



“Towards Watershed Planning”

**November 30, 2015
Best Western, Pembroke**

The Renfrew County Stewardship Forum was initiated in response to PhD research at Carleton University supported by the Bonnechere River Watershed Project (including funding from the Ontario Trillium Foundation) that identified the need to provide an opportunity in Renfrew County to connect people and organizations with an interest in the environment, a strong sense of place and a concern about the future. The Forum is timely because tackling our environmental, social and economic challenges requires collaborative action among a diversity of people and organizations with strong convictions and the courage to act on them. To be effective will require adopting innovative partnerships and approaches.

The Forum aims to foster intense interaction, networking and information exchange to explore how to inform people about what’s happening to our communities and environment in a way that they can relate to, understand and take action.

Now is the time. Together we can shape our future to sustain our collective values and communities.

The inaugural Renfrew County Stewardship Forum **“Fostering Adaptive Collaboration”** was hosted by the Bonnechere River Watershed Project, Renfrew County Stewardship Council and Algonquin College at the Algonquin College Pembroke campus on April 24th, 2012 with 26 participants. Discussions focused on our changing climate and the collaborative, non-regulatory approach used by Muskoka Watershed Council to advance stewardship and to foster innovation. Funding support was provided by the Government of Canada, through the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario’s (FedDev Ontario) Eastern Ontario Development Program administered by the Community Futures Development Corporation of Renfrew County.

The second Renfrew County Stewardship Forum **“Fostering Shoreline Conservation”** was hosted by the Bonnechere River Watershed Project and the Centre of Sustainable Watersheds (now Watersheds Canada) on February 7th, 2013 at the Marguerite Centre in Pembroke. Discussions among the 33 participants focused on the Centre for Sustainable Watershed’s 2012 shoreline surveys, the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority research on implications of changing climate on water management, and proposed community collaboration on Renfrew County environmental issues, in particular, hyper-eutrophication of Muskrat Lake.

The third Renfrew County Stewardship Forum **“Celebrating Our Watersheds: Trails and Tributaries”** was hosted by the Bonnechere River Watershed Project and Ottawa River Institute on May 9th, 2014 at the Marguerite Centre in Pembroke. Over 40 participants from around the County contributed to lively discussions on a range of topics including active transportation, the County’s efforts and plans for trail development, the Algonquin’s of Pikwakangan interest in trails development along the abandoned CP rail line and water quality concerns in County watersheds, in particular the Bonnechere and the Muskrat watersheds.





“Towards Watershed Planning”

**November 30, 2015
Best Western, Pembroke**

This fourth Renfrew County Stewardship Forum **“Towards Watershed Planning”** was hosted by Bonnechere River Watershed Project, Ottawa River Institute, Sustainable Eastern Ontario and the National Capital Environmental Nonprofit Network, and attended by 33 participants from the following organizations and perspectives:

- County of Renfrew
- Algonquins of Ontario
- Bonnechere River Watershed Project
- Muskrat Lake Watershed Council
- Ottawa River Institute
- Renfrew County Stewardship Council
- Sustainable Eastern Ontario
- Ottawa Riverkeeper
- Friends of the Carp River
- Lake Clear Conservancy
- Lake property owners
- Ontario Soil & Crop Improvement Association
- Renfrew South District Women's Institute
- Farm property owners
- Jp2g Consultants Inc.
- Ottawa Valley Tourist Association
- Bonnechere Caves
- Muskrat Lake Bona Vista Campground





"Towards Watershed Planning"

**November 30, 2015
Best Western, Pembroke**

AGENDA

8:30 – 9:00 Registration and Coffee/Tea

9:00 – 9:05 Welcome

Kathryn Lindsay, Bonnechere River Watershed Project
Ole Hendrickson, Ottawa River Institute
Kristina Inrig, Sustainable Eastern Ontario

9:05 - 9:10 Opening Invocation

Morning Session moderator: Kathryn Lindsay

9:10 – 9:30 Background of the Forum/Participant Introductions

9:30 – 9:35 Introduction to AM Session

9:35 – 10:35 Feature topic: Review of the County of Renfrew Official Plan

Presenters: Charles Cheesman and Paul Moreau, County of Renfrew

10:35 – 10:50 Coffee/Tea Break

10:50 – 11:40 Table Discussions

11:40 – 12:00 Report-backs from Table Discussions

12:00 – 12:45 Lunch/Networking

12:45 Introduction to PM Session

Afternoon Session moderator: Ole Hendrickson

13:00 – 13:20 Capacity-Building Support for Local Groups

Kristina Inrig, Sustainable Eastern Ontario

13:20 - 14:40 Panel: Engaging the Agricultural Community in Freshwater Stewardship

Panelists: Kathryn Lindsay, Bonnechere River Watershed Project; Karen and Rene Coulas, Muskrat Watershed Council Agriculture Committee; Gerry Richards, Renfrew County Soil & Crop Improvement Association; Lynn Clelland, Renfrew County South District Women's Institute

14:40 – 15:00 Wrap-up, Next Steps and Thanks





“Towards Watershed Planning”

November 30, 2015
Best Western, Pembroke

Presentations

1. Review of the County of Renfrew Official Plan

- Charles Cheesman and Paul Moreau, County of Renfrew

Presentation highlights (full version on BRWP website BonnechereRiver.ca)

Official Plan (OP) – Council’s policy on how land used

- Planning is a balancing act between private and public interest
- 10, soon to be 12, local municipalities use the OP as their own
- Arnprior, Deep river, Petawawa and Renfrew are designated as urban community

Based on - Planning Act 1946, 1990

- Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) – OP “shall be consistent with”
- Current OP approved 2003; needs to be revised to be consistent with 2005 and 2014 PPS
- Benefits of an OP (see slide); balanced with “Made in Renfrew County” approach
- Zoning by-laws - control what happens on private property – have 3 years to be consistent with approved OP

Issues for Renfrew County

- Low population, slow growth; interested in attracting growth, tax base, etc.
- Planning on private property (OP applies)
- Local municipalities interested in growth, development, jobs
- “Rural” designation predominant in Renfrew County

Timeline: 2013 - Draft for Ministry of Municipal Affairs & Housing

- March 2017 – \$12,000 fee implemented for OP amendments
- Spring 2016 - Public consultation
- Late 2016 or early 2017 – draft OP to Province
- Algonquins review the OP at the provincial adoption phase; would prefer it earlier

New policies needed include:

- Planning at watershed level – some movement on watershed planning; will be part of discussion with the province
- Natural Heritage: significant woodlands, significant valleylands
- Karst
- Wildland Fire – to protect built environment e.g. set back from coniferous forests,
- Water setbacks (see slide)
- Servicing Policies – well and septic (see slide)
- Rural – new waterfront development – no negative impact on the water
- Environmental Protection- wetlands
- At-capacity Lakes – MOE for water quality (see slide) – buffer strips, etc
- Stormwater management (see slide)





“Towards Watershed Planning”

November 30, 2015
Best Western, Pembroke

Questions/Answers

Q. More detailed interaction between crown and province – there is a policy that will be offered

Q. In order to plan on private we need to know what’s going on crown land

A. Land use for hunting fishing etc.

Q. Forestry on crown but mills on private.

A. Two officials that sit on forestry committees, county recognize and provide staffing

Q. What does an EP designation mean?

A. Environmental protect prohibits development; low areas, steep areas etc.

- tries to protect the feature by prohibiting development

Q. Trail development

A. Draft integrated