

# Friends of the Jock River

Annual Report  
2010

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Website: [www.jockriver.org](http://www.jockriver.org)  
Registered Charity No.: 89106 2028 RR0001

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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 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 2010 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 2010, our fourteenth year.

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 14 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 which are now over 5 m tall.

On May 6th, 2010 Tom O. Wright, our Director for Membership Roster and Management was the co-recipient of the City of Ottawa's Distinguished Civic Award for the Environment. This award is presented each year at Ottawa City Hall to a "volunteer who has put forth an effort to promote the protection, preservation and beatification of our local environment which took place in the Jock River watershed". At the same event, Kelvin Burnett one of our Directors at Large was the recipient of the Distinguished Civic

Award for Rural Agriculture "as a volunteer who has put forth an outstanding effort to promote rural lifestyles and agricultural improvements, and has assisted with agriculture events and activities in the community". Both of you have made a difference to our environment and our community. Congratulations.

In this 2010 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, guided canoe/kayak excursions into the Richmond Fen Wetland 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.

In 2010, the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA) published a small but incredibly data-rich report, in pamphlet form, on the health of the Rideau River system. Also noted in the report was an intention to publish a watershed report on the Jock River in 2011. Look for this report some time in April.

Both I and the board extend considerable thanks to the RVCA, the City of Ottawa, the Human Resources Human Resources and Skills Development Canada - Student Employment Program, and Ramez Sam Eido of Barrhaven Computer Services for their support of our programs. The RVCA provided grants to us (\$193) and to the Scouts (amount unknown but roughly the same amount) for our tree plants from its Shoreline Naturalization Program. In addition, the City of Ottawa's Community Environmental Projects Grant Program provided a grant for \$843. Ramez continues to work our new FJR website at our [www.jockriver.org](http://www.jockriver.org) location. More details can be found in separate reports.

Some of our executive positions went unfilled in 2010, 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 grants of \$193.00 from the RVCA's Shoreline Naturalization Program and \$843 from the City of Ottawa's Community Environmental Projects Grant Program. The grant of \$193 does not appear in our financial records as the grant was handled internally within RVCA.

The item for RVCA funding in the financial statement is actually funding for our 2009 spring tree plant that was received in early January, 2010.

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 had changed and the HST has been initiated. This does not affect our ability to apply for and recover these funds from Revenue Canada.

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

Brian Finch

### **3.2 Financial Statements**

#### **Balance Sheet 2010**

			2010	2009
<b>ASSETS</b>				
	Chequing - TD - Canada Trust Account	\$	4,025.51	3,136.90
	Petty Cash	\$	15.00	60.00
	Accounts Receivable (GST)	\$	240.93	240.93
	Other Assets	\$	0.00	0.00
	Advances/Loans	\$	0.00	0.00
	T-shirts 51 @ 8.7318	\$	445.32	454.05
	Total assets	\$	4726.76	3,891.88
<b>LIABILITIES</b>				
	Accounts Payable	\$	0.00	0.00
	Total Liabilities	\$	0.00	0.00
	Equity - Beginning	\$	3,186.90	2,701.75
	Receipts Plus Dispersements for Year	\$	843.62	485.15
	Total Equities	\$	4030.52	3,186.90

#### **Cash Flow 2010**

<b>INFLOW</b>		\$
	Donations	
	Unrestricted	73.00
	Grants	
	CEPGP	843.00
	HRSDC	9,548.00
	RVCA	750.00

	Membership Dues	
	Corporate	50.00
	Family	150.00
	Supporter	60.00
	Volunteer	70.00
	T-shirt sales	20.00
	Total Inflows	11,564.00
<b>OUTFLOW</b>		
	Bank Service Charges	59.39
	Office Supplies	66.04
	Printing and Reproduction	40.00
	Projects	
	HRSDC 2010	9,548.00
	Photo Contest	149.80
	Tree Plant 2010	830.90
	Rent	26.25
	Total Outflows	10,720.38
<b>NET</b>		<b>843.62</b>

Brian Finch

#### **4 Membership**

The membership has continued to grow with the increasing activity of the organization via projects and our website. The spring kayak/canoe race on the Jock River has been supported by the Friends of the Jock River, which has helped to bring in additional members and has raised our profile with people who use the river and live in the area.

