

News Release

TAY RIVER FLOOD RISK MAPPING OPEN HOUSE

RIDEAU VALLEY, September 29, 2009 — Please come and view the new Tay River Flood Risk Maps at an upcoming open house. **Join us on Tuesday, October 6 from 3:30 to 8:30 at the Royal Canadian Legion, 26 Beckwith Street East, Perth.** We hope that local residents may be able to bring information and experience to bear that will help make the new maps as accurate as possible before they are made final. The new maps cover the Tay River from Christie Lake to Glen Tay (see attached map for details).

Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA) engineers created the new maps using recent data and advanced, industry-standard engineering methods. However, as in any flood risk-mapping project, there is some uncertainty and approximations. The RVCA wants to minimize the uncertainty by making use of every bit of information that we can obtain about the historical behaviour of the Tay River. Residents and landowners along the river may have anecdotal or documented information such as photographs or journal entries of their observations during past high water events. That kind of information can be very useful for evaluating the "reasonableness" of the flood lines shown on the maps and the study team is anxious to review any past flood evidence that people wish to share.

When finalized, these flood risk maps will be used by planners to determine where development should and should not be located. These maps, like their counterparts on river systems across Ontario, are the cornerstone for keeping people and property safe during high water events.

The specialists call this flood plain management. It really boils down to protecting people and property against flooding by knowing where the flood risk is and then controlling construction of residences and other developments in those flood-prone areas. Rideau Valley Conservation Authority is a partnership of municipalities created under the *Conservation Authorities Act* to deliver a range of programs in natural resource conservation within the Rideau Valley watershed.

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