

Friends of the Jock River

Annual Report
2009

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Website: www.jockriver.org

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For errors, omissions and comments please call Brian Finch at 825-8029 or e-mail at 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 for Water Conservation and Usage	<i>vacant</i>	
Director at Large	Kelvin Burnett	825-1042
Director at Large	Bill Armitage	692-4577
Director at Large	Jennifer Jodoin	NA

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
	Kelvin Burnett	825-1042

Other

Editor of 2009 Annual Report	Brian Finch	825-8029
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2 President's Report

Garbage clean-up, tree planting and the monitoring of development activity in the watershed have remained the major activities of the Friends of the Jock River for year 2009, our thirteenth year. In 2008, Tom Wright encouraged the board to run a photo contest directed towards school children within the watershed and in the spring of 2009 we expanded the contest to all ages, wherever they lived in Canada. Tom successfully approached more than 25 businesses and organizations, and received an incredible range of donated prizes ranging from digital cameras, paddles, restaurant meals, loot bags to \$100.00 gift certificates. Collectively, the prizes were worth thousands of dollars. We greatly appreciate the support. See Tom's report for more.

Our guided canoe/kayak excursions into the Richmond Fen Wetland continued to be well appreciated.

Both I and the board extend considerable thanks to the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority, Trailhead and Ramez Sam Eido of Barrhaven Computer Services for their support of our programs. The RVCA provided a grant of \$750 for our tree plant in support of the implementation of the 2001 Jock River Watershed Plan. Trailhead covered the cost of a second printing our bumper sticker "The Jock River - Paddle It - Protect It".

Ramez continues to work our new FJR website at our www.jockriver.org location. More details can be found in separate reports.

In an effort to become more efficient at meetings, we put out a request for the donation of a lap top computer and the prognosis looks good that we will receive one in early 2010.

As I have said in the past, we continue to have a positive influence in advancing the health of the watershed. The City and other agencies continue to seek our opinions on environmental matters and our leadership has engaged many Scouts, Girl Guides, school children, businesses, and land owners in environmental activities and stewardship within the watershed. In the 13 years we have been around, we have reforested significant parts of the shoreline of the Jock River and tributaries with over 12,000 trees. Some of our trees planted in our initial years are now over 4 m tall.

In this 2009 version of our annual report, we report on our involvement and participation in tree plants, an environmental assessment, plans for a city park, a fight to save wetlands in peril, a garbage clean-up, zoning, and more. In recognition of our sponsorship of a summer student at the RVCA, our organization's name is displayed in the RVCA atrium as a *Partner in Conservation*.

Some of our executive positions went unfilled in 2009, notably the vice-president position and a director position. 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

As noted in the President's Report, above, our big tree plant in May was funded by a grant of \$750 from the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority covering the purchase of bare root seedling trees, and supplies. The funding from the RVCA for the 2009 plant was supplied in early 2010. The item for RVCA funding in the financial statement is actually funding for our 2008 spring tree plant that was received in early January, 2009.

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 has changed. This does not affect our ability to apply for and recover these funds from Revenue Canada.

With the donation of prizes for the photographic contest, a system of tracking for the receipt and presentation of these "donations in kind" was initiated.

Fundraising through sales of our T-shirts has been slow.

3.2 Financial Statements

Balance Sheet 2009

			2009	2008	Variance
ASSETS					
	Chequing - TD - Canada Trust Account	\$	3,136.90	2,701.75	435.15
	Petty Cash	\$	60.00	10.00	50.00
	Accounts Receivable (GST)	\$	240.93	240.93	0.00
	Other Assets	\$	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Advances/Loans	\$	0.00	0.00	0.00
	T-shirts 52 @ 8.7318	\$	454.05	515.18	(61.13)

	Total assets	\$	3,891.88	3,467.86	424.02
					=====
LIABILITIES					
	Accounts Payable	\$	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Total Liabilities	\$	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Equity - Beginning	\$	2,701.75	3,191.06	(489.31)
	Receipts Plus Dispersements for Year	\$	485.15	329.19	155.96
	Total Equities	\$	3,186.90	3,520.25	(333.35)

Cash Flow 2009

INFLOW		
	Donations	
	Photo Competition (\$)	\$900.00
	Photo Competition (Goods in Kind)	\$2395.83
	Unrestricted	\$68.74
	Grants	
	HRSDC (Summer student)	\$4074.00
	RVCA	\$750.00
	Memberships	
	Corporate sustaining	\$200.00
	Family	\$175.00
	Supporter	\$120.00
	Volunteer	\$80.00

	T-shirt sales	\$20.00
	TOTAL INFLOWS	\$8,783.57
OUTFLOW		
	Bank Service Charges	\$59.40
	Licenses and Permits	\$86.00
	Miscellaneous	\$6.55
	Office Supplies	\$57.45
	Printing and Reproduction	\$261.44
	RVCA (HRSDC summer student)	\$4074.00
	Photo Competition (\$)	\$749.32
	Photo Competition (Goods in Kind)	\$2395.83
	Tree Plant 2009	\$608.43
	TOTAL OUTFLOWS	\$8,298.42

Brian Finch

4 Membership

The membership of the Friends of the Jock River continues to grow with the addition of members from the Upper Jock River canoe/kayak race in the spring of 2009.

Our membership in 2009 was 312.

In 2008 the Board took steps to permit the payment of membership fees via the internet which some new members for 2009 took advantage of. As expected, the Photo Contest of the Jock River brought in an additional 84 members and produced over 200 photos for our website display and archives.

We expect with the completion of our information sheet and map of the Jock River in the early spring of 2010 that this will also bring in additional members and groups. With the huge number of homes being built at Half Moon Bay and in the Richmond area, we expect our membership base to grow. We are presently looking into ways to inform these new residents of our organization and welcome any suggestions.

Tom O. Wright
Director

5 Website

Our FJR website at www.jockriver.org is managed and maintained by member Ramez Sam Eido, owner of Barrhaven Computer Services and our website e-mail contact is member Doug Watson.

Our photo contest presented a lot of work for both Ramez and Doug. Ramez produced the colourful photo contest poster that is prominently displayed on the web site (and was used extensively in the advertising campaign for the contest), displayed all photo entries and set up a display of all winners with their winning photographs. Doug received all e-mail submissions for the photo contest entries, conducted the initial acceptance test and forwarded the applications to Ramez and the Board.

Ramez also implemented the web-based financial tools PayPal for the payment of membership dues and www.canadahelps.org for the submission of donations, to facilitate secure online transactions. The use of both tools cost us a small proportion of the total transaction but they represent a positive, secure convenience for our members and supporters.

Early in 2009, Doug removed all useful pages and information from our old site www.geocities.com/jockriver and the site was taken down.