Our membership in 2010 was 143.

Tom O. Wright  
Director

#### **5 Website**

Our FJR website at [www.jockriver.org](http://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.

We had an estimated 22,000 visits in 2010, up about 45% from 2009. The number of visits per month range between 1,000 and 2,500, averaging about 1,850. We average about 5 e-mails per month routed through our website e-mail contact, Doug Watson. Some are requests to be placed on our e-mail list and others 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 Spring Tree Plants**

The Friends of the Jock River had two tree plants in the spring of 2010. We partnered with two teachers and four grade 9 classes at St Joseph's High School on Greenbank Road, April 28 - 30, 2010, for a tree plant on the school grounds. On May 1 - 2, 2010, we partnered with Scouts Canada on a successful tree plant at Jock River Park and the RVCA-owned "Brown property" in Richmond.

##### High School Tree Plant

Earlier in the year, FJR director Tom Wright pitched our mandate to a receptive high school administration and staff at St. Joseph High School, 3400 Greenbank Road in Barrhaven. Teacher Matt Dinneen, was quick to tie our proposed tree plant into his classroom agenda of social and eco-justice themes being explored by the grade 9's.

The work at St. Joseph High School involved 4 classes (approximately 100 students total) and teachers Matt Dineen and Cleary Morris over three days that started with the cutting of more than 700 carpet squares that we used for weed and grass suppression around newly-planted trees in both tree plants. The students then planted 219 trees on the school grounds, mainly in a nice windbreak along the eastern (along Jockvale Road) and southern property lines of the school. Also, a cedar hedge was put in front between the sidewalk and the school.

The work was split up between the classes and the first day was not the smoothest sailing. However, on the second day the students seemed more focused and worked quite well. Unfortunately, I could not make it Friday, which left only poor Brian to finish the job of supervising the varied classes for the final day of tree planting and tending of the seedlings. On this final day, the students appeared to have difficulty focusing on finishing the project.

In a subsequent review FJR of the tree plant we agreed that, in the future, FJR tree planting will approach only environmental or outdoor clubs in each high school, rather than general classes. We will, as always, make an effort to enlist those students needing community service hours the opportunity to help us with the scout tree plant.

Our experience so far has been that bringing the high school student out to the scout tree plant works better than bringing the tree plant to the high school.

### Richmond Tree Plant

Last winter, the FJR had sent out feelers for available planting locations along the Jock River. We had zeroed in on City- or RVCA-owned property along the river in Richmond as excellent potential for a productive planting event. The Jock River Park in Richmond is right on the river, of course always our top priority when selecting a location (though we will plant trees anywhere in the watershed). Also, getting permission to plant on public property is important because many of the grants we utilize stipulate that tree plants be held on public lands. So the little park along the river in Richmond, site of a tree plant years ago by us, (where the little tree seedlings just didn't seem to take that year) was chosen and approved with the help of City Staff, particularly Julie Jackson, Program Coordinator, Forestry Services Division from City of Ottawa. She was able to confirm the good news that the parks maintenance, parks planning and drainage groups examined and supported the tree planting project with some minor adjustments to the proposed planting site and recommended that local community group be informed of the initiative. The city representative from the Urban Design Group presented our initiative to the Richmond Community Design Plan for approval. Then, we were able to finalize the planting agreement with the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority, which provided technical and financial support through the Shoreline Naturalization Program. I contacted the Scouts and discussions at their end lead to the realization that the proposed tree plant might need to be expanded to accommodate the large number of Scouts slated to attend the event. Luckily for us, Andrea Klymco, Lake Planning/Shoreline Stewardship Technician at the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority was able to secure permission with the quick assistance of Kristy Giles, Conservation Lands Planner at RVCA to plant on the nearby parcel of recently acquired RVCA land (also on the river, about a block upstream), known as the Brown property. We had planted on this property many years ago and quite a few of our trees had prospered. This now gave us two almost side by side prime tree planting blocks right on the river.

