

**Rideau Roundtable  
Environmental Gathering & Partners' Forum  
North Gower - October 30, 2004**

**Proceedings**

**Introduction**

The Environmental Gathering & Partners' Forum - held at Strathmere in North Gower on October 30, 2004 - brought together 60 representatives of community organizations, government agencies, schools and businesses with a broad range of interests to share information on current and proposed projects and identify partnership opportunities. In his opening remarks Peter Au, president of the Rideau Roundtable, reminded participants of the need to work together - to truly collaborate - to achieve common environmental goals throughout the Rideau and Cataraqui Watersheds.

The Partners' Forum was structured with a series of formal and informal presentations in the morning and concurrent break-out sessions on partnership themes in the afternoon. In the morning participants were asked to identify projects they would like to develop and/or deliver in collaboration with others. In the afternoon the project suggestions were grouped into themes and small groups met to refine the project ideas, identify resources available and resources needed, and identify next steps.

## **Presentations**

Following is a brief summary of presentations made in the morning plenary. Speakers' contact information is listed in the Participant List (attached). Individual PowerPoint presentations are available upon request (pending the presenter's approval).

### **Ashbury College (Dave Beedell)**

Dave is looking for interesting and challenging research projects and outdoor education opportunities for senior high school students. He is also seeking speakers to address students on environmental topics.

### **Big Rideau Lake Association (Patricia Chamberlain)**

#### **Mission:**

The mission of the Big Rideau Lake Association is to monitor, maintain and protect the Rideau Lakes from Narrows Lock to Poonamalie and its environments, to secure financial support to assist in supporting these goals, and to organize and promote educational, recreational and safety programs for the well being of its members.

#### **Recent Projects:**

- 1) Annual water testing at several deep water sites and three near shore sites;
- 2) Habitat and shoreline protection;
- 3) Loon and bass spawning monitoring.

### **Canadian Museum of Nature (Paul Hamilton)**

#### **Emerging Water Quality Issue:**

Paul explained that a few "blooms" of Cyanobacteria - a toxic sub-tropical invasive species of blue-green algae - have been reported in local lakes and rivers, including the Rideau River. These blooms can contain hepatoxins and neurotoxins which result in O<sub>2</sub> depletion and fish kills, and can also adversely affect human health. The origin of the algae is unknown and there are few historic records, making it difficult to assess trends.

## **Canadian Museum of Nature (Catherine Dumouchel)**

### **Mission:**

The purpose of the Canadian Museum of Nature is to increase, throughout Canada and internationally, interest in, knowledge of, and respect and appreciation for the natural world.

### **Recent Projects:**

1) The museum recently completed a comprehensive three-year study of biodiversity in and along the Rideau River. Check out their web site at [www.nature.ca](http://www.nature.ca) to see results.

## **Canadian Recreational Canoe Association (Tim Armstrong)**

Tim Spoke about the successful interpretive voyageur canoe tours done in the Smiths Falls and Merrickville areas this past summer, and encouraged other organizations to get involved (see project suggestion below).

## **Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority (Tom Beaubiah)**

### **Mission:**

The CRCA's programs include water management, environmental planning, forestry, habitat protection, conservation education and outdoor recreation. We own more than 4,000 hectares of land including conservation areas, boat ramps, trails, dams, environmentally sensitive areas, forests and wetlands.

### **Recent Projects:**

- 1) Cataraqui Trail – acquisition and development of a 104 km trail along former rail line in conjunction with local communities and trail users;
- 2) Coordinated groundwater study for the western part of CRCA watershed including the municipalities of Greater Napanee, Loyalist, South Frontenac and Kingston;
- 3) One of three pilot projects in Ontario to examine water flows and water-taking permits in the Millhaven Creek system. It looks at various techniques on how to measure water flows and how much water can be taken from the creek system without causing environmental problems;
- 4) Workshop Series on wells and septic, erosion control, shoreline, etc developed and delivered to target audiences of municipal staff, contractors, real estate agents and property owners.

## **Centre for Geographic Information Systems (Art Dunham)**

### **Mission:**

Empowering Municipalities, Lake Associations and Citizen Scientists with Organizational, Communications and Data Management Tools. Creating Integrated Community GIS partnerships.

**Recent Projects:**

- 1) CGIS has created web-based GIS systems with the Frontenac Environmental Partnership and with Tay Valley Township (for Long Lake). Interwork application with Wildlife Habitat Canada for benthic monitoring. The system can be used to track and share a broad range of information from data on septic systems for individual properties to data on water quality for entire lakes and rivers. The system also enables organizations to update their own contact information and view maps of their lake or river.

**Centre For Sustainable Watersheds (Bob Sneyd)****Mission:**

Centre for Sustainable Watersheds (CSW) was developed to provide support for community groups in water resource protection. It also aims to facilitate the channels of communication, serving as a link between community groups and different levels of government and working to improve the community position in water resource management and make the most of government programs and services.