We continue to get many hits on our websites with an all time high of 2500 visits in December - undoubtedly related to the photo contest. We had an estimated 15,000 visits in 2009. We average about 5 e-mails per month routed through our website e-mail contact, Doug Watson. Some are questions 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. We also get announcements from different organizations such as the City of Ottawa, the RVCA and the Richmond Village Association.

Many thanks Ramez and Doug for your work. (Note: Ramez can be contacted at Barrhaven Computer Services, phone (613) 851-7870, website <http://BarrhavenComputerServices.com>).

Brian Finch

6 Project Reports

6.1 Restoration and Environmental Enhancement Projects

6.1.1 Burnett Spring Tree Plant

The FJR completed yet another successful tree plant along the Jock River this spring. The permission to plant trees along this stretch of land was generously given by Mr. Kelvin Burnett, a longtime resident of the Jock River watershed and currently a member of the Executive Board of the Friends of the Jock River.

An absolutely beautiful morning dawned on "P-day", Saturday, May 2nd, as 145 boy scouts, cub scouts, leaders and assorted family members piled out of numerous mini vans, cars and pick up trucks at our designated parking area at the Foster Stormwater Pond, located off Cedarview Rd. at the Jock River. The troops then proceeded a short way to our planting area, a narrow strip of land along the rivers' north side just downstream of the Cedarview Road Bridge. The Boy Scouts provided a safety monitor to cross Cedarview Rd.

As usual, to start the day, FJR president Brian Finch provided a quick review of effective tree planting techniques, including proper depth of hole, "saving" the soil, planting the seedling (NO AIR POCKETS), watering and "tamping" the little freshly planted tree and finally, the correct placement of the 'cut n sliced' carpet square over the seedling. FJR tree plant coordinator Niel Barrington worked to distribute the seedlings and ensure enough water was employed to keep the seedling's roots from drying out, while FJR Board member Bill Armitage worked non-stop to help the whole enterprise along. The portable tents supplied by the City made an effective headquarters for the event, providing shade and shelter to both seedlings and scouts.

Local politicians, the Honourable MP Pierre Polievre and our Queen's park MPP representative, Ms. Lisa McLeod, were on hand to lend moral support and rousing words of encouragement to this worthy venture and even tried their hand at a little tree planting.

With water-buckets, seedlings and shovels in hand, the teams of scouts spread quickly down along the shoreline, planting the assorted tree seedlings in any open spot they could find. (There is some mature trees along this stretch of the river, mainly black willow, ash, and Manitoba and silver maple, but we found plenty of room for more trees)

The cub scouts were excited to see the tractor and wagon, driven by Mr. Kenny Burnett to deliver the piles of carpet squares we used as weed suppressing mulch around trees. It made me realize many kids today have never even seen a tractor up close and it really proves that tree-planting is not only good for the river ecosystem; it is also good for the community, in that the event brings different members of the watershed together and introduces the children to another environment that is so close, yet truly different than the suburb they live in.

The morning passed quickly in the concentration and required energy of the work and the scouts did a great job putting the stock in the ground. Around 12:30, the promised pizza arrived hot and on schedule and the ordering, delivery and distribution of the slices to over 125 hungry little bellies was handled with great efficiency by FJR member Nicole Freeth, assisted by Board member Tom O.Wright.

Below is the list of commercially purchased trees that were planted on the Saturday:

Tamarack	100
White pine	100
White spruce	50
Green ash	50
White cedar	20
Black willow	10

Burr oak	10
Sugar maple	10
Black elderberry	10
Wild plum	10
Yellow birch	10
White birch	10
Red osier dogwood	10
American highbush cranberry	10
Wild raisin	10

On the next day, Sunday, May 3rd, a quality control sweep was made of Saturday's tree plant and the installation of the carpet squares was completed. Also, an additional 106 trees were planted in the odd vacant spots on the same site, plus in two other locations: along the fence line parallel to Cedarview Rd. and in open spots in an earlier tree plant site just across Cedarview Rd. (the site of the Foster Stormwater Pond). These trees came from President Brian Finch's backyard nursery:

Black walnut + handful of butternuts	103
Oak (likely burr oak)	3

The Sunday crew was composed of a few FJR members and 1 lone, extremely hard-working community volunteer.

The total number of trees and shrubs for the weekend came to 426.

We placed carpet square mulch or Tassu collars, pinned with two landscape staples around all of the trees. All of the deciduous trees and shrubs, excluding the tamaracks, were protected with plastic spiral wraps.

The number of participants came to:

Scouts	99
Family members of scouts	40
FJR members	6
Public	8
High School students (Community Service hours)	2

for a grand total of 155.

The FJR board wishes to thank the City of Ottawa, the RVCA and the Boy Scouts of Ottawa for their help and hard work on this FJR project.

Niel Barrington

6.1.2 Barrhaven/Half Moon Bay/Jock River Spring Clean-Up

A spring clean up was hosted by the Friends of the Jock River and Barrhaven Business Improvement Association (BBIA) on April 22, 2009, in Barrhaven and along the Greenbank Road corridor to Half Moon Bay on the Jock River.

A wide range of participants pitched in to do the clean up, including businesses, residents, local councilors and staff, local media, and Ottawa City surface crews (total number - 75 adults) and students from local, participating schools: Berrigan Public School, St. Joseph High School, Mother Teresa High School, Cedarview Middle School, Farley Mowat Public School, St. Andrew Catholic School, Adrienne Clarkson Elementary School, St. Emily Catholic School, John McCrea High School (total of 7865 students in schools).

Summary:

- Students that came to the Ross' B.B.Q in appreciation of the participants (while cleaning en route from their school): 130.
- Number of local schools participating in clean up effort and Ross' Independent FUN raising prize package contest: 9.
- Litter/recyclable and yard waste picked up by participating schools: 1700 kg.
- School that picked up the most: Mother Teresa High School.
- Litter/recyclables picked up from business clean-up: 995 kg.
- Total amount collected during the Friends of the Jock River and Barrhaven BIA 2009 Spring Clean Up: 2695 kg.

A more concerted effort will have to be made to bring the new residents from the Half Moon Bay area on board for the 2010 spring clean up.

Kelvin Burnett
Tom O. Wright

6.1.3 Tree Plant Signage

In 2006 we applied 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. Costs required us to reduce the number to 30.

Only a few have been installed around a small tree plant around Half Moon Bay.

The signs have been set to go for some time and we had anticipated to complete their installation in 2009 but were not. Installation of the signs must be done in early 2010.

Brian Finch

6.2. Monitoring, Assessment and Planning Projects

6.2.1 Riverbend Golf Course Rezoning Application

The Riverbend Golf & Country Club expanded its golf course in 1998 and 1999 onto land not zoned for golf course usage. For more background information on this issue, please see Section 6.2.1 in our 2008 Annual Report on our website.