Mark Milan, leading the Scouts on this endeavour, talked to the Nepean Area Commissioner, who authorized donating some funds towards the purchase of more trees. Her intention was to have the youth plant 4 trees per person, rather than just 2. So I put them in touch with Andrea at RVCA and 230 more plant trees were ordered through RVCA's Shoreline Naturalization Program. This was all taken care of outside of the FJR Spring Tree Plant budget.

For the second year in a row, I was nursing a serious work related injury as May 1<sup>st</sup> approached. However, I taped up the ankle, put on the brace, took some Advil and tried to stay off the shovel as much as possible. With two sites to be planted simultaneously on Saturday morning, Brian took charge at the Brown property, while I took responsibility for the plant at Jock River Park.

The Scouts arrived in force on an absolutely beautiful spring day on the banks of the Jock River in Richmond. The Scouts have been planting with us for a number of years now and seem to get better, more experienced every year. We also had a few hard working Richmondites and members of the Friends of the Jock River come out, who proved to be great assets in completing the weekends work. We were able to get most of the stock in

Saturday, while reserving a bit for our public invited plant on Sunday on the Brown property. A few Scouts who were unable to make the Saturday plant also showed up on Sunday.

On the behalf of the FJR I would like to express the warmest thanks to Andrea Klymco at RVCA for all her help in site survey, plant selection and ordering, stock delivery and flagging of the site. Andrea also provided us with about 20 coir (cocoanut fibre) mats for use as weed suppression/mulch around the trees as an experimental alternate to carpet squares or Tassu collars. They worked so well that we have decided to forego the time consuming cutting of the carpet squares in the future and to purchase the coir mats exclusively.

Subsequent visits to both sites in the fall show the stock is doing very well, aided by this the summer's moderate and well spaced rainfalls.

### Tree Species List

The trees were commercially grown bare root stock from the Ferguson Forest Centre and provided via the RVCA. At no cost, we were also provided 20 bare root butternut trees from the RVCA's butternut recovery program and 58 bare root walnut trees from Brian Finch's back yard nursery. The butternut recovery program provided Tassu weed collars and landscape staples for each butternut tree.

#### Jock River Park in Richmond

Alternate Leaf Dogwood	40
Black Elderberry	20
Grey Dogwood	40
Highbush Cranberry	20
Nannyberry	30
Red Osier Dogwood	30
Sandbar Willow	30
Silky Dogwood	20
White Cedar	20
White Pine	20
Butternut	10
Walnut	19
Total for site	299

#### Brown Property in Richmond

Alternate Leaf Dogwood	40
Sumac	10
Grey Dogwood	10
Black Ash	10
Nannyberry	90
White Birch	20
White Spruce	10
White Cedar	10
White Pine	20

Butternut	10
Walnut	20
Total for site	250

St. Joseph's High School in Barrhaven

White Cedar	50
White Pine	30
Tamarack	25
White Oak	25
Bur Oak	30
Silver Maple	20
Silky Dogwood	20
Walnut	19
Total for site	219

The total for all three sites was 768 trees and shrubs.

Funding for the tree plants:

Jock River Park in Richmond

For 270 trees:

- RVCA Shoreline naturalization program grant \$193.00 (75% of cost)
- City of Ottawa's Community Environmental Projects Grant Program for FJR portion of 25% of cost

Brown Property in Richmond

For 230 trees:

- Funded independently by the RVCA Shoreline Naturalization Program grant and the Scouts

St. Joseph's High School

For 200 trees:

- City of Ottawa's Community Environmental Projects Grant Program

Shared over all sites

For tree wraps and landscape staples:

- City of Ottawa's Community Environmental Projects Grant Program

For miscellaneous items such as carpet knives and transportation costs

- Friends of the Jock River

The City of Ottawa's Community Environmental Projects Grant Program grant totaled \$843.

In summary: two more successful tree plants for the Friends of the Jock River.

Niel Barrington

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

A spring clean-up was jointly hosted by the Friends of the Jock River and Barrhaven Business Improvement Association (BBIA) on April 22, 2010, in Barrhaven at the Barrhaven Market Place, along the Greenbank corridor to Half Moon Bay, and along Jockvale Road to Stonebridge.