**Recent Projects:**

- 1) New Ontario Provincial Office for the Living By Water (LBW) Project;
- 2) Delivery of 100 Shoreline Consultations in the Rideau Lakes Region;
- 3) Training for other groups interested in delivering LBW programs;
- 4) Presentation of Shoreline Living workshops;
- 5) Watersheds Information Centre and Ontario Living By Water Headquarters located in Portland Ontario;
- 6) Living By Water Demonstration Site at the Portland Bay Conservation Area;
- 7) Lake Links – an annual meeting that brings together lake associations and community organizations to share information;
- 8) Helping to form the Ontario Community Monitoring Network;
- 9) Working with provincial partners to develop Watersheds InfoXchange (WIX) – a web-based mapping and database application that will enable any group in Ontario to input, manage and view stewardship data online.

**Charleston Lake Association (Bill Hallam)****Mission**

The mission of the CLA is to keep Charleston Lake beautiful in every way.

**Recent Projects:**

Many of the CLA projects are conducted in partnership with the Charleston Lake Environmental Association, the Leeds County Land Stewardship Council and Charleston Lake Provincial Park. The following is a partial project list: water monitoring; promotion of fisheries conservation catch and release; establishing osprey nesting sites; provide summer youth activities including swimming lessons; promotion and education concerning boat safety; public education on how to keep Charleston Lake beautiful.

## **City of Ottawa (Jane Scott)**

### **Programs:**

Natural Areas Protection and Enhancement; Water Protection Programs; Climate Change/Energy Efficiency/Air Quality Management; Waste Management. Visit the City of Ottawa's website at [http://www.ottawa.ca/city\\_services/environment/index\\_en.shtml](http://www.ottawa.ca/city_services/environment/index_en.shtml) for an overview of the environmental services and programs provided.

### **Environmental Funding Programs Offered by the City:**

Community Environmental Grants Program; Community Partnership Tree Planting Projects; Green Acres - Ottawa's Rural Reforestation Program; Pesticide Reduction Grant Program; Rural Clean Water Program (with RVCA).

## **Community Stewardship Council of Lanark County (David Crawley)**

### **Mission:**

To sustain and enhance the natural environment of Lanark County through the combined efforts of all.

### **Selected Projects:**

- 1) Assist with the Clean Water Programs - Rideau Valley and Mississippi Valley;
- 2) Support Watershed Watch Programs - Rideau Valley and Mississippi Valley;
- 3) Spawning Bed rehabilitation - Christie Lake
- 4) Forest Stewardship Certification program: 30 landowners, with properties ranging from 30 to 6,000 acres, have had their woodlots certified as being sustainably managed.

## **Earth Day Ottawa (Dena Splinter)**

### **Mission:**

To promote environmental awareness and encourage positive environmental actions by observing the annual celebration of International Earth Day in the Ottawa area.

### **Recent Projects:**

- 1) Annual EcoForum that highlighted activities of 20-30 local environmental groups (1997-2004);
- 2) Annual Solar Sprint race for students in which up to 50 school teams construct and race solar powered model cars for competition (2000-2004);
- 3) Wind Warriors – seven school teams made micro wind turbines for competition at the EcoForum (2004);
- 4) Ugliest School Yard Contest (1998-99);
- 5) Annual poster contest (1999-2004).

## **Eastern Ontario Biodiversity Museum (Heather Hamilton)**

### **Mission**

The mandate of the Eastern Ontario Biodiversity Museum (EOBM) is to encourage appreciation and understanding of the natural communities of Eastern Ontario and to educate about biodiversity. The EOBM is a centre for research and a repository for natural history collections representing Eastern Ontario, with a strong emphasis on gathering and sharing information with the public. The EOBM is active year-round.

### **Recent Projects:**

- 1) Museum-in-a-Suitcase: Curriculum-based program that Museum's Education Coordinator delivers in elementary, middle and high schools throughout Eastern Ontario. Titles include: The Secret Life of the Forest; Diversity of Life; Climate Change; Bug Watch/Insecta; Life Cycles and Seasonal Adaptations; and Classification of Biodiversity.
- 2) Literacy Through Natural History: Literacy programme based on natural history information (from books and other sources), hands-on experiences, field outings, storytelling, drama and music. Museum's Education Coordinator delivers this programme to pre-schoolers (3-5 years) and early schoolers (to grade 2) throughout Eastern Ontario.
- 3) Natural History Heritage Programme: Umbrella title for all of our research, collections and database inventory, monitoring, networking and publications.

## **Environment Committee of Ottawa South (Christine Pelletier & Tamrin Carroll)**

### **Mission:**

To preserve and enhance the natural environment in Old Ottawa South and beyond.

### **Recent Projects:**

- 1) Created two fish embayments on the Rideau River in Brewer Park;
- 2) Hosted a regional environmental workshop called "Restore the Rideau";
- 3) Hosted three regional Earth Day celebrations;
- 4) Created a restoration plan for Windsor Park;
- 5) Created a brochure on the need to preserve the Leitrim Wetland.