The Riverbend Golf & Country Club requested a change in the zoning that would allow a golf course but was unwilling to relocate any golf course playing surfaces despite current requirements for the development of a golf course requiring development to be set back from watercourses by the greater of: 30m from the normal high water mark; or 15m from the top of the bank, where it can be defined.

The Friends of the Jock River took the position that, because of the pre-existing golf course playing surfaces, it could accept a compromise position of a continuous and fully planted shoreline buffer of 15m from the top of the bank, less than the required 30 m, if the proponent provided a continuous 15m vegetated shoreline buffer throughout the rest of the golf course. Our position required removing any playing surfaces within any of the 15m buffer areas in the subject lands.

In August, 2008, City Council allowed the zoning change and passed a bylaw recommending the following site plan stipulations:

1. the establishment of a 15m setback (buffer) from the high water mark within the subject lands;
2. compensation would be provided by extensive planting within this 15m buffer;
3. golf course surfaces within this 15m buffer would not be required to be moved; and
4. in compensation for golf course playing surfaces within the 15m buffer, the creation of a planted 15m buffer throughout the rest of the proponent's golf course on lands that are not the subject of the rezoning request.

The Friends of the Jock River filed an appeal of the decision to the Ontario Municipal Board in September. One other private citizen filed an appeal. Apparently the appeals were premature as the final approval of the site plan application has not been granted and the required site plan agreement has not been entered into with the City.

As of the end of 2009, we understood that neither the final approval of the site plan application had been granted nor the required site plan agreement made. However, in mid-January, 2010, we were told that a request for plan of subdivision was filed on December 19, 2009, to "redevelop part of the Riverbend Golf Course, consisting of the 18-hole executive short course, into a 26 lot country estate subdivision on private water and wastewater services. All lots are proposed to have an area of 0.8 hectares or greater and to front onto internal roads. Approximately 19.3 hectares in the southwest portion of the golf course is proposed to be developed into 21 lots on a new cul-de-sac with a connection to Franktown Road. Approximately 4.7 hectares in the northeast portion of the golf course, east of the Jock River, is proposed to be developed into 5 lots on a new cul-de-sac with a connection to Copeland Road."

Details are on the City of Ottawa website at <http://app01.ottawa.ca/postingplans/appDetails.jsf?lang=en&appId=7TFK9Q>.

We have not had an opportunity to evaluate the application other than to note that the 4.7 hectare northeast portion includes a large chunk of the lands subject to the original rezoning request while the remaining chunk of the subject lands remains as golf course.

The 19.3 hectare portion of the plan may also be of concern to us as several of the proposed lots back onto or are fairly close to the Jock River, and the Dowdall Drain (Rogers Creek), a tributary of the Jock River, runs through several more lots. Also, an internal service road crosses the creek.

Brian Finch

6.2.2 Riverbend Golf and Country Club Permit to Water Take Water

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 the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) rejected. It made another application some time in late 2007 or early 2008. The amount of water requested was reduced from the 2005 permit application and the new proposal stipulated reduced taking amounts during lower water levels with a cutoff at a still lower level. This cutoff level had been established by a study conducted by a fish biologist hired by Riverbend. The RVCA's fish biology experts had no objections. With the science based approach taken by Riverbend and RVCA concurrence, we could not find any real basis for concern and did not object to the request.

As of the end of 2009, MOE has been silent on the Riverbend request - neither rejecting nor approving it - suggesting that something else might be going on. The only study done on downstream effects related to fish but perhaps MOE has concerns about possible effects of the water taking on the other flora and fauna in low water conditions. It is important to note that the Richmond Fen Wetland, the largest provincially significant wetland in Eastern Ontario, lies downstream of the golf course. Without a PTTW, the club is still legally allowed to take up to 50,000 litres per day from the Jock River and apparently has been making do on that amount, although, we have been told by a local golf course manager that this amount is quite inadequate for a golf course. We have been concerned that Riverbend may be exceeding the allowed amount.

Brian Finch

6.2.3 Designation of Provincially Significant Wetlands in Goulbourn

Background:

If you are not aware of the extensive background of this issue, you should read section 6.2.3 in the Friends of the Jock River 2008 Annual Report on our website.

In a nutshell, Ottawa identified 20 additional wetlands, comprising 262 ha, to be complexed into the Provincially Significant Goulbourn Wetlands Complex, in the former Township of Goulbourn. These wetlands are in the Jock River watershed and drain into Flowing Creek, a small tributary entering the Jock River in Richmond just upstream of the Eagleson Bridge. Many of the 60 affected landowners strongly opposed having any part of their lands designated as provincially significant wetlands (PSWs) in the City's Official Plan (OP). Several of the landowners cleared the vegetation from their properties (6 of the 20 identified wetland parcels), destroying the wetlands.

Note: for the Ottawa region, 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 prior to their designation as PSWs within the Official Plan. Once designated they are protected (sort of).

Some landowners contended that drainage has been improperly managed and petitioned to have a municipal drain installed in Upper Flowing Creek.

Current Status:

The Engineer's report for the application on the drainage petition for Upper Flowing Creek is complete. The cost of the drainage works is an issue and is being resolved. I expect work to commence in 2010.

To deal with the contention that the City was stealing the landowners' land without compensation, 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 on the City's web site and has invited public comment.

In a letter May 28, 2008, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) informed the City that it had identified new Provincially-Significant Wetlands, within the City of Ottawa. This updated mapping added 3,600 hectares (9,000 acres) of new provincially significant wetlands, and removed 775 hectares (1,900 acres) that were previously designated. Some of these properties include the Goulbourn wetlands. The letter requested that the City modify its Official Plan to reflect these changes. More information on the MNR letter and a significant amount of information of wetlands can be found at http://ottawa.ca/residents/planning/wetlands/index_en.html.

Despite MNR's request, the City opted to deal with these Goulbourn lands within the Official Plan by placing the subject lands under a special policy area designation, known as the Flewellyn Special Policy Area. The remaining wetlands identified in the MNR letter will be designated as PSWs in the Official Plan. The following provision in Official Plan Amendment 76 was proposed.

“3.2.5 - Flewellyn Special Policy Area

Land in the vicinity of Flewellyn Road and Conley Road has experienced drainage problems unique to the area in the past. Council has resolved to address these problems through municipal drain maintenance and drainage improvements, including the potential for works under the Drainage Act in 2009. The Ministry of Natural Resources has also identified provincially-significant wetlands within the Goulbourn Wetland complex in this area. These wetlands are not designated in this Plan. Their wetland status will be re-evaluated approximately five years after the completion of the drainage improvements, so as to capture the effects of the drainage improvements on the wetland features and functions.