A wide range of participants (although down from 2009) included employees of local businesses, local residents, Lions Club members, Ottawa City surface crew and Clean-up-the-Capital staff, and elementary and high school staff and students.

A barbeque, compliments of Ross's Independent Store and manned by Lions Club members, supplied participants with a hot dog lunch.

A total of 3,240 kg of litter and garbage were collected and amongst the schools, Mother Teresa High School collected the greatest amount.

In late 2010, the board of the Friends of the Jock River voted to not play an administrative roll in the 2011 spring cleanup but would participate in it.

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.

Signs have now been installed at the following Friends of the Jock River tree plant sites:

- Stonebridge (three signs near NW end of playing fields);
- Half Moon Bay (one sign between the two Mattamy stormwater outlets);
- Kennedy-Burnett Drain (one sign on east side near bottom end of the drain);
- Twin Elm Bridge north side of crossing, also known as Foster Farm (two signs near road);
- Royal York Park in Richmond near McBean St. Bridge (two signs); and
- "Brown property" owned by RVCA in Richmond (two signs).

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.

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 9, 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>.

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. Some of the concerns relating to the zoning change and the site plan stipulations passed by Council still remain.

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. In addition, the Dowdall Drain (Rogers Creek), a tributary of the Jock River, runs through several more lots, and an internal service road crosses the creek.

As of February 26, 2010, the application has been on hold and we have asked the City planner to notify us of any changes.

Brian Finch

### **6.2.2 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 2008 and 2009 Annual Reports 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. The Engineer's report for the application on the drainage petition for Upper Flowing Creek was completed in late 2009.

The City passed an amendment to the Official Plan (Amendment 76) relating to these lands in September 2009 and through several flip-flops it was changed by the Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) in December to the following:

#### "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.”

This amendment has been appealed to the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) by at least one City resident.

#### Current Status - Flowing Creek Municipal Drain Petition

In June, 2010, the Engineer’s Report and anticipated costs were tabled with the City. The estimated total cost of the drainage works, including the costs of the Engineer's Report and associated studies, was \$1,640,000. Of this amount, \$1,200,000 was to be assessed to benefitting property owners, and \$440,000 to the City. There was wide-spread anger amongst the landowners over the expanded scope of the drain study and its cost. Through some negotiation they withdrew the municipal drain petition and the City absorbed the cost of the Engineer’s Report.

In late 2010, the landowners applied to the RVCA for permits to complete limited modification of the Flowing Creek drains. Because the needed studies had already been completed under the Engineers Report, the permits were granted and the work is expected to be completed in January/February 2011 at a considerably reduced cost to the landowners.

#### Current Status - Official Plan Amendment Flewellyn Special Study Area

Pre-hearings for Official Plan Amendment 76 were held by the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) in mid-2010. Extensive hearings are planned for 2011.

Brian Finch

### **6.2.3 RVCA Generic Regulation 174-06**

Please see the background information in section 6.2.4. RVCA Generic Regulation 174-06 of the 2009 Annual Report.

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 that had been identified as provincially significant wetlands (PSWs). See also Section 6.2.3. “Designation of Provincially Significant Wetlands (PSWs) in Goulbourn”, in the 2008 Annual Report.

No changes have been made to the RVCA's administration of RVCA Generic Regulation 174-06 in 2010, which excludes from regulation the PSWs identified in Goulbourn in 2004. The City has identified these Goulbourn wetlands as a "special study zone" within Amendment 76 to the Official Plan and has not designated them as PSWs. This unusual treatment of the Goulbourn wetlands is the root cause of the uneven application of the generic regulation by the RVCA and the Official Plan Amendment has been appealed to the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) with pre-hearings taking place in 2010 and extensive hearings planned for 2011. If the OMB were to require the designation of the Goulbourn wetlands in the Official Plan, the RVCA Board of Directors would no longer have reason to support piece-meal application of the regulation.