## **Ferguson Forest Centre (Adam Shewchuk)**

The forest centre grows 42 native species of trees and shrubs. Last year the centre sold 2.5 million trees, including several hundred thousand to organizations across eastern Ontario. Some of the land used by the nursery may soon be lost to development (see proposed action below).

## **Friends of the Tay Watershed (David Taylor)**

### **Mission:**

The “Friends” was founded in 2002 to monitor and promote action to implement the recommendations of the Tay River Watershed Management Plan and to carry out activities to ensure the ongoing care of the watershed and its related water resources.

### **Recent Projects:**

- 1) Organization of Community Input to the Tay Watershed Management Plan;
- 2) Watershed Education Program (materials and maps distributed to schools and at community events);
- 3) Input to Policy Discussion and Development of Technical Submission to Ontario Government Draft Water Legislation (Safe Drinking Water Act, Water Source Protection Act, Nutrient Management Act);
- 4) Shoreline cleanups.

## **Greater Bob’s and Crow Lake Association (Susan O’Brien Mactaggart)**

### **Mission:**

To preserve and enhance the quality of the environment around the greater Bobs and Crow Lakes area for present and future generations.

### **Recent Projects:**

- 1) Official Lake Plan for Bobs and Crow Lakes (ongoing);
- 2) Fishery rehabilitation and stocking (ongoing);
- 3) Water Quality Testing (ongoing);
- 4) Identified mapping & signage for 911 for Bedford District, South Frontenac;
- 5) Sponsored Pumper Truck Ball – raised over \$50,000 for pumper truck for Bedford District Fire department.

## **Greenspace Alliance of Canada’s Capital (Amy Kempster)**

### **Mission:**

To advocate for the protection of wetlands and forests throughout Ottawa (this is not the formal mission statement but rather was taken from Amy’s comments).

## **Grenville Land Stewardship Council (Greg Philliban)**

### **Mission:**

The council exists to enhance the quality of life, health, and well being of human and natural communities, and to promote their positive interaction.

**Recent Projects:**

- 1) Trees for Peace Program - The council continues to plant trees and shrubs in Grenville County with the help of school children, landowners, volunteers and community groups. This project provides landowners with information and resources to manage environmentally significant and sensitive, river and stream shorelines.
- 2) Who's Doing What – We are designing a web-site that features: a searchable database of organizations including contact information and a link to the organization's web site; an area where organizations can submit their details online; a searchable database of projects; an area where organizations can submit projects to the project catalogue, including the ability to digitize the project study area using ArcIMS; a search capability that allows users to digitize an area of interest on a map and returns a list of projects and organizations working in that area; online help for using all of the above.
- 3) HRDC Eco Crew - The Eco Crew has provided physical labour for tree planting, fencing projects, nursery maintenance, forest and plantation assistance for private landowners, clearing of fire roads in Limerick Forest, habitat improvement, and wildlife restoration projects such as the Peregrine Restoration Project in Leeds.
- 4) Limerick Forest - The Limerick Forest Advisory Committee has created a strategic plan and develops annual work plans to manage the forest. The committee also hosts the Limerick Forest Open House – last held on October 10, 2004.

**LL Green - Lanark Leeds Green Community (Susan Brandum)****Mission**

To protect, preserve and enhance our environment for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations through advocacy, education, recognition and projects within Eastern Ontario. To provide residents with the answers they want to live lives that sustain our region's environment, economy and society. LL Green is a project of the Rideau Environmental Action League (REAL).

**Recent Projects:**

- 1) Green Home Visits – Susan Brandum - worked directly with 300 homeowners to reduce their energy use by a minimum 5%. Influenced close to 1,000 homeowners to reduce energy use.
- 2) Pesticide Free Naturally – Susan Brandum – Delivered 6 “Get Your Lawn Off Drugs” workshops and 2,000 copies of Pesticide Free Naturally Action Kit throughout the region. Influenced more than 8,000 homeowners to reduce or eliminate their use of pesticides.
- 3) Naturalizing Workshops – Susan Brandum – worked directly with 60 homeowners through workshops to naturalize properties, restore shorelines, plant trees and shrubs, reduce lawn mowing and reduce or eliminate pesticide and fertilizer use. Influenced 150 homeowners to naturalize their properties.
- 4) Green Garden and Shoreline Visits – Susan Brandum – worked with 100 homeowners through home visits, about half along the Tay and Rideau Rivers, to naturalize their properties, restore shorelines, reduce lawn mowing and reduce or eliminate pesticide and fertilizer use. Influenced 300 homeowners to naturalize their properties.

- 5) Rural Water Protection – Susan Brandum – Conducted 13 public workshops on wells and septic systems, 1 information provider workshop, and 4 talks; delivered action information to 1,500 people and conducted 75 Well Aware home visits. Influenced 3,000 rural homeowners to upgrade existing wells, decommission old wells and take care of their groundwater, wells and septic systems.