Policies

1. The Flewellyn Special Policy Area is designated on Schedule A to allow for correction of drainage problems and protection of provincially-significant wetlands in the area. The following policies will apply:
 - a. The City in consultation with the Ministry of Natural Resources will evaluate the wetland status of lands within the Flewellyn Special Policy Area through a new study following the Ministry of Natural Resources’ wetland evaluation process in effect at the time of reevaluation. The evaluation will be initiated not less than five years following completion of drainage works targeted for 2009. The Plan will be amended within a year of completion of the evaluation to designate any provincially significant wetlands identified by the Ministry of Natural Resources. The Plan will also be amended to remove the Special Policy Area designation.
 - b. The provisions of the underlying designations on Schedule A will apply to lands within the Special Policy Area until or unless a development application is filed under the Planning Act, for example to change the zoning of a property or to create new lots through subdivision or severance.
 - c. Where a development application under the Planning Act is filed, the following policies will apply:
 - d. Land within significant wetlands identified on maps maintained by the Ministry of Natural Resources and land within 120 m of these wetlands will be subject to the policies of Section 3.2.1 on Significant Wetlands and all applicable policies elsewhere in this Plan;
 - e. All other land will be subject to the policies associated with the underlying designations and all applicable policies elsewhere in this Plan;The boundary of significant wetlands identified on maps maintained by the Ministry of Natural Resources may be amended based on more detailed site investigations, with the approval of the Ministry of Natural Resources.”

City Council approved Official Plan Amendment No. 76 (OPA 76) on July 10, 2009 and from there the amendment was submitted to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) for approval.

We wrote to the MMAH suggesting that this proposed handling of wetlands may be problematic for several reasons:

First, the proposed process to deal with significant wetlands as special policy areas outside of the designation process is unique in the province and may create its own set of administrative and legal problems that could compromise the intended protection.

Second, while this proposal appeared to protect these lands, within the City of Ottawa there were large gaps in the protection intended by the province. City staff has been stating that the conservation authorities (CAs) are responsible for protecting PSWs and the City does not get involved in protecting wetlands (or even PSWs for that matter) outside of issues relating to lands under a development plan. Meanwhile, the RVCA board had directed its staff to apply its wetlands regulations (Regulation 174/06) only to those wetlands designated as PSWs in the City's Official Plan. Consequently, the wetlands in the Flewellyn Special Policy Area would not be protected by the RVCA.

The net effect is that the wetlands that had been evaluated as provincially significant wetlands (but not designated in the Official Plan as such) would be protected from development under the special policy provision but not from destruction by other means. Furthermore, there would be nothing to deter a developer from destroying one of these wetlands, and having the wetland evaluated and declared as no longer provincially significant. After some time, the developer could then apply to develop the land so, in effect, the lands covered under the Flewellyn Special Policy Area designation would not actually be protected from development.

The Minister of MMAH reviewed Official Plan Amendment 76 in the fall of 2009 and wrote the City proposing the deletion of the entire provision relating to the Flewellyn Special Policy Area and requiring the designation of the significant wetlands as PSWs within the Official Plan Amendment 76.

All of the Minister's proposed modifications were reviewed at a joint meeting of the Planning and Environment Committee and the Agricultural and Rural Affairs Committee in November. In background documentation, City staff had incorrectly indicated that the RVCA Board had modified its directions to RVCA staff to protect the wetlands within the Flewellyn Special Policy Area (more on this in Section 6.2.4). Staff also recommended that the joint committees reject the Ministers modifications but councillors decided against making any decision for the reason that Councillor Glenn Brooks was in negotiations with the Minister's office and had some expectation that the MMAH might drop its modification.

It was well known that Glenn Brooks and the Goulbourn Landowners Group had meetings with the Jim Watson's (Minister MMAH) office staff and applied a lot of pressure to have the protection for the wetlands dropped.

On December 7th, the MMAH wrote the City allowing the Flewellyn Special Policy Area amendment with modifications:

"3.2.5 - Flewellyn Special Study Area

Lands in the vicinity of Flewellyn Road and Conley Road have been identified and designated on Schedule A as the "Flewellyn Special Study Area". The purpose of this overlay designation is to restrict development until such time as the appropriate studies are completed. Once the studies have been completed, the City will amend this Plan to remove the Flewellyn Special Study Area overlay

designation and confirm the appropriate land use designations and policies for the area.

Policies

1. Notwithstanding the underlying designations on Schedule A of this Plan, no new development, as defined in Section 4.7.8, will be permitted until the Flewellyn Special Study Area overlay is removed.
2. Uses that lawfully exist on the date that this provision comes into force are recognized and may continue."

There are some very interesting (and potentially disturbing) aspects to the latest version:

- The lands are now a study area, rather than a policy area;
- The purpose or nature of the "study" is now unstated and "fluffy" compared to the original re-evaluation of wetland status following the completion of the drainage improvements. As far as we are able to determine, there are no "studies" underway within this area and none are mandated. Nothing is said about wetlands;
- The timeline is unstated, whereas before it was "approximately five years after the completion of the drainage improvements". Previously, the Official Plan had to be amended within a year of completion of the evaluation to designate any provincially significant wetlands but the new proposal is silent on the timeframe for modification of the Official Plan;

Note that neither the earlier proposal nor the MMAH proposal protects the wetlands against site alteration. In this respect, Section 4.7.8. defines "development" and "site alteration" separately:

- Section 4.7.8. Policy 3. Development is defined as creation of a new lot, a change in land use, or the construction of buildings and structures, requiring approval under the Planning Act, but does not include activities that create or maintain infrastructure authorized under an environmental assessment process; or works subject to the Drainage Act.
- Section 4.7.8. Policy 4. Site alteration is defined as activities, such as grading, excavation and the placement of fill that would change the landform and natural vegetative characteristics of a site.

At least one individual has appealed the Flewellyn Special Policy Area provision in OP Amendment 76 to the Ontario Municipal Board.)

Brian Finch

6.2.4. RVCA Generic Regulation 174-06

This regulation relates to the entire Rideau watershed (much more than just the Jock River watershed) but it came to our attention through our involvement in the wetlands in Goulbourn, which had been identified as provincially significant wetlands (PSWs). See

Section 6.2.3. "Designation of Provincially Significant Wetlands in Goulbourn", for more background information.

The Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA) operates under the Conservation Authorities Act (1990). Pursuant to the act, Generic Regulation 174/06: *Regulation of Development, Interference With Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses* relating to Sections 28(1) and 28(8) of the act specifically requires conservation authorities to protect "wetlands" (not just provincially significant wetlands). In 2006, the RVCA board directed its staff to apply Regulation 174/06 only to those wetlands designated as PSWs in the City's Official Plan. The reasoning was that the RVCA did not have the resources to fully administer the regulation or the information on the non-PSWs.