Brian Finch

#### **6.2.4 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.

About the same time, a group of fourth year University of Ottawa Civil Engineering students took on the decommissioning of the weir as their major project topic. The final student paper received an award in the Professional Engineers of Ontario local chapter Student Papers Competition in the spring of 2009.

The RVCA applied for 50% funding to generate a decommissioning plan under MNR's Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure Program and asked the Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation to consider the project as a candidate for funding through charitable donations made to the foundation. We don't know how these funding requests turned out.

In September, 2010, RVCA said that it had awarded the contract to develop the Heart's Desire Weir Decommissioning and Riparian Rehabilitation Plan to the consultant team of Kilgour and Associates Ltd, F.D. Fountain Landscape Architecture and Parish Geomorphic Ltd. RVCA felt that this independent consulting team would bring the right mix of expertise in natural channel design and river restoration to produce a recommended design and implementation plan that can be supported by the affected landowners and interested stakeholders. The team was to meet with representatives of the community groups and to conclude its work by the end of December 2010.

According to RVCA staff, the meeting with the Heart's Desire residents and community association representatives did not go well. The latter felt that four conditions must be met for their support:

1. the decommissioning must be based on hard facts (science);
2. the health of the river is kept as the primary interest;
3. a fully funded reclamation plan is established; and
4. there is no property value degradation.

Our conversations with RVCA will continue in 2011.

Brian Finch (with input from RVCA correspondence)

### **6.2.5 Half Moon Bay Park on the Jock River**

More background is contained in last year's Annual Report.

We have made several failed attempts to meet with the city planner responsible for the planned park.

Over the summer of 2010, another outlet for a stormwater pond located south of Cambrian Road has been added to the southern-most shoreline of Half Moon Bay. Based on plans we saw several years ago, this outlet is right where a canoe launch and wharf were to be located. We would like the canoe launch and wharf to be retained somewhere along the shore.

Together, both outlets have taken a fair sized bite out of the area allotted for the shoreline park. Had we known, we would have been able to advocate more forcefully for

a larger portion of the shoreline to be set aside for park. We are also concerned over the amount of existing shoreline vegetation that was removed during construction and we wonder how successful we will be in our goal of a green wildlife corridor along the Jock River.

Brian Finch

### **6.2.6 Improvements To The Greenbank Bridge Over The Jock River**

Friends of the Jock River and residents of Jockvale worked together with the city of Ottawa to bring about greater safety, while keeping a natural look to the Greenbank Bridge over the Jock River.

Actions taken:

- With the increased traffic over this bridge, the integrity of the bridge was being compromised by cars and trucks hitting the narrow bridge and causing accidents. In 2009, the Board requested that the City re-route truck traffic and the request was agreed to quickly. However, it is difficult to know how many more accidents are occurring as:
  - a) an accident under \$1000.00 does not need to be reported to the police; and
  - b) the truck ban is only for trucks over 5 tons so there remains a concern with trucks under 5 tons.
- Broken guardrails were replaced with a better design;
- Signage was installed
- A pedestrian sidewalk was built in 2009 alongside the bridge
- Two white litter barrels were installed
- A Jock River sign was added to the bridge.
- A request to the city was made to remove the graffiti from the Greenbank bridge and its abutments. It was removed but the request will unfortunately have to be made again in 2011. It took 3 years to educate people to use the white barrels in this area and it is hoped it will be a shorter period of time to stop the graffiti along the Jock River.

Submitted by  
Tom O. Wright  
Kelvin Burnett

### **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.

We had some input, particularly with respect to the preservation and enhancement of a green river corridor. More background is contained in last year's Annual Report.

The study was completed in 2010 and the report is located on the City of Ottawa web site at [http://www.ottawa.ca/residents/planning/community\\_plans/completed/richmond/index\\_en.html](http://www.ottawa.ca/residents/planning/community_plans/completed/richmond/index_en.html).

Brian Finch

## **6.3 Other Projects**

### **6.3.1 Human Resources and Skills Development Canada Student Employment - RVCA**

In the spring, FJR again sponsored a summer student under the Summer Career Placement Program, Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC) to work at the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA); a little later RVCA asked us to sponsor a second student, which we agreed to. The total amount of the grant from HRSDC to FJR for the two students was \$9,548 which we provided to RVCA. 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 hired Kaitlin Brady and Kaitlin Grant, both university students. Kaitlin Grant had been our summer student in the two previous summers 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 the students returned to university.