### **Merrickville-Wolford Chamber of Commerce (George Atkinson)**

George encouraged everyone to get involved in the eco-tourism effort that has grown out of the voyageur canoe tours offered by the Rideau Roundtable and REAL this past summer.

### **Ontario Healthy Communities Coalition (Kara Symbolic & Jeff Kohl)**

#### **Mission:**

OHCC works with the diverse communities of Ontario to strengthen their social, environmental and economic well-being.

#### **Services:**

OHCC has 8 Community Animators across Ontario who can provide the following services to non-profit community organizations and coalitions:

- 1) Facilitation - of community workshops, visioning sessions, focus groups, strategic planning and business planning processes;
- 2) Training – on topics including: funding proposal writing; volunteer management; board development; building inclusive organizations;
- 3) Networking – by connecting your organization with others across Ontario who are doing similar work
- 4) Fund-Raising – by helping you identify funding sources and develop fundraising strategies
- 5) Indicators – by helping you select indicators to track changes in social, economic and environmental trends in your community.

### **Ontario Marine Operators Association (Gillian Organ/Bob Eaton)**

#### **Mission**

The Ontario Marine Operators Association is a group of 600 marinas, yacht clubs and associated companies, working together since 1967 with a common goal of promoting recreational boating in Ontario.

#### **Recent Projects:**

- 1) Clean Marine Eco-Rating Program – A voluntary program to eco-certify marinas and reduce marina and boater impacts on the environment. Developed Clean Marine Practices Handbook. Eco-Rated (environmentally certified) 192 marinas and yacht clubs (including 29 in the Rideau and St. Lawrence River areas).
- 2) Clean Boater Program – Now developing a voluntary program to educate and support boaters to reduce their impacts on the environment. Will include a handbook and on-boat inspections.

## **Ottawa Stewardship Council (Kelly St. Denis)**

### **Mission:**

To work in partnership with individuals, organizations and communities throughout the Ottawa area to promote and maintain a healthy environment.

### **Recent Projects:**

- 1) Ottawa Envirothon Regional Competition
- 2) Green Acres, Ottawa's Rural Reforestation Program
- 3) Ottawa Wildlife Festival
- 4) Bog to Bog Project
- 5) Eastern Ontario Children's Water Festival

## **Project Management Productivity Solutions (Anthony Tsoukanas)**

Anthony offered a few hours of his time to mentor organizations that are trying to improve their project planning and management processes.

## **Restoring the Sacred Balance (Kristina Mellway)**

### **Mission:**

Restoring the Sacred Balance is a multi-faith organization considering environmental issues with various faith communities around Ottawa.

### **Recent Projects:**

- 1) Started Ottawa group of 'Restoring the Sacred Balance'
- 2) Sacred Earth Day Celebration in April 2004
- 3) Networking events for local faith communities

## **Rideau Canal - Parks Canada (Adrienne Shaw)**

### **Mission**

Historic Canals Policy Objective: To foster appreciation, enjoyment and understanding of Canada's historic canals by providing through navigation; by managing cultural and natural resources for purposes of protection and presentation; and by encouraging appropriate uses.

### **Recent Projects:**

- 1) Hibernaculum and home range investigation of Black Rat Snakes (*Elaphe obsoleta obsoleta*);
- 2) Rideau Canal and Trent-Severn Waterway Policies for In-Water and Shoreline Works and Related Activities;
- 3) Environmental Assessments under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*.

## **Rideau Education Centre – Upper Canada District School Board (Jan Johns)**

The centre will be bringing a new environmental course on line this fall. The centre seeks to link schools with community organizations and worthwhile environmental projects.

## **Rideau Environmental Action League (Peter Au)**

### **Mission**

To protect, preserve and enhance our environment for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations through advocacy, education, recognition and projects within Eastern Ontario

### **Recent Projects:**

- 1) Launched Lanark Leeds Green Community (LL Green) in 1998.
- 2) Smiths Falls ReUse Centre: Year-round free drop off/pick up of reusable household goods. Diverts 2,000 kg per year from landfill.
- 3) Pitch-in Smiths Falls: Spring community-wide, pride building, litter pickup project. Approx. 400 people picked up 300 bags of garbage.
- 4) Created Evergreen Avenue in Victoria Park, Smiths Falls in 2002: A tree, park enhancement project created in 2000 as a living memorial to veterans and peace-keepers, featuring native plants and climate change solutions. 130 Trees and bushes planted together with amenities such as park benches, waste receptacles and lights.
- 5) Voyageur Canoe Tours: Participatory tours of the Rideau Canal and locks with interpretation on ecological, cultural and heritage highlights of the area. Over 140 people participated in the interpretative tour of the Swale, a class I wetland in Smiths Falls in 2004, with many a first-time experience thro' the locks.
- 6) Shoreline & Diving Clean-up: Dove to recover materials: filled a dumpster.