We knew that the RVCA staff was working on the resources and information issues but we didn't know the progress.

The City decided not to designate the Goulbourn wetlands within the Official Plan as PSWs even though they had been evaluated as PSWs, accepted as such by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) and were directed to designate them as PSWs by both MNR and the Provincial Policy Statement. (Note that here is a difference between "evaluation" as a PSW and "designation" as a PSW.) Instead, the City opted to deal with these Goulbourn wetlands within the Official Plan by placing the subject lands under a special policy area designation, known as the Flewellyn Special Policy Area. If they were not to be designated as PSWs, the RVCA staff would not have been able to protect them under its Regulation 174/06.

On May 8, 2009, I wrote Mr. Alan Arbuckle, Chairman, RVCA Board Board Members, RVCA Board, asking that the RVCA Board observe its legal requirements by doing the following:

1. As an interim measure, alter its direction to staff to apply its administration of Generic Regulation 174/06 to all wetlands evaluated as provincially significant and accepted as provincially significant by Ontario MNR. Because the lands identified in the MNR letter had already been identified and were currently unprotected, this change was required immediately.
2. Within calendar year 2009, provide a mechanism and timetable for the full implementation by the RVCA of Generic Regulation 174/06: *Regulation of Development, Interference With Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses*. Understandably, the full implementation may take some time but the implementation stages and timelines must be defined by the Board within the year.

In August, the Board passed the motion:

- That in response to the request by the Friends of the Jock River as well as the findings from recent analysis of watershed conditions and needs that the RVCA change its approach to wetland regulation such that the primary prerequisite for application of the regulation will be that the MNR has deemed the feature "provincially significant".

- In addition the locally significant wetland features in the referenced table will be brought into the program based on our understanding that administration of the regulation will be complementary to the municipal interest in protecting the feature as expressed in the OP.
- Staff are to include the wetland features (in the accompanying table) in Public Information sessions to be held this Fall and to report back to the Board.
- And further that an update to the Work Plan for more comprehensive implementation of Ontario Regulation 174/06 including lakes, other wetlands and valley and stream corridors be brought to the Board of Directors in December 2009.

The Staff held its public consultations in the fall, and in December brought to the Board a proposed significant update of the coverage of the regulation. In particular, staff recommended:

- RVCA move to regulate all wetlands in the watershed where these features are evaluated by MNR as being "provincially significant" (thus removing the requirement that the feature also be designated PSW in an approved Official Plan)
- RVCA move immediately to regulate other evaluated wetlands deemed "*locally significant*" where the administration of the regulation would be considered as complimentary to already existing municipal policies (OP and/or zoning) intended to protect these features.

The many additions required the modification of the majority of the RVCA's maps of features to be protected.

During the discussions, Director Glenn Brooks (also the City of Ottawa councillor for Ward 21 - the ward that includes the Goulbourn wetlands) proposed excluding the changes to maps that include the Goulbourn wetlands. Surprisingly, the motion passed.

The remaining part of the proposal passed.

Glenn Brooks succeeded in dismantling the protection for the significant wetlands in Goulbourn despite Generic Regulation 174/06 that requires the RVCA to protect wetlands. The RVCA cannot protect these wetlands. With respect to the City's requirement under the Provincial Policy Statement, the proposed OP Amendment 76 is not much better. The protections for the identified significant wetlands in Goulbourn are triggered ONLY if a request for development is made. A landowner can destroy all or part of the significant wetlands on his/her property by leveling all vegetation, altering the site (grading, excavation and the placement of fill that would change the landform and natural vegetative characteristics of a site) and possibly even alter watercourses (destruction of fish habitat notwithstanding). If a landowner intends to develop, the landowner can choose to destroy the wetland, have the lands re-evaluated and then submit a development plan when the significant wetland evaluation is dropped.

Brian Finch

6.2.5. Hearts Desire Weir

The following relates to a joint request made in the spring of 2007 by the Stonebridge Community Association and the Friends of the Jock River to remove the Hearts Desire Weir near the bottom of the Jock River, just upstream of the confluence of the Jock and Rideau Rivers. Background information on this topic can be found under Section 6.2.5 of the 2008 Annual Report on our website. Other background documents can be found on our website under the "Issues" line.

In June, 2008, the RVCA wrote me to say that the RVCA Board had passed a resolution at its May, 2008, meeting:

That the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority will not permanently remove the Hearts Desire Weir until such time as a full review is undertaken and that a restoration plan and budget has been approved by the Board; and

Further that the RVCA apply resources, starting in 2008, to the preparation of a possible decommissioning plan, in consultation with directly affected public and private landowners along the affected river reach, and regulatory agencies; and

That the RVCA apply for Provincial funding through the Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure Program, in fiscal 2008-2009, to support the preparation of a possible decommissioning plan; and

That the RVCA adopt as its interim policy (to be in effect until such time as a decommissioning plan has been finalized to the satisfaction of directly affected landowners, regulatory agencies, and the RVCA), the continued annual installation and removal of the Hearts Desire weir, provided that attention and due diligence shall be applied to the additional requirements associated with "Policy Option 1", as set out in the staff report herein.

Later in the early fall of 2008, Anne Bendig, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (OMNR), and Mark Ferguson, Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), wrote to the RVCA strongly supporting removal of the weir. Both provided strong scientific arguments and each offered assistance in the development of a restoration plan for the Jock River at the Hearts Desire Weir.

In the spring of 2009, Bruce Reid informed me that the weir panels were going to be installed and that the RVCA had been unable to secure grants for the project.

As of the end of 2009, the status of the project is unclear. In early 2010, we will have to rekindle the project (if it has, indeed gone dormant) and we will start by asking the RVCA for an update.

Brian Finch

6.2.6. Half Moon Bay Park on the Jock River

Park Plans

In February, 2008, Kevin Wherry of the City's Parks and Recreation Branch invited local residents and Friends of the Jock River to view, discuss and comment on the conceptual design for the new Half Moon Bay Park that Mattamy Home's landscape architects and the City had been working on. We liked the plans and had a few requests and concerns, which were relayed verbally.

We were promised that FJR would be kept up to date on developments but that has not been the case. We were able to get draft plans for both parts of the park - Mattamy to the west and Tamarack (Taggart) to the south - which we displayed at our Annual General Meeting, in April, 2009. The plans had to be returned right afterwards but we asked for them back to allow us to put together our comments. Despite several reminders, we never got them.

Through the summer of 2009, Mattamy constructed two culverts (one for Greenbank and another for a new road running parallel to and about 60m from the river) over a meandering watercourse to connect the new stormwater ponds to the river. The wide valley of this watercourse will be planted with trees in a park-like setting. A path along its length will be a passive recreational connection between the Half Moon Bay Park and the park around the large stormwater pond. While it is still only partly finished, these connected parks should be well appreciated and well used by the community.

