern corner of the Monahan Stormwater Treatment Pond area, just east of the pond outlet structure. I served as FJR planting instructor, labourer, advisor, cheerleader and quality control manager. By early afternoon, the crew comprising 14 enthusiastic Ikea employees, Mike Rosen and myself had all the trees and shrubs nicely planted.

Visits in the fall indicate a 100% success rate.

Brian Finch

### **6.1.3. Monahan Fall Tree Plant**

On Sunday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, the Friends of the Jock River planted 93 tree seedlings (70 walnuts; 20 oaks; 3 ashes) at the Monahan Stormwater Ponds, the site of our much larger spring tree plant back in May. The trees were planted in some of the open areas in the previously planted areas around the east side of the ponds. All trees were protected with spiral tree wraps.

President Brian Finch had gathered nuts from below some local walnut trees in the Heart's Desire area and in Richmond, and planted them in December 2006 in a specially prepared planting bed located in his back yard. The bed is totally enclosed by chicken wire on top and all sides to protect the planted nuts being dug up by squirrels. The seedlings had done well over the growing season and some were 3 ft. tall by October.

Though FJR has planted trees every spring for many years, gaining a good deal of expertise in the process, we have not always had a fall tree plant. For the past several years, our fall tree plants have always been small for several reasons: commercial tree seedlings are sometimes difficult to get in the fall so we have used trees growing in FJR member's back yards; we must wait for the little deciduous trees to go into dormancy before gently uprooting them for transplant; the weather can be tricky as no one wants to plant trees in the rain at 1°C; and tree root systems do not have much time to become established before the ground freezes.

The trees were well into their dormancy stage by November 1<sup>st</sup>, and the long range forecast suggested that the weekend of November 11 and 12 would be the right weekend to plant so we quickly applied for permission from the City to plant at the Monahan stormwater ponds. We lucked out on some great weather for the fall tree plant - really quite warm and dry for November. We were able to get all the seedlings in the ground, often pausing in the enjoyable exercise to take in the sight of thousands of geese and ducks either taking off or landing in the ponds.

It is important to note that this is probably the last of our multi-year tree-planting efforts at this site. The Monahan ponds have received a lot of trees, in all different sizes and species over the past few years, to

complete the planting plan prepared by the diligent staff at the City of Ottawa Forestry Dept. If the beavers can be kept out of there, it should really become a beautiful, naturalized park in years to come.

Niel Barrington,

#### **6.1.4. Jock River/ Barrhaven Spring Clean Up**

We are seeing an increased use of Half Moon Bay on the Jock River and along with it more garbage and litter.

Over the past few years the Friends of the Jock River has taken a leadership role in spearheading spring cleanups and for this year we partnered with the Barrhaven Business Improvement Association to organize the clean up in the southern part of Barrhaven (Greenbank Road/Jockvale Road, extending down to Half Moon Bay on the Jock River). As part of a city-wide clean-up initiative, the City provided clean-up equipment and materials, and had crews on site to carry off the collected garbage.

The clean up date was set for Friday, April 27th from 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. and, despite the rain, the turn out was good. St. Joseph's High School opted to participate on the following Monday because of the rain.

I would like to acknowledge and thank the individuals as well as the many government departments, companies, and organizations that participated; to name just a few: residents of Jockvale and Barrhaven, Loblaws, Wal-Mart, The Satir Learning Centre, Lions Club, Scouts, Mother Teresa High School, Mattamy Homes, Barrhaven Independent Newspaper, Ottawa City Surface and Traffic crew, Ross's Independent Store, St. Joseph's High School and others who know who they are.

The total garbage collected was approximately 1450 kilograms

Classes from St. Joseph's School have since done clean up sweeps on a regular basis at Half Moon Bay and along Greenbank Road.

It is expected that The Friends of the Jock River will again take a leadership role in protecting our river and environment with a cleanup in 2008.