## **Rideau Roundtable (Jeff Kohl)**

### **Mission**

The Rideau River Roundtable provides leadership, facilitates communication, encourages cooperation, and supports collective action by individuals, organizations and communities to care for the health of the Rideau and Cataraqui Rivers and their watersheds.

### **Recent Projects:**

- 1) **State of the River Report:** Produced a “State of the Rideau River” report that provided a snapshot of the river’s health and served as a benchmark for monitoring changes over time.
- 2) **Turtle Habitat:** Installed 6 turtle basking platforms and 16 basking logs at four locations along the Rideau, and erected 14 road signs to warn motorists of locations where turtles frequently cross busy roads.
- 3) **Fish Embayment:** Partnered with Muskies Canada to create a 20 by 30 metre calm water fish sanctuary (embayment) on the banks of the Rideau River in Brewer Park, Ottawa. Planted 262 trees, 440 shrubs, and hundreds of bullrushes and cattails (49 species in total).

- 4) **Water Protection Workshops:** Partnered with LL Green to hold eight Water Protection Workshops throughout the watershed. Workshops were attended by more than 400 people and covered topics ranging from well and septic system maintenance to shoreline naturalization.
- 5) **Natural Landscaping Workshops:** Partnered with LL Green to deliver six Natural Landscaping Workshops throughout the watershed. These hands-on workshops were full to capacity and helped rural property owners create natural landscaping plans for their properties.
- 6) **Rideau River Stewards:** A series of photographs were taken to document best shoreline practices along the Rideau River. The property owners who were “doing it right” were contacted and will likely be acknowledged as the first *Rideau River Stewards*. This is the first phase of what we hope will be a multi-year program.
- 7) **Community Tree Sales:** Distributed over 8,000 seedlings and provided tree planting information to residents throughout the Rideau watershed.
- 8) **Voyageur Canoe Tours:** Coordinated a series of interpretive tours in voyageur canoes through the Smiths Falls Swale and Merrickville Bird Sanctuary. Response was very positive and plans are underway to grow the program next year.

## **Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (Cliff Craig, Bruce Reid, Don MacIver)**

### **Mission**

Our goal is the protection and improvement of the natural functions of the river valley on a watershed basis. The RVCA and its partners work towards and promote clean water, natural shorelines and sustainable land use throughout the Rideau watershed.

### **Recent Projects:**

- 1) **Rural Clean Water Program:** Since May 2002, 79 on-the-ground projects were created worth \$280,044 (\$109,106 in grant dollars), such as septic system repair, livestock access restriction from water, well upgrades and decommissioning, safer fertilizer, chemical, pesticide and fuel storage/handling.
- 2) **Tree Planting:** Planted 140,000 trees for spring 2004. Tree planting this spring brings the total number of trees planted through Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA) programs to 2.5 million over the past 21 years.
- 3) **Lower Rideau Watershed Strategy**
- 4) **Watershed Monitoring:** Sampling and testing of various environmental factors such as benthic invertebrates, water quality, lake quality, beaver dams, forest cover, invasive species (with OFAH), municipal drain classifications, planting success rates, city streams, stream flow, water levels and precipitation across the valley. All the data is entered in the Watershed Information System available on the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority website.
- 5) **Watershed Watch Program:** 45 lakes are being monitored in the Rideau Valley watershed. Fourteen State of the Lake Environment reports produced since 2001.
- 6) **Rideau River Shoreline Classification Project:** 127 km of shoreline between Kars and Merrickville have been classified in terms of vegetation, erosion, and land use and shoreline structures.

## **Rideau Waterway Land Trust Foundation (Anne Bristow)**

### **Mission**

The Rideau Waterway Land Trust Foundation (RWLT) believes the conservation of ecologically sensitive and cultural heritage lands is important to protect the natural environment and improve the quality of life in communities throughout the Rideau Corridor for the benefit of present and future generations.

### **Recent Projects:**

- 1) Secured seven ecologically sensitive properties.
- 2) Produced one National, one Provincial and numerous Regional workshops on capacity building.

## **Russell Enviro-Team (Cindy Saucier)**

The Russell Enviro-Team promotes pesticide-free lawn and garden care, has a regular environmental column in the local paper, and has lead efforts to naturalize a community park.

## **Sawmill Creek Stewardship Council (Donna Silver)**

### **Mission:**

To monitor, protect and restore Sawmill Creek.

### **Recent Projects:**

- 1) Shoreline remediation and reforestation.
- 2) Participation in City Stream Watch program with RVCA (see RVCA website).

## **Thousand Islands-Frontenac Arch Biosphere Reserve (David Bull)**

### **Mission**

The Thousand Islands- Frontenac Arch works with and through partners to help citizens promote solutions to reconcile the conservation of biodiversity with its sustainable use by our community.

### **Recent Projects:**

- 1) Healthy Shoreline Review
- 2) Healthy Shoreline Makeovers
- 3) Nature Trails at Landon Bay
- 4) Paddle1000.com
- 5) Landscape Level Database and Application to Biosphere Reserve area

## **Project & Partnership Suggestions**

This section describes projects proposed at the Partners Forum (both in the morning plenary and in the afternoon break-out sessions).