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

#### **Biocriteria Project- Species At Risk**

The Rideau Valley Conservation Authority has been working in partnership with the South Nation Conservation which received funding from the Ministry of Natural Resources for the study of Aquatic Species at Risk (SAR) in South-eastern Ontario. The goal of this project is to increase knowledge and awareness of aquatic SAR throughout south-eastern Ontario. This project is in collaboration with South Nation Conservation, City of Ottawa, Rideau Valley Conservation, Mississippi Valley Conservation, Cataraqui Region Conservation, Quinte Conservation, Ontario Ministry of Environment and Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. The program monitored 10 minimally impacted sites for species at risk mussels, fish and invertebrates in the Rideau Valley Watershed in the summer and fall of 2010. Four of the sites sampled were within the Jock River watershed.

The protocols used to collect data included the Ontario Stream Assessment Protocol (OSAP) and the Ontario Benthos Bio-Monitoring Network (OBBN). Water quality parameters were also measured at each site including pH, total

phosphorus, nitrates, alkalinity and metals. All sites were inventoried for potential species at risk within the groups of mussels, fish and invertebrates. Also detailed habitat description and threats inventory was completed for all sites. Once all of the data is analyzed, a summary report will be prepared for each sample location.

#### 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. in Richmond
Hobbs Drain*	HO-1	at Bleeks Rd.
Kings Creek*	KI-1	at Jock Trail Rd.
Nichols Creek*	NI-1	at O'Neil Rd.
Rogers 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 2010 reports have not been finalized as of yet and will be sent out in 2011.

"The work accomplished ... 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 Jennifer Lamoureaux (both RVCA)

### **6.3.2 Upper Jock River Canoe and Kayak Race - Spring 2010**

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 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 2010, Saturday, April 17th, was cool with a light rain and the water level was fairly low but passable. According to the organizers, there were 124 participants in 76 canoes and kayaks, about half of the previous year's turn-out. The best time for the day was one hour two minutes and a new component, the Iron Paddle event with 18 participants, involved the canoe race plus a run back to the start position.

For further information on the race committee and on the upcoming 2011 race, check out their website at [www.jockriverrace.ca](http://www.jockriverrace.ca).

Brian Finch

### **6.3.3 Photographic Contest - An Appreciation of the Jock River Traveling Exhibit Of The Winning Photos**

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.

A display of the 27 mounted winning photos (first, second, third, and honourable mentions in three age categories) has been put on tour to promote the Friends of the Jock River and this jewel of a river flowing through the area, to acknowledge the photographers' talents and to thank over 50 sponsors who had donated prizes and time worth about \$4,000.

There were 20 exhibits at 18 different locations:

Rideau Valley Conservation Authority  
Toronto Dominion Bank - Strandherd/Woodroffe Branch  
St. Emily School  
Jan Harder's Open House - Walter Baker Centre

Ruth Dickenson Library – Walter Baker Centre  
Laurentian Marine  
Trail Head – Open House.  
Ottawa River Keepers  
Royal Bank- Barrhaven  
St. Joseph High School  
Mother Teresa High School  
Probus – Manotick  
The Ottawa Satir Learning Centre  
Information Fair – Barrhaven  
Rideau Valley Conservation - Spring Exhibit  
Toronto Dominion Bank - Barrhaven Market Place  
Trail Head Store Exhibit.  
Henry's Camera Store Exhibit.  
Rideau Valley Conservation Authority  
Tamarack Homes – Exhibit.

Tom O. Wright

#### **6.3.4. Canoe/Kayak Excursion into the Richmond Fen Wetland**

We had planned two afternoon canoe/kayak excursions on Saturday May 8th and Thursday May 13th, up the Jock River from the Centennial Golf Course into the Richmond Fen Wetland, the largest provincially significant wetland in Eastern Ontario. Last year's trip was 2 weeks earlier in the season and the spring vegetation had not progressed very far so we planned the 2010 excursion to be a bit later.