Tom O Wright  
Director

#### **6.1.5 Stonebridge Vegetation Management Plan**

Several years ago, trees planted in the Stonebridge area by the Friends of the Jock River were mown by City staff and a year later, trees planted by the Scouts (and tended by FJR) were also mown by City staff. While the events were upsetting, they actually initiated a process that has had and will have much further reaching benefits. The events brought together the Friends of the Jock River, the Stonebridge Community Association, a member of the City's Forest and Green Space Advisory Committee (OFGAC), and the City of Ottawa Forestry Services to discuss a vegetation management plan for most of the shoreline properties owned by the City of Ottawa in the Stonebridge area. These included a 150-200 m wide band along the Jock River extending from Jockvale Road, to about 200 m east of the Heart's Desire Weir, including the play structure area and paths around the Levesque sports fields.

In late 2006, Julie Jackson (City Forestry), Bill Armitage (Stonebridge), Nicole Parent (OFGAC), and myself met to discuss the immediate issue of the mown trees; and the larger and much longer term issue of the development of a site plan, planting plan (if necessary) and a maintenance regime that would identify areas to be mown/not mowed and stipulate frequencies. Later we walked most of the length of the Stonebridge

pathway and presented our views on what we would like to see in the future for parts of the pathway area, such as:

- an area of wildflower meadow in the current open space south and east of the weir;
- planting of a few large specimen trees within the meadow;
- planting of trees alongside some of the playing fields for spectator shade;
- planting of some larger trees near the play structure;
- moving the cedars planted by the Scouts to a more appropriate location (OFGAC suggestion);
- replanting of trees and shrubs on top of the sewer pipe where it crosses under the Jock River. The vegetation planted earlier as part of the sewer installation had been vandalized;
- planting a diverse area of native trees over the small hill south west of the playing fields; and
- creating overall, a safe, attractive location for passive recreation.

Julie said that the areas extensively planted over the past decade by the FJR alongside and northwest of the Levesque fields are well planted out and will not need any further planting.

In May or early June the City planted trees and shrubs over the sewer to replace those vandalized earlier (see above). Also, some of the new cedars were removed from their unsuitable locations near the footpath.

The City produced a draft plan in July, 2007, incorporating the points discussed in our meeting and walk-about. A more detailed plan was presented in October, 2007.

In November, 2007, using funding from a Trees Canada grant (with matching funds from City), the City planted about 26 of the larger trees outlined in the detailed plan. (NB this same funding provided all of the potted trees for our spring 2007 tree plant at the Monahan Stormwater Pond area.)

The City will provide the trees and shrubs (200, all in pots) for a spring 2008 tree plant by the Stonebridge Community Association to cover the small hill south west of the playing fields. The city will also provide tree wrap protection and a water truck. The FJR accepted a request from the community association to provide assistance in the tree plant tentatively set for May 24, 2008. Most of this assistance will be in planting instruction to Stonebridge participants, supervision and quality control.

Brian Finch

#### **6.1.6. Tree Plant Signage**

After 500 of our trees planted along the edge of the nature path in the Stonebridge area were mown by City staff in 2005, the City's Forestry Department staff recommended that signage may have prevented the destruction. We concurred. We also felt that some other FJR tree plants may be at risk so we applied in 2006 to the City for funding through its Community Environmental Projects Grant Program (CEPGP) to make 50 signs to identify and delineate our tree plants. The City provided us with a grant of \$940.

The printing of the signs proved to be more expensive than anticipated so the printing run was cut back to 30 signs and we asked the City's Transportation Division whether we could pick over its stash of bent galvanized steel street sign posts. In an afternoon of dumpster diving I was able to find and cut enough posts of sufficient length for our signs, plus I cut a few shorter posts for securing and supporting waste barrels around Half Moon Bay.

The installation of the signs will be done in early 2008.

Brian Finch

#### **6.1.7. Half Moon Bay Tree Wrapping**

Over the past number of years, trees at Half Moon Bay on the Jock River at Greenbank Road have been devastated due to injury from cars, kids, erosion, and ice storms. And now the beavers were going at the trees.