### **Public Education**

#### **Clean Boater Program (plenary)**

- Proposed by: Gillian Organ
- Others interested: Greg Philliban, CSW, Pat Chamberlain

#### **Environmental Supplement in EMC Newspaper (break-out)**

- Proposed by: Susan Brandum
- Project leaders/contacts: Susan Brandum, Peter Au.
- Description: Raise funds to produce the editorial content of a 10x a year environmental supplement covering environmental activities, tips, programs etc throughout the EMC coverage area (Counties of North Frontenac, South Frontenac, Leeds, Grenville and Lanark).
- Audience: General public.
- Potential partners: The EMC has offered to cover the cost of printing and distribution. Frontenac Environmental Partnership is also interested.
- Others interested: Sommer Casgrain-Robertson, CSW, Johanne Pietersma, Hedrik Wachelka, Pat Chamberlain, Heather Hamilton

#### **Take It Back Program (return to vendor program) (break-out)**

- Proposed by: Sue Brandum, Johanne Pietersma
- Description: Encourage retailers to take back hazardous and other waste products they sell and encourage residents to take products back.
- Geographic area: Rural areas outside Ottawa (Lanark, Leeds, Grenville, S. Frontenac, N. Frontenac).
- Status: REAL has formed a working committee in partnership with the Environmental & Conservation Advisory Committee of Eliz-Kitley.
- Potential Partners: Frontenac Environmental Partnership.
- Others interested: Johanne Pietersma, Bill Hallam, Greg Philliban, Stew Hamill, Heather Hamilton

## **Public Education Events**

### **Eco-Stewardship Fair / Environmental Retreat (plenary)**

- Proposed by: Elaine Gibson, Dena Splinter, Kristina Mellway
- Details: Host an eco-fair along the Rideau corridor to showcase environmental organizations and promote environmentally sustainable lifestyles (e.g. alternative energy technologies such as wind and solar power).
- Others interested: Amy Kempster

### **100<sup>th</sup> Monkey Eco-Summit (plenary)**

- Proposed by: Heather Hamilton
- Others interested: Tim Armstrong, Catherine Dumouchel

### **“I Scream” Social (plenary)**

- Proposed by: Heather Hamilton
- Others interested: Tim Armstrong

## **Network Development**

### **Continue to Develop Environmental Network (break-out)**

- Proposed by: Bonnie Maybe and David Taylor
- Description: Create an Environmental Network. There is a need for a more “identified” network with clear purposes that meets at least once a year.
- Geographic area: whole Rideau and Cataraqui watersheds.
- Others interested: Martin Yates, CSW, Tom Beaubiah, Elaine Gibson, Peter Au, Greg Atkinson, Sommer Casgrain-Robertson, Gillian Organ, CSW, Tim Armstrong.

### **Umbrella Group Meeting (plenary)**

- Proposed by: NA
- Project Contacts: Bob Sneyd, Peter Au.
- Description: Convene a meeting of ENGO “umbrella” groups and networks to clarify missions and sort out gaps and overlaps, particularly with regards to networking events and communications. There may be a need for a network of networks and/or quarterly meetings.
- Next steps: Plan and hold first meeting.

### **Watershed Info Xchange (WIX) (plenary)**

- Proposed by: Barb Robbins (CSW)
- Details: Implement a web-based mapping and database application in Eastern Ontario that enables groups to input, manage and view stewardship data online.
- Status: already in development stage.
- Others interested: Greg Philliban, Martin Yates

### **GIS Systems for Lake Associations (plenary)**

- Proposed by: Art Dunham
- Details: Implement a web-based mapping and data management system to serve and link key organizations throughout the Rideau and Cataraqui watersheds.
- Status: Already in use by a few lake associations in the area.
- Others interested: Greg Philliban, Gillian Organ, Peter Au, Pat Chamberlain, Tom Beaubiah

### **Who's Doing What - Pilot Website (plenary)**

- Proposed by: Greg Philliban
- Status: Website being developed by Grenville Land Stewardship Council (with technical support from the Eastern Ontario Model Forest).
- Others interested: Martin Yates

### **Data Collection and Sharing Website (Collaborative Effort) (break-out)**

- Proposed by: Bob Sneyd, Art Dunham, Greg Philliban
- Description: Develop a web-enabled GIS system for data input and exchange between the many organizations throughout the Rideau and Cataraqui watersheds. Facilitate collaboration between the three organizations currently developing such websites and work toward having these sites merged or linked.
- Geographic area: the entire Rideau-Cataraqui system.
- Audiences: Lake associations etc.
- Potential partners: CSW, RVCA, CRCA, Grenville Land Stewardship Council, Rideau Roundtable.
- Next steps: Rideau Roundtable to convene meeting.
- Others interested: Bruce Reid, Tom Beaubiah.