In November we wrote to the City outlining the following comments:

1. Several decades ago, the City of Nepean invited contractors to dump fill into the shoreline area between Greenbank Road and the Jock River. One or more of these loads was asphalt. The asphalt can be seen protruding from the current riverbank and extending in a line approximately 12 m long starting 55.6 m downstream of the southwestern end of the Greenbank Bridge. The southern end of this line is about 4 m from an ash tree on the shoreline and 15.5 m from the asphalt surface of Greenbank Road. We have marked the ends of this line of asphalt with wooden stakes.

Since the asphalt lies well within the flood plain and is in very close proximity to the river, the asphalt deposit should be investigated and removed. In the absence of any RVCA, City or other science-based guidelines, we suggest that any asphalt within 20 m of the normal shoreline be removed.

2. We recommend more conifers be planted to provide a better mix of conifers and deciduous trees. In addition, we would like a greater portion of the shoreline to be treed for several reasons. More trees provide a greater degree of shading for the water, greater filtration and containment of contamination flowing to the river, and improved control of shoreline erosion, whether it is caused by nature or by man.

3. The park should have racks/lock-up for bicycles dispersed throughout the site.

4. On one draft plan we noted the placement of a community mailbox within the park about half way down the western edge of the park. We feel a mailbox at this location is inappropriate as there is always trash (junk mail) associated with mailbox sites and the strong prevailing wind in this open site will blow much of this trash throughout the park and into the river. We ask that the mailbox be moved to a location outside the park.

5. We planted trees along the southern shoreline of Half Moon Bay more than a decade ago. Since then, we have been watching the shoreline quite closely and have observed ongoing erosion, with losses of as much as 1 m of clay shore in one spot.

During the Jock River Reach 1 Subwatershed Study, we verbally objected to the results of the meander belt study in this particular shoreline, citing the lack of sufficient data points in the meander belt study. Specifically, the study derived straight line meander limits between existing river bends with the result that the highest degree of projected meander was between bends and not AT the bends where meander actually happens. We feel that insufficient concern has been paid to the issue of the stability of the clay shoreline in the development of the plans for the southern/Tamarack portion of the park. We have several comments relating to this subject:

- 5.1. There should not be any planned permanent shoreline structures within the 100 m section downstream of the canoe launch site. We believe the fishing pier seen on the draft plan is a mistake. In addition to the shoreline erosion noted above, ice during spring run-off will congregate and provide its highest shear along the southern shore so ice damage to the pier can be expected. Even if supports were cantilevered from the shore to deal with the ice, over time the erosion of the bank would compromise the pier supports.
 - 5.2. Human park activities should be kept away from the shoreline in the 100 m section downstream of the canoe launch site. Our reasoning is that human activities will simply degrade shoreline vegetation and exacerbate the high erosion rate of this shore. In addition, the instability and steepness of the shore together pose a potential danger to the public, particularly during high water events. We suggest the erection of an unobtrusive fence about 5 m back from the top of bank in this area.
 - 5.3. The existing trees along the shoreline within 50m downstream of the canoe launch site should be retained at all cost. The existing line of hawthorn trees actually serves several purposes: the trees are well established and their dense roots provide substantial erosion control; the trees are an established natural habitat for a range of birds; and their thorny character provides a substantial deterrent to human activities along the shoreline.
 - 5.4. The remaining portion of shoreline in the 100 m section downstream of the canoe launch site should be extensively planted with shrubs and deep rooted trees. This planted strip should be a minimum of 10 m wide.
6. We don't understand the reason for the so-called "cut" in a part of the southern shoreline.
7. It should be forbidden to launch and to use motorboats in Half Moon Bay. Our reasons are: the flat water portion of the river between rapids is too small for powered craft; motorboats will cause more erosion along the south shore; and motorboats experiencing engine problems will have difficulty with the current and the lower rapids.

8. The rapids below Half Moon Bay pose a danger to capsized boaters and to inexperienced boaters tempted to run them. We propose the placement of warning signs at the canoe launch and on both sides of the river upstream of the rapids.

The letter was copied to Jan Harder, the RVCA, Mattamy and Tamarack.

Since then, a new planner has taken over the Half Moon Bay Park file and initial telephone discussions with her have been very encouraging. Meetings are expected in 2010.

There has been an exchange of e-mails with RVCA about the asphalt and there appears to be little scientific work done on the effect of asphalt on watercourses. We will have to follow up on this issue with both RVCA and the City.

Greenbank Bridge

April, I sent an e-mail to Jan Harder about our concern about the increased pedestrian traffic over the extremely narrow Greenbank Bridge. We suggested getting pedestrians completely off the bridge by hanging a temporary pedestrian walkway on the outside of the bridge.

Jan thought that Mattamy had already considered a pedestrian bridge. By the late fall, construction of the pedestrian bridge had started and sidewalks were added to the east side of Greenbank Rd. extending from the Mattamy gazebo (near the stormwater outflow) to the St. Joseph High School. The bridge addition was completed in January 2010.

In November, we sent a letter to Tom Carmody of the Roads Department of the City of Ottawa indicating our concern about the large number of large and heavy truck on the bridge. Quite a few trucks had hit the cement corners on the bridge damaging both bridge walls and trucks. We felt that it was only a matter of time until an accident caused a spill of industrial or construction materials into the river, causing serious environmental damage. We asked the City to ban large truck traffic over the Greenbank Bridge. The City reacted very quickly and within about two weeks had banned truck traffic from Greenbank Road, between Jockvale Rd. and Cambrian Rd.

Brian Finch

6.2.7 Richmond Community Design Plan

In 2008, the City initiated a review of the Richmond Community Design Plan (CDP). This village plan was likely due for review but it was undoubtedly accelerated by Mattamy's interest in developing 325 acres to the immediate west of the current village. To a lesser extent, interests in the development of the Mulligan properties to the east of the village may have had an influence.

Many aspects of the review process were up for consideration, for example: village heritage and character; future land use areas; livability of community; servicing and

groundwater; transportation and pathways; open space; and recreation and community services. Committees were struck to look at the different issues.

One of Richmond's residents had been keeping me abreast of the progress via e-mails and I decided to become more involved after the minutes indicated that one committee member wanted to clear unsightly shoreline vegetation from the river's edge. At the next meeting I made a short presentation about the importance of a natural shoreline. In the course of the meeting, I found they were unaware of two other issues important to their work:

- Builder's fees had been collected by Goulbourn to pay for a stormwater management system in Richmond but the funds had never been spent. Later, City staff indicated they were able to track down the funds; and

- A considerable amount of work had already been done to identify the recreational and environmental potential of the river corridor lands owned both City and RVCA-owned lands through Richmond from the Richmond Conservation Area (RCA) to Ottawa St.