Julie Jackson, Program Coordinator, Ottawa City Forestry Services provided wire mesh and cable ties for our pilot project to wrap around most of the trees. On October 20<sup>th</sup>, we wrapped 70 trees at Half Moon Bay with the help of a student from the Environment Club at St. Joseph High School, residents of Jockvale/ Barrhaven, and members of the Friends of the Jock River. The pilot project proves the ease with which trees in the riparian zone can be protected from beavers

Tom O. Wright  
Director

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

### **6.2.1. 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 some of 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 24 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 (the Ontario Ministry of the Environment (MOE) refused request); and a private resident of Richmond filed a complaint with the Professional Engineers of Ontario against 4 engineers involved in the project (pending).

Independent experts told the City the pipe would cost much more than the \$8.7 million estimated by the City's consultants; the actual costs are now about three times the \$8.7M figure. In 2005, the City's auditor, Mr. Alain Lalonde initiated an audit of the whole Munster wastewater issue and the report was initially scheduled for completion in June 2006. The final report was released May 9, 2007 and can be viewed at [http://ottawa.ca/city\\_hall/mayor\\_council/auditor\\_general/2006/11\\_munster\\_hamlet.pdf](http://ottawa.ca/city_hall/mayor_council/auditor_general/2006/11_munster_hamlet.pdf). We had expected the report would be much more critical of the City's handling of the project.

Independent experts also told the City that there would be an odour problem at the Richmond Pumping Station because of the low flow and length of the pipe. Approximately two weeks after the activation of the forcemain in April 2005, there were odour problems at the Richmond Pumping Station. MOE issued 2

orders against the City to fix the problem by September 2005. The City installed a bioscrubber without success and then a bio-filter but the odours have persisted intermittently into fall 2006. The latest odour incident was on Thanksgiving Day 2006. On Friday, November 3, 2006, Richmond residents were informed that the City of Ottawa was served notice by MOE that it is being charged with allowing the odours from the Richmond Pumping Station to adversely affect/impact its neighbours. Note that MOE took approximately 14 months from its deadline for charges to be laid. In 2007, the City was fined \$65,000.

Brian Finch

### **6.2.2. Trail Road Dumpsite Leachate**

I was a member of the public liaison committee (PLC) on the environmental assessment of the options to deal with leachate from the Trail Road Dumpsite. 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.

To deal with the contaminated groundwater from the Nepean Landfill the City designed and constructed an on-site contaminated groundwater extraction and treatment system, and put it into full operation in May 2006. The system strips the VOCs from the ground water and the water is discharged to an existing pond in a sand quarry immediately to the south of the dumpsite on Moody Dr.

On the Trail Road dumpsite leachate issue, the Ontario Ministry of the Environment (MOE) has paid close attention to the treatment plant as the effluent, following treatment, 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. The City had agreed to a MOE request that toxicity testing be done using actual species from the Jock River to establish acceptable levels of contaminants.

However, a change in the operation of the dumpsite (capping one heap and starting another) resulted in a expected substantial reduction in leachate amounts starting in 2007 from the current rate of approximately 110,000 cubic meters per year, ramping down to an estimate of 1,200 cubic meters per year in 2010 to 2015. Following 2015, the amount of leachate produced will rise\*. Consequently, the City has decided to continue hauling and "treating" the leachate at ROPEC until the operational impact of the changes is known. Detailed design for an on-site leachate treatment plant has been deferred. The City will use the next two to three years to determine the most appropriate means of designing and operating the on-site leachate treatment facility under these altered conditions.

I will continue to monitor the site to ensure that a suitable leachate treatment facility is built.

\*Note: Two major initiatives could seriously reduce leachate over the mid to long term. The City is initiating City-wide composting in March of 2009, which will reduce a major leachate-producing component of the landfill waste. Further, the experimental Plasco plasma waste gasification technology, if successful (initial results are positive) and if adopted by the City, could also significantly reduce waste inputs to the landfill site.

Brian Finch

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

We had thought that the Jock River Reach One Subwatershed Study concluded in late 2006/January 2007 but we received a thick (7 cm) document labeled the “Final Report June 2007” after it had been sent to Council for approval. We were allowed 30 days for comment.

The earlier report required modification as further soil testing in the planned development area south and west of Barrhaven required reductions in the depth that stormwater sewers could be placed. This in turn required more stormwater treatment ponds and a re-evaluation of options.

We did not comment on the amended and final report.