## **School- and Community-Based Monitoring**

### **School Monitoring Programs (e.g. Adopt-A-River) (break-out)**

- Proposed by: Catherine Dumouchel, Jan Johns, Heather Hamilton, others
- Description: Involve students in monitoring programs such as Stream Watch (RVCA) or Adopt-A-River (CMN), and feed the results into a State of the River or watershed report. Monitor water quality, shoreline conditions and biodiversity.
- Geographic area: throughout the Rideau and Cataraqui watersheds.
- Current activities: Adopt-A-River is currently being run by over 50 schools on 35 rivers across Canada, including two schools along the Rideau River. This is a scientifically rigorous program that trains teachers and students to study benthic macro-invertebrates as well as physical and chemical indicators of water quality.
- Project contacts/leaders: Catherine Dumouchel, Paul Hamilton, Heather Hamilton.
- Potential partners: Canadian Museum of Nature, Ashbury College, Upper Canada District School Board, Eastern Ontario Biodiversity Museum, Canadian Biodiversity Institute.
- Others interested: Dave Beedell, Kelly St. Denis, Jan Johns, Tom Beaubiah, ECOS, David Taylor, Peter Au.

### **Cyanobacteria Algae Monitoring (plenary)**

- Proposed by: Paul Hamilton
- Details: Community groups and individuals would be trained to identify cyanobacteria (algae) and document the times and locations of occurrences.
- Others interested: Jane Scott, Bill Hallam, Stew Hamill, Jan Johns David Taylor, Dave Beedell, Catherine Dumouchel, Elaine Gibson, Greg Philliban,

### **Taxonomy Institute (May-June 2005) (plenary)**

- Proposed by: Heather Hamilton
- Others interested: Kelly St. Denis, Johanne Pietersma, Catherine Dumouchel, Hedrik Wachelka, Jan Johns, Dave Beedell

### **Involve High School Students in Research Projects (plenary)**

- Proposed by: Dave Beedell
- Others interested: Greg Philliban

## **Stewardship Programs**

### **Rideau River Stewards (action & recognition program) (plenary)**

- Proposed by: Jeff Kohl
- Others interested: Mary Hegan, Barb Robbins, Sommer Casgrain-Robertson, Catherine Dumouchel

### **Green Home/Site Visits (stewardship service) (plenary)**

- Proposed by: Sue Brandum
- Others interested: Barb Robbins, Johanne Pietersma, Stew Hamill

### **Shoreline Stewardship Program (plenary)**

- Proposed by: Cliff Craig
- Others interested: Mary Hegan, Stew Hamill, Sue Brandum, Barb Robbins

### **Energy Conservation in Religious Buildings (plenary)**

- Proposed by: Kristina Mellway, Restoring the Sacred Balance
- Others interested: Jeff Kohl via the *eco*Communities program.

## **Protection & Restoration**

### **Support Ferguson Forest Centre (plenary)**

- Proposed by: Adam Shewchuk
- Others interested: Sue Brandum

### **Limerick Forest Management & Protection (plenary)**

- Proposed by: Stew Hamill

### **Brewer Park Restoration (break-out)**

- Proposed by: Christine Pelletier, Hedrik Wachelka, Tamrin Carroll
- Project contacts/leaders: Hedrik Wachelka, Mike Lascelles (737-6480)
- Description: Dredge and deepen Brewer Pond in Brewer Park and re-connect it to the Rideau River. Create turtle basking island.
- Geographic area: Brewer Park Ottawa.
- Resources available: volunteers with ECOS, Muskies Canada and Carleton University.
- Potential partners: City of Ottawa, OMNR, RVCA, DFO.
- Next steps: complete Environmental Assessment.
- Others interested: Jane Scott, Donna Silver

### **Sawmill Creek Restoration**

- Proposed by: Donna Silver

## **Eco-Tourism**

### **Create Eco-Tourism Plan for the Rideau (plenary)**

- Proposed by: Tim Armstrong
- Details: Produce a long-term eco-tourism plan for the Rideau; perform historical re-enactments.
- Others interested: Adam Shewchuk, David Taylor

### **Riverboat Fantasy – Festival (plenary)**

- Proposed by: Larry Pegg
- Project contacts/leaders: Larry Pegg, Jeff Kohl
- Description: Music Festival that touches on cultural, heritage and environmental themes to be held at locations along the Rideau.
- Geographic area: Ottawa to Kingston.
- Audience: regional, building to national upon maturity.

## **Capacity-Building**

### **Capacity-Building Workshop (plenary)**

- Proposed by: Anne Bristow
- Others interested: Peter Au, Amy Kempster

### **Insurance for Non-Profits (plenary)**

- Proposed by: David Crowley
- Details: Organizations may have their insurance needs met if/when they partner with one of the Stewardship Councils.