The plan was to meet at the end of Joy's Road beside the Richmond Centennial Golf Course at 12:00 noon on both days and return about 4 hours later. A map of the area can be found at: <http://www.jockriverrace.ca/Map.html>.

The morning of May 8<sup>th</sup> was partially cloudy, windy and cold (1° C) with winds of up to 30 km/hr forecast for the afternoon. The wind chill was below zero and I waited at the end of Joy's Road in a light drizzle hoping that no one would show and, thankfully, no one did.

On the 13<sup>th</sup>, the forecast included slightly warmer temperatures and light rain in the afternoon. Despite the forecast, the weather was okay. There were 13 participants (including myself) in 2 canoes and 5 kayaks (including one fabric-covered kayak that came out of a large suitcase). I had a reporter from "Barrhaven-Ottawa South This Week" as my bowsman plus one passenger.

Our put-in at the end of Joy's Road was within the wetland on its eastern edge and we paddled upstream about 6 km (rough estimate), emerging from the wetland about 2 km downstream of the Munster Road Bridge. The water level was quite low so we had to lift over a beaver dam and push the boats over a few shallows and logs. We missed the forecast rain.

We didn't see too much wildlife, certainly down from last year.

The vegetation was just a bit beyond the spectacular show of the emergent spring green colours, proving the difficulty of predicting the peak of the electric greens.

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 2011.

Brian Finch

### **6.3.5 Trailhead Spring Runoff Festival 2010**

The Friends of the Jock River was invited to exhibit its “wares” at the Trailhead Spring Runoff Festival 2010 on Saturday, April 24th, 2010, at Trailhead, 1960 Scott St. in Westboro in Ottawa.

I manned a booth outdoors (unfortunately no barbeque this year) 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 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.

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)).

We have not put any work into the project in 2010 and there is still some work to do. Further, we likely do not have the expertise to determine just how the information is to be presented (web-based; hard copy; ?). In this respect, the former chairman of the City's Environmental Advisory Committee advised us of the existence of a group called The Centre for Community Mapping (COMAP – comap.ca), a not-for-profit corporation with a web-based application that has pop-up information (including photographs) built into maps of the rural and urban landscape of Ontario. The application is still in its infancy but it appears to have potential for the recreational map. We will have to explore this lead.

Brian Finch

### **6.3.7 Bridge Signage at Jock River Bridges**

A review was launched in 2010 to improve the knowledge of the Jock River in the local population by making sure that all bridges over the Jock were marked with the name of our little river.

We had actually done this a number of years ago, and submitted a request to the Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton for the signs, and the Region did come through by installing signs at those locations needing them. However, the signs have tended to disappear over the years for whatever reason.

We had noticed signs missing at numerous locations and therefore undertook a survey to enumerate the remaining signs and provide a list to the city of those bridges needing a new sign, or post, or both.

Bill Armitage and I took a couple of drives out through the watershed determining the locations and signs, while Brian did the checking on the roads crossing the river down by Hearts Desire.

The following results show only one bridge crossing has signs in good order:

- Prince of Wales Drive - nothing
- Jockvale Road - 1 post remains on north side
- Greenbank Road - nothing
- Cedarview Road - sign in place on west side; nothing other side
- Moodie Drive - south sign in place; north sign missing
- Highway 416 - nothing
- Cambrian Road at Twin Elm - one post remaining
- Eagleson Road - both signs in good condition
- McBean Street - sign improperly positioned on telephone pole; sign missing other side
- Munster Road - nothing
- Franktown Road - nothing
- Copeland Road - nothing
- Bleeks Road - nothing
- Dwyer Hill Road - nothing

McCaffrey Trail - nothing  
Ashton Station Road - nothing  
Cemetery Side Road - nothing  
9th Line Road - nothing

A motion was passed to send a letter to the City requesting they undertake replacement of all the missing Jock River signage in its jurisdiction. We will have to contact Beckwith Township to ask it to do the same for the upstream sections of the Jock River.

Respectfully submitted,  
Niel Barrington

## **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)

Niel Barrington  
Nomination Committee Chair