I briefly summarized the work that had been done by the earlier Richmond Conservation Area Management Teams (under the former Goulbourn and later the amalgamated City of Ottawa) dealing with the City-owned lands around the decommissioned sewage lagoons (known as the Richmond Conservation Area, located to the east of the village) and the work of the RVCA and Richmond Conservation Area Community Advisory Team relating to both City and RVCA-owned lands through Richmond from the Richmond Conservation Area (RCA) to Ottawa St. I also mentioned that all of this historical work had been combined by Lynn Preston (RVCA) in a draft management plan, which summarized the state of the lands and the work needed to develop and maximize the environmental and recreational potential of the corridor. (Background on the Richmond Conservation Area may be found in previous Annual Reports, available on our website.)

I sent a copy of the RVCA draft plan to Rose Kung, a City planner heading up the Parks and Pathways Subcommittee, and in June, I met with a group of eight City planners for a walk-about in the rain through the Jock River and Arbuckle Drain corridors. We dried out in a restaurant and had a good discussion on a wide range of issues, such as:

- stormwater management (the flat terrain, the clay soils and extensive floodplain are all complicating factors);
- fisheries (good riparian vegetation along the Jock River in Richmond which supports a good coolwater fish population);
- agriculture and drains (agriculture affects water and both Arbuckle Drain and Flowing Creek are heavily channelized; Flowing Creek is most polluted tributary);
- private wells (all private wells in Richmond are shallow);
- Richmond Conservation Area and outreach (issues are lawn encroachment into natural area along river and RVCA; lagoons management; trying to get some of principles of past RCA management plans into the CDP);
- Mattamy (save trees and hedgerows; recommend owner awareness packages about environmental issues for new developments and have Mattamy sell Jock River and connect community to the river);
- Friends of Jock River (I gave overview of group);

- sanitary servicing (there is serious division within CDP review over piping sewage to ROPEC versus on-site tertiary treatment);
- recreation and paths (improve the connectivity to and along the river; consider easement purchase when lands come up for sale; when McBean Street Bridge is rebuilt, try to connect pedestrian route to Jock River Park; add picnic area in Jock River Park; reduce mowing right up to the edge of watercourses in Jock River Park)

Subsequently, I have continued to press the CDP review committee to seize the terrific opportunities presented by the near contiguous nature of the Jock River and Arbuckle corridors. I have asked that there be concrete steps within the CDP to acquire the lands to make these corridors contiguous or to negotiate rights of way for recreational pathways. Further, I have requested that these corridor lands in Richmond be joined by similar use designations to the natural corridors within the Mattamy lands to the west and the Mulligan lands to the east.

Brian Finch

6.3 Other Projects

6.3.1 Human Resources and Social Development Canada Student Employment - RVCA

FJR 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 (RVCA). The total amount of the grant from HRSDC to FJR was \$4,074 which we provided to RVCA to pay for a summer student. 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.

The RVCA again hired Kaitlin Grant, a university summer student, who was our summer student in 2008 as well. The RVCA supplied the supervision, financial logistics (including topping up wages) and training. RVCA incurred all of the financial liability, as they were not paid until well after she returned to university.

The following is any edited report from the RVCA of Kaitlin's work from May to August.

Species At Risk Habitat Mapping Verification

Kaitlin assisted with the implementation of the RVCA's new Species at Risk Verification protocol on the Jock River from the mouth at the Rideau to just upstream from Greenbank. Measurements taken include stream width, stream depth, UTM co-ordinates, substrate composition and instream vegetation.

The data will be used to verify that the Species at Risk could potentially use the Jock for critical habitat.

The following Species at Risk work was performed:

- # of sections surveyed 44

- # of temp probes 3
- # of electrofishing sites 1
- # of seining sites 5
- # of windemere traps sites 2
- # of fyke net sites 0

All data were entered into a database.

Ontario Benthos Biomonitoring Network(OBBN)

A total of seven stream sites were assessed using the OBBN (Ontario Benthos Biomonitoring Network) protocol. The OBBN protocol samples bottom dwelling bugs (benthic invertebrates) to determine water quality and habitat quality using a biological method which compliments water chemistry sampling programs. Benthic invertebrates represent the larger organisms that inhabit the bottom substrates of aquatic habitats for at least part of their life cycle. Typically this fauna includes aquatic insects (e.g. stoneflies, mayflies, caddis flies, beetles, true bugs, true flies), crustaceans (e.g. isopods, amphipods, crayfishes), molluscs (e.g. snails, clams, mussels), annelids (e.g. leeches, oligochaetes), and a few other groups (e.g. proboscis worms, flatworms).

The work involved sampling in May (and October by other RVCA staff) at the following 7 stream sites within the Jock River Watershed:

Flowing Creek*	FL-1	at Garvin Rd
Jock River	JO-1	at Prince of Wales
Jock River	JO-2	at Ottawa St
Hobbs Drain*	HO-1	at Bleeks Rd
Kings Creek*	KI-1	at Jock Trail Rd
Nichols Creek*	NI-1	at O'Neil Rd
Rodgers Creek*	RO-1	at Dowdall Dr at Heron Lake Rd

* designates Jock River tributaries

All stream spring and fall samples were identified in-house. Resulting data were entered into database and one page summary reports for 2009 were combined with historical results dating back to 2003. The 2009 reports have not been finalized as of yet and will be sent out early in April 2010.

“The work accomplished by Kaitlin would not have been possible without the generous support of the Friends of the Jock.

Once again, thanks to the Friends for helping us accomplish another piece of environmental work on the Jock this year. We look forward to the opportunity to perhaps partner with you again next summer.”

The Friends of the Jock River greatly appreciates the HRSDC’s Summer Career Placement Program. Without it, this environmental work would not have been done.

Brian Finch with input from Dell Hallett and Adrienne Lewis (both RVCA)

6.3.2 Upper Jock River Canoe and Kayak Race - Spring 2009

The annual spring canoe and kayak race on the upper Jock River between Munster Side Road and the Jock River Park in Richmond is organized by a serious group of paddlers from Richmond, known as the Upper Jock River Canoe and Kayak Race Committee. The race date is chosen to closely follow the spring run-off. The participants pass through (although hurriedly) the flooded Richmond Fen Wetland, a very special part of the Jock River.

Several years ago, the Friends of the Jock River volunteered to assist 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.

In addition to volunteering this year with the car shuttle, the Friends of the Jock River supplied 3 FJR T-shirts for door prizes and FJR memberships to all who registered in the event. We used the event to promote ourselves by displaying our banner and handing out our FJR bumper sticker, which we suggested be attached to canoes.

Race day for 2009, Saturday, April 11th, was cool (high about 6 degrees) and clear but well attended. According to the organizers, there were 200 participants in 139 canoes and kayaks, one of the best turnouts ever.

For further information on the race committee and on the upcoming 2010 race, check out their website at www.jockriverrace.ca.

Brian Finch

6.3.3 Photographic Contest - An Appreciation of the Jock River

A photo contest titled "Appreciation of the Jock River" was launched by the Friends of the Jock River in September, 2008, with a closing deadline of October 31, 2009. The Jock River, its tributaries or wetlands had to be the main subject of the photograph or have a recognizable relationship with the main subject.

The competition was originally open to primary and secondary school students who live or go to a school within the Jock River watershed, with a closing date of May 2009 but at the urging of the Ottawa Riverkeeper and Canadian Geographic, we decided in February, 2009, to open the competition to all Canadians, regardless of age or where they live, and to extend the deadline until October 31, 2009. Plus we divided entrants into three categories: youth (grade 6 and younger); teens (grade 7 to grade 12); and adults.

This first photo contest organized by the Friends of the Jock River came together with positive results for both the participants and FJR. 84 entrants submitted a total of 205 photos; actually, more photos were submitted but we had the difficult task of rejecting some as they were submitted late or the applications were not filled in. Judging was by Glenn Russell and Jane Ritchie.

During a blinding snow storm (22 cm), Dec. 9, 2009, over 40 people attended the awards night at the Rideau Valley Conservation Centre. While the prizes were handed

out by President Brian Finch or directors Kelvin Burnett and Tom O. Wright, the individual winning photos were projected on the big screen in the main RVCA meeting room. In addition, all of the entered photographs were projected both before and after the awards ceremony. Thanks to Lorne Duke for preparing the two PowerPoint presentations. The attendees were also treated to a display in the building lobby of the 27 mounted winning photos.

There were first, second and third place prizes in each of the three categories and a total of 18 honourable mention awards. Winners received prizes ranging from a digital cameras (total of 6), back packs, paddle, gift certificates and FJR T-shirts.

In all, over 50 sponsors donated prizes and time worth about \$4,000.

Special mention goes to Doug Watson, who received all the photographs, and Ramez Edio of Barrhaven Computer Services who built the display of photos on our website.

To further promote the Friends of the Jock River and this jewel of a river flowing through the area, the display of 27 mounted winning photos will now go on a road tour. The photos will be exhibited in a range of businesses and centres throughout the Ottawa area in 2010. Some of the locations are TD Banks, elementary and high schools, Trailhead, Henry's, and the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority Centre.

Congratulations to our winners:

Youth: Adam Eido; Nhan Tran; Celine Eido; Daniel Eido.

Teen: Summer Bourgon; Chelsea Ross; Emma Eggerston-Johns; Nick McEwing; Samantha Sjodin.

Adult: Frank McGregor; Gwen Williams; Gordon Bell; Cynthia Bates; Keith Duknic; Ramez Eido; Lori Guitard; Ruth Jones; Max Finkelstein; ; Cindy Wendler; Rod Wilson.

The photographs may be viewed at www.jockriver.org

Tom O. Wright

6.3.4. Canoe/Kayak Excursion into the Richmond Fen Wetland

I led two afternoon canoe/kayak excursions on Sunday, April 26th and Thursday, April 30th, up the Jock River from the Centennial Golf Course into the Richmond Fen Wetland, the largest provincially significant wetland in Eastern Ontario. We met at the end of Joy's Road beside the Richmond Centennial Golf Course at 12:00 noon on both days and returned about 4 hours later. A map of the area can be found at: <http://www.jockriverrace.ca/Map.html>.

We had 5 boats on Saturday (4 canoes and 1 kayak) and cool, overcast weather, with the occasional drop of rain. On the following Thursday we had 7 canoes and sunny weather in the mid-teens.

Our put-in at the end of Joy's Road was within the wetland on its eastern edge and we paddled upstream about 6km (rough estimate), emerging from the wetland about 2 km downstream of the Munster Road Bridge. The water level was quite a bit higher than last year so we did not have to lift over any beaver dams and had no difficulties with logs or old broken beaver dams.

We saw a fair amount of wildlife: a pine marten, mink (or pine marten - rather difficult to tell if you don't get a good look at the ears or throat area), 4-5 muskrats, a beaver, and 2 turkey vultures feeding on a deer carcass

The vegetation was not as well advanced as it was on the previous year's trip so we didn't see the spectacular show of the emergent spring green colours. All agreed that it is a very special place but next year, the trip should be a little later.

As with the previous year, I received many calls and e-mails from individuals who were unable to join the excursion and requested that we repeat the excursion in 2010.

Brian Finch

6.3.5 Trailhead Spring Runoff Festival 2009

The Friends of the Jock River was invited to exhibit its "wares" at the Trailhead Spring Runoff Festival 2009 on Saturday, April 25th, 2009, at Trailhead, 1960 Scott St. in Westboro in Ottawa.

I manned a booth outdoors (near the barbeque) and spent an enjoyable day talking to many dozens of people about the Jock River and the different issues of concern to us. I was able to promote the excursion into the Richmond Fen Wetland (the following Sunday and Thursday) and pass out various pieces of FJR literature such as a map of the Jock River watershed, canoe route information, our photo contest poster, membership forms, and bumper stickers.

The venue was a terrific opportunity to promote the Friends to several hundred people, most of whom had a strong interest in environmental issues.

We appreciate the invitation to the Festival.

Brian Finch

6.3.6 Recreational Map of Jock River

At the beginning of 2009, we started a project to identify the recreational assets and points of interest along the Jock River. We identified about 36 different sites or items. The points of interest will be integrated with a map that we hope to put on our website.

Some sites or items identified so far include:

- walking trails (such as Stonebridge Trail, and the ad hoc trails found in Hearts Desire Forest, Richmond Conservation Area and Monahan Stormwater pond/park in Emerald Acres);
- fishing spots (Jock River Landing Park, lower Hearts Desire pool; Bow of the Jock Park);
- canoeing and canoe access points (Jock River Landing Park, Half Moon Bay Park, Bow of the Jock Park Rideau River, Jock River Park, Joys Road);
- points of interest (Richmond Conservation Area and Goodwood Marsh near the Blacks Corners recreational centre for bird watching, and Richmond Fen Wetland for wildlife):
- and
- other recreation (Riverbend and Centennial Golf Courses, Saunders Farm family entertainment, the Old Mill at Ashton (Ashton Pub)).

There is still some work to do and we are still trying to set up a meeting with residents in the Ashton area to find out the spots of interest along the upper part of the Jock River.

Brian Finch

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:

President
Vice-President
Treasurer
Secretary
Director for Membership Roster and Management
Director for Publicity and Public Relations
Director for Water Conservation and Usage
Directors at Large (currently 3)

Respectfully submitted,

Niel Barrington
Nomination Committee Chair