Brian Finch

#### **6.2.4 Jock River Reach 2 Watershed Study**

To date, a draft Existing Conditions Report has been produced documenting the natural resources (fisheries, wetlands, forests, stream erosion, water quality and quantity, and groundwater) within the study area. The Friends of the Jock River received the draft report in April 2006.

Some time in mid-2006, further work on the Jock River Reach 2 Subwatershed Study was unofficially put on the back burner and separated from the Mud Creek subwatershed pending the resolution of wetland issues in the Goulbourn area. The potential wetland additions to the provincially significant Goulbourn Wetlands Complex, evaluated in 2005 and located within the Jock River Reach 2 Subwatershed study area were identified to be part of provincially significant wetlands by complexing (a process that identifies significant wetland within proximity to provincially significant wetlands). The status of these lands is currently being discussed with affected landowners, interest groups (FJR) and agencies (municipal, regional and provincial) to resolve the questions and concerns in regard to local drainage changes, definition of wetlands, methodology for identifying wetlands and potential impact on property values from wetland identification and Official Plan designation (see separate report). These discussions are specific to natural environment issues within the subwatershed study area, thereby necessitating the delay. Note that these discussions could affect wetland issues in the remaining parts of Ottawa, in Eastern Ontario and the rest of Ontario.

Unfortunately, the development pressures in both Stittsville and to a lesser extent in Richmond continue. Without guidance from a subwatershed study and the designation of provincially significant wetlands in the City’s Official Plan, we are seriously concerned that valuable natural resources will be mismanaged, damaged, irrevocably altered or totally destroyed. We are particularly concerned about the wetlands, and the aquifers, creeks and streams they supply.

Brian Finch

#### **6.2.5. Riverbend Golf Course Rezoning Application**

Late in 2005 the City laid a charge against the company that owns the Riverbend Golf & Country Club for expanding the golf course in 1998 and 1999 onto land not zoned for golf course usage. The Riverbend Golf & Country Club then applied for rezoning and site plan approvals for the approximately 23.5 acres affected (known as Phase 2) and the charges were dropped. (Note: we have been told that the City has a policy of dropping this type of charge once the application has been filed.)

In May 10, 2006, the City requested comments from FJR on the application, which was requesting a rezoning from Rural to Open Space for one area and from Environmental Protection Area to Special Exception in another, to allow the golf course expansion. (Note: Environmental Protection Area zoning specifically prohibits golf courses.) In addition, Riverbend requested various but minimal setbacks from the Jock River, even though development (including golf courses) throughout the City must be set back from

watercourses by the greater of: 30 m from the normal high water mark; or 15 m from the top of the bank, where it can be defined. The purpose of these setbacks is to help preserve the environmental quality of watercourses and their aquatic habitat and to provide a margin of safety from hazards such as flooding or unstable slopes. In the instance of golf courses, the setbacks also provide protection from both nutrient and pesticide/herbicide/ fungicide run-offs into watercourses.

The Friends of the Jock River wrote the City in June 20, 2006, asking that the application be rejected as it did not provide a natural buffer sufficient to protect the shoreline and river. We added that the proposed planted buffer was non-existent in places resulting in a discontinuous buffer and that the suggested planting species was limited to one type of shrub, red osier dogwood. We asked that a naturally vegetated buffer of a range of native trees and shrubs be required, measuring the greater of 30 m from the high water mark or 15 m from the top of bank.

We had other problems with the application but one was of particular concern. Riverbend requested setbacks of tees and greens from the top of the bank stating they were between 5m and 15m but upon walking the river bank we were able to determine that the actual widths of the planned buffer were less than shown on the site plan. One proposed 5m wide buffer was measured to be just 1.4 m from the top of bank.

City staff and the RVCA requested, received and reviewed a Golf Course Impact Assessment Report and Phase 2 Natural Environment Assessment of the buffer along the Jock River. The City accepted the recommendations of the Environment Assessment report but asked the applicant to provide a landscape/planting plan that implements the recommendations of the Environment Assessment report. The City received the consultant's report in early May 2007. While it appears that there was acceptance by the applicant of the 30 metre buffer as an official requirement, Riverbend contends it would be too difficult to have a buffer of the required width. In its place, the golf club has offered compensation via new or improved buffer areas along parts of the river elsewhere through the golf course in exchange for some smaller buffer areas along the part of the river through the 23.5 acres not presently zoned to allow a golf course usage (Phase 1). However, there was little detail presented other than a fairly crude indication on a map of where these buffer areas might be. The widths of the proposed setbacks were not stated and details on the vegetation planting were inadequate.

In September, 2007, Riverbend submitted another report from its consultant regarding proposed vegetation planting in setbacks in the illegally developed Phase 2 area but there was nothing further on a detailed landscaping compensation plan for Phase 1.

Conclusions: The amended planting plan proposes a significant increase in the number of trees and shrubs to be planted in the Phase 2 shoreline buffer area of the golf course; however, these setbacks range in width from only 1.4 metres to 10 metres and are insufficient to protect the Jock River. The Friends of the Jock River has indicated to the City that, if permitted under the bylaws, FJR could accept a continuous 10m - 15m wide (as measured from top of bank) vegetative buffer under the conditions that:

- compensation be provided by the addition of a continuous, vegetated riparian buffer of reasonable width throughout Phase 1. (While unstated, any buffer less than 10-15m would be unacceptable.);
- both Phase 1 and 2 buffers be fully planted with a range of woody trees and shrubs; and
- golfers must be prevented from entering the buffer zones.

We believe that this is a reasonable compromise from the required 30 m buffer.

By the end of 2007, the City has not re-laid the charges against the golf course despite considerable foot dragging by Riverbend and significant failures to conduct requested studies and to provide requested information. Further, no attempt has been made by the Riverbend or its consultants to demonstrate that the

golf course can be re-designed to meet the 30 metre setback requirement, or any increased setback for that matter. We believe the golf course can be modified.

Some time ago, the Ottawa Citizen columnist Randall Denley quoted Grant Lindsay, the city's manager of development approvals, as saying that he "will have no problem recommending whatever it takes to make sure the river is protected. If that means moving golf holes, that's Frank Chiarelli's problem... . It's the risk developers take when they don't get approvals upfront." Our recommendation to the City is to follow through with this statement and get on with the process.

Brian Finch

#### **6.2.6. Riverbend Golf Course Water Taking**

The Riverbend Golf and Country Club (Riverbend), situated on the Jock River at the Franktown Road bridge, has been operating without a permit to take water (PTTW) since April, 2004, when its previous permit expired. In 2005, the Riverbend requested a PTTW, which FJR and many others opposed; 208 comments were received. MOE rejected Riverbend's application on September 29, 2005.

While the club can legally take up to 50,000 litres per day without a PTTW, we have been told by a local golf course manager that this amount is quite inadequate for a local golf course the size of Riverbend. We have received reports that Riverbend has been irrigating its greens but do not know whether it has been within or outside the permitted 50,000 litres per day limit. In this respect, the Ottawa area has generally received adequate precipitation over the last four summers and the need for more water may have been unnecessary. Regardless, Riverbend has a poor record on water taking issues (2 previous charges) so we remain concerned that the golf club might attempt to take more than the allowed amount in a dry summer.

Brian Finch

#### **6.2.7. Designation of Provincially Significant Wetlands in Goulbourn**

Late in 2004, a professional wetlands evaluator hired by the City of Ottawa identified 20 additional wetlands, comprising 262 ha, to be complexed into the Provincially Significant Goulbourn Wetlands Complex, in the former Township of Goulbourn. The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) has concurred that the lands were provincially significant wetlands (PSWs).

Most 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 PSWs in the City of Ottawa's Official Plan (OP). According to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH), the City is required by the Provincial Policy Statement to protect identified PSWs by designating them in the OP. The landowners claim that wetland designations devalue 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 contend the evaluation process, based on the identification of wetland plant species, is unscientific but they have yet to provide their own science experts or scientific evidence to support this position. A number of them formed a group, the Goulbourn Landowners Group, to oppose the designations.

Several of the landowners cleared the vegetation from their properties (6 of the 20 identified wetland parcels) 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 PSWs.