### **Project Management Mentoring (plenary)**

- Proposed by: Anthony Tsoukanas
- Details: Anthony is willing to provide a few hours of project management mentoring to local non-profits.
- Others interested: Peter Au

### **Public Policy**

#### **Registry of Official Plan Review Expertise (break-out)**

- Proposed by: Gary Clarke
- Project contacts/leaders: Gary Clarke, David Bull, Tom Beaubiah
- Description: Create a web-based registry of resource persons available to consult with interested parties on preparation, implementation and monitoring of Official Plans. Encourage the public to provide early and informed input to municipal Official Planning processes.
- Geographic area: Rideau and St. Lawrence corridors and beyond.
- Audiences: citizens, interest groups, municipalities, government agencies.
- Resources available: Biosphere Network website and staff.
- Potential partners: Greenspace Alliance, many others
- Others interested: Martin Yates, Mary Hegan, Adam Shewchuk, Tom Beaubiah, Barb Robbins, Peter Au, Sue Brandum, Bill Hallam, Tim Armstrong, Amy Kempster, Sandy Garland, Don MacIver.

#### **Seminars on Official Plan Process (break-out)**

- Proposed by: Mary Hegan.
- Description: Hold session(s) to educate the public along the corridor about the importance of municipal Official Plans, and encourage input from persons with environmental interests.
- Geographic area: Rideau-Cataraqui ecosystem.
- Audiences: Public, politicians, NGO staff.
- Resources needed: organizational lead from Rideau Roundtable. Funding/donations to cover outreach, hosting, follow-up.
- Resources available: Biosphere Network website.
- Work already done: RVCA has done some background work.
- Potential partners: Biosphere Network, Greenspace Alliance, Federation of Citizen Associations (Ottawa-Amy), RVCA, EAC's.

#### **Wetland Classification (plenary)**

- Proposed by: Amy Kempster
- Details: Encourage the MNR and others to proceed with classification of all wetlands within the City of Ottawa.

## Partners Forum Evaluation

This section summarizes evaluation comments received at the end of the day.

### **I really liked...**

- Networking with a wide range of organizations 15
- Learning about a wide variety of groups, projects & issues 8
- Facility (space, location, food) 7
- Short presentations 6
- Informal presentations 3
- Balance of formal/informal (structured/unstructured) time 3
- Good overall 3
- Facilitation, casual approach, humour 3
- Well organized, good pace, natural flow 3
- Discussing common issues / planning collaborative projects 2
- Small group break-out sessions 2
- Simon's photos 1
- Music 1
- Project Marketplace concept 1

### **I did not enjoy...**

- Too many presentations 4
- Presentations were too short / rushed 3
- Too many agency presentations 2
- Poor ventilation in plenary room 2
- Moving between buildings in the rain 2
- Too much time taken to set up afternoon session 2
- Too many interests grouped together in break-out sessions 1
- Having to choose only one break-out group 1
- Directions to Strathmere not clear 1
- Some projects had ulterior motives (e.g. create employment) 1
- No vegetarian lunch 1

**To improve the next Partners Forum I would...**

- Choose themes in advance (make more productive use of time) 10
- More displays / display area 6
- Send out more information in advance (e.g presentations) 4
- Build in time to participate in two break-out sessions 3
- Make event longer (as long as two days) 3
- Keep afternoon break-outs more focused (by grouping fewer interests) 2
- More advance notice 2
- More free time to mingle, tour displays 2
- Circulate contact list for Forum participants 2
- Support recommendations made at end of Forum 2
- Invite politicians 1
- Invite secondary school students 1
- Get more public to participate 1
- Hold event farther south (closer to Kingston) 1
- Give out evaluation sheets earlier in day 1
- Group projects and assign rooms before lunch 1
- Hold a Forum annually 1
- Publish one-page summary of each project 1
- Fewer presentations 1
- Promote car pooling 1
- Merge powerpoint presentations into one file to save time 1
- Provide handout of presentations 1

**Was the Forum a good way to come together to learn about “who is doing what”?**

Yes = 22

No = 0

**Can you suggest any improvements or alternatives?**

- Excellent event / good overall / great idea 7
- Make Forum longer 2
- More displays / poster boards 2
- Reduce number of topics / have smaller breakout groups 2
- More time to mingle 2
- Hand out summaries of presentations at start of Forum 1
- Fewer presentations next time / or only cover new activities 1
- Give a basic, fun science lesson next time 1
- Include an outdoor activity 1
- Circulate list of web sites for participating groups 1
- Motivational keynote speaker 1
- Need follow-up communication to develop partnerships 1

**Was this a good way to come together to take the first steps to form new partnerships?**

Yes = 19

No = 0

**Can you suggest improvements or alternatives?**

- Well done / good day / no improvements needed 9
- Make Forum longer 1
- More display options 1
- Fewer / shorter presentations 1
- More mingling time 1
- Create an umbrella / network 1
- Need communication after Forum to develop partnerships 3
- Define topics(s) in advance 1
- Try to get more concrete results by end of day 1
- Hold Forum at Desert Lake Lodge or Opinicon Lodge 1