Note: there are no municipal or provincial laws or regulations that prevent the wholesale destruction of wetlands plant species in wetlands that have been evaluated as PSWs. Once they have been designated as PSWs within the Official Plan there is protection.

In late 2005 the City stopped its OP amendment process to allow for a number of issues to be addressed. Since then, the City struck a Wetland Stakeholder Group comprising government (City staff, politicians, provincial MNR and MMAH), government advisory groups (Ottawa Forest and Greenspace Advisory Committee, Ottawa Environmental Advisory Committee), conservation authorities (RVCA and Mississippi Conservation Authority), landowners and interested groups (FJR). In addition, the MNR initiated a review of the criteria used to add or complex new wetland areas to existing Provincially Significant Wetlands. A group of landowners also petitioned to have part of Flowing Creek designated a municipal drain. The City promised to review possible compensation options.

#### Current Status:

The beavers and dams that the landowners have been complaining about were removed by the City during the summers of 2006 and 2007.

The reviewed wetland evaluation protocol was originally slated to be complete by the end of 2006 but, 2 years later, there is still only a rumour that a draft has been circulated to some MNR officials. It has not been released to the public for consultation and comment.

In its latest meeting in late November, 2007, the Wetland Stakeholder Group was presented with an update on the Engineer's report for the application on the drainage petition for Upper Flowing Creek. RVCA has reviewed the fish habitat assessment and identified a list of outstanding questions. The RVCA did not have the Engineer's Report and there was no assessment of the effects of the proposed project on fish habitat, which have to be verified in the spawning areas in the spring. It is more challenging to meet the Fisheries Act requirements than in the past. The engineer will have to work with MNR to respect the wetland and protect it, while providing drainage to affected property owners. The report may be completed summer 2008, but some view it as an optimistic schedule.

The City has put out a White Paper on Compensation Options for Wetlands and Other Environmental Lands located at [http://ottawa.ca/residents/public\\_consult/beyond\\_2020/papers/white/wetlands\\_en.html](http://ottawa.ca/residents/public_consult/beyond_2020/papers/white/wetlands_en.html) on the City's web site and has invited public comment.

Brian Finch

#### **6.2.8. Richmond Conservation Area Community Advisory Team**

In mid-2006, Lynn Preston, Watershed Planning Coordinator, Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA) invited the Friends of the Jock River to participate in a Community Advisory Team (CAT) to assist in the development of a management plan for an expanded Richmond Conservation Area (RCA). Members of the former RCA management team (comprising community representatives and the Rideau Trail Association), the Richmond Village Association and the Ottawa Field Naturalists were also invited. City staff was at the table to represent the City's interests.

The RVCA hired consultant David Lashley of Lashley & Associates to combine the two previous management plans (drafted in 1997 and 2003) with policies and standards of the city and the RVCA for those publicly-owned lands within Richmond that run along the Jock River. These lands include both City-owned land, the largest single parcel comprising the old RCA, and RVCA-owned land. Since the corridor lands are on one or both sides of the river with only occasional interruptions by private lands, collectively, they form an almost contiguous shoreline corridor from the old RCA near Eagleson Rd. to the southern end of Richmond at Ottawa St.

The goal of the project was to prepare a consolidated management plan that would guide the development and management of the old RCA and the corridor lands for the next 20 years. The CAT met several times

but its involvement in 2007 was fairly slow; however, there appeared to be a fair amount of activity in the first part of the year between the consultant, and RVCA and City staff.

A draft management plan was near completion in June but, unfortunately, the project became bogged down. Lynn Preston is still trying to salvage the management plan because of her belief in the enormous potential of the project and of the area. I concur. I believe that the old RCA and the corridor lands together are a terrific asset for Richmond and other City residents. I favour a mixed use for the area, with the lands inside Richmond being managed as natural recreational or natural open space, and the lands in the old RCA being managed as a natural conservation area and a bird watching location. The views of the members of the CAT are fairly consistent with this direction.

The web site <http://www.richmond-conservation.ca/> gives a brief overview of the RCA and provides a map.

Brian Finch

### **6.2.9. Emergency Flood Action Information**

In late 2007, the Friends of the Jock River asked questions of the different authorities on actions required should there be flooding in the Jock River watershed. In early 2008, we hope to consolidate the information on our website so that it will be readily available.

Tom Wright

### **6.2.10 Hearts Desire Weir**

Over the years we have noticed erosion along the south shore of the Jock River within the flood plain of the Heart's Desire Weir and we have always suspected that some, if not a substantial amount of the sloughing is due to the annual cycle of filling (weir is installed in May after the run-off has subsided) and emptying (weir is removed completely in early fall). This shoreline is characterized by steep banks, heavy, moisture-laden clay soil, and no stabilizing vegetation in the 4 foot zone flooded by the weir.

In the consultation stages of both the RVCA's Jock River Watershed Plan (2001) and City's Jock River Reach-1 Subwatershed Study (2007) we pointed out the erosion problem and suggested the Heart's Desire Weir may be the cause. We asked that the issue be studied and that consideration be given to the permanent removal of the weir. We also noted that the weir is a total barrier to fish movement for the entire time it is installed and for part of the remaining time (weir out) when there is low flow over the weir sill.

This year, at or near the peak of the spring flood I noticed a substantial land slide into the river on the bank opposite Isbister Ave. (in Heart's Desire) and discussed the implications of the erosion on the Stonebridge path with Bill Armitage, President of the Stonebridge Community Association. At this site, the path is only a few metres from the top of the slide. On April 17, 2007, Bill sent a letter, cosigned by me, to Del Hallett, General Manager, RVCA asking the authority to assess the situation before the weir was installed in May. Knowing how the RVCA functions with such issues, I was confident that the authority would involve the City of Ottawa (owner of the path and eroding shoreline), the necessary provincial and federal authorities, as well as the two affected communities - Heart's Desire and Stonebridge.

The RVCA contacted Bill and me by telephone to discuss the issue and then wrote back May 4, 2007, indicating a willingness to investigate. At a meeting May 18, 2007, with representatives of all of the players, a decision was made to install the weir this year and initiate a study of the topography, hydrology and ecology of both the weir's floodplain and the river from the weir to the Rideau River. Unfortunately, the lateness of the request meant that a full study would not be made.

On November 5, 2007, a public meeting was held at the Club House of the Stonebridge Golf Club to provide some background on the weir and to present the RVCA's findings. Some points presented/discussed included:

- the weir was installed in 1975 for no apparent reason other than aesthetics. For some time, there had been an incorrect assumption that the weir had been constructed to provide water for fighting fires. The Ottawa Fire Service has indicated that it does not need the weir.
- prior to the construction of the weir, a beaver dam just a few metres downstream of the current weir location was present most summers.
- residents indicate that the previous water level in the flat section of river within Heart's Desire was as much as 2 feet above the current weir-out level. There was some speculation that the profile of the river bottom was lowered during the weir construction. There was a request that, if the weir were permanently removed, the previous water level be restored. The role of the beaver dam in providing more water depth was not discussed. Nor was there discussion of the implication of raising the river bottom on 100 year flood events.
- some residents regularly swam in the river prior to the installation of the weir and indicated that water was as much as 13 feet deep.
- an inquest into a drowning death at the weir during a June flood in the 1980's recommended removal of the weir.
- the RVCA has both annual costs and safety concerns associated with the installation and removal of the weir.
- in the meeting the RVCA was somewhat equivocal about the role the weir plays in causing erosion, accepting arguments there was an absence of concrete proof, but staff has since indicated (in one-on-one conversations) a belief that the weir is implicated in the flood plain erosion.
- water would be up to the driveway of the last house on Goodwood Dr. in a 100 year spring run-off event (weir-out) but would have little effect. However, a 100 year event in the summer (weir-in) might be more serious and the RVCA, as operator of the weir, has some concerns about its liability.
- under the current concern for the environment, if the weir were considered for construction today, it is highly unlikely the approval would be granted.
- if the weir were removed, there are many programs, both provincial and federal, that could assist in re-vegetating the river banks in the weir floodplain.
- there is erosion both above and below the weir but is markedly different due to the soil conditions - glacial till below and clay above the weir.
- the RVCA would like to conduct a study in the summer with the weir out in order to study the effect the lower water levels would have on the river environment and on fish and invertebrate populations.
- some Heart's Desire residents refuted that there was no erosion along the river. Two in particular were disruptive and rude, which set an uncomfortable, combative tone for the meeting and made the exchange of information difficult.

RVCA staff will present its recommendation for future activities/studies to its board in the early 2008.

Brian Finch

## **6.3 Other Projects**

### **6.3.1 Human Resources and Social Development Canada**

FJR has again sponsored a summer student under the Summer Career Placement Program, Human Resources and Social Development Canada (HRSDC) to work at the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority. The total amount of the grant from HRSDC to FJR was \$4,370 which we provided to RVCA to top up the wages of the summer student, Lisa Thompson (same student as last year). The RVCA hired Lisa, and supplied the supervision (Jennifer Lamoureux, Aquatic and Fish Habitat Biologist), financial logistics (paying out wages, etc.) and training. RVCA incurred all of the financial liability, as they were not paid until well after she returned to university. As in the past, FJR had asked that at least 50% of the summer student's time be spent on environmental activities within the Jock River watershed.

Based on a letter of thanks from Dell Hallett, General Manager and Secretary-Treasurer, RVCA, it is apparent that Lisa spent most, if not all, of her time on Jock River-related work.

“Lisa assisted with the Heart’s Desire Weir study which involved assessing fish habitat on both the upstream and downstream sides of the existing weir (see separate report on the Heart’s Desire Weir). Lisa also helped with sampling for the Ontario Benthos Biomonitoring Network which assesses water quality using stream insects as indicators. Seven locations throughout the Jock watershed were sampled. The collected information is to be shortly posted on the RVCA’s Watershed Information System on the website ([www.rideauvalley.on.ca](http://www.rideauvalley.on.ca)). “

Brian Finch

### **6.3.2 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 increased the selling price to \$20.

Sales for the remainder of 2007 have been slow. Three shirts were given to the Jock River Race Committee to use as prizes.

Brian Finch

### **6.3.3 Upper Jock River Race - Spring 2007**

Every year a group of paddlers from Richmond organize a spring canoe and kayak race on the upper Jock River between Munster Side Road and Richmond. Much of the race is through the Richmond Fen Wetland, which is flooded at this time of year. For further information on the race committee and on the upcoming race, check out their website at [www.jockriverrace.ca](http://www.jockriverrace.ca).

Race day for 2007 was a perfect day on Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, and, according to the organizers, the participation was the best turn out ever - over 200 entrants. The Friends of the Jock River again supported the race committee by organizing the car shuttle team to transport participants from the finish line back to the starting line to pick up their cars. The Friends of the Jock River also supplied 3 T-shirts for door prizes and we gave FJR membership to all who registered in the event.

We were also very pleased to promote at this race Mr. Jay Morrison who was going to continue the second half of his cross-Canada paddle in a canoe his own design and construction.

Tom O. Wright

## **7. 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:

## Nomination Committee Report

The Nomination Committee polled several members of the Friends in good standing for positions on the Board of Directors. The committee is made up of the following members: Doug Watson, Brian Finch, Tom Wright and Niel Barrington.

The committee submits this list of nominations for the year 2008.

### For Executive

President -----	Brian Finch
Treasurer -----	Brian Finch
Secretary-----	Niel Barrington

### For Board of Directors

Director for Membership-----	Tom Wright
Director for Projects and Actions-----	Niel Barrington
Director at Large-----	Kelvin Burnett

I would bring to the attention of all FJR members that the Nomination Committee would be pleased to accept nominations for any of the above positions as well as the positions of:

- Vice-president
- Director for Publicity and Public Relations
- Director for Water Conservation and Usage
- Director for Publicity and Public Relations
- Director for Fundraising

Nominations for any of the positions can be made prior to the meeting (please call Niel Barrington at 823-3643). Nominations will also be accepted from the floor during the AGM. All nominees must agree to the nomination and must be members in good standing with a current membership.

Respectfully submitted,

Niel Barrington  
Nomination Committee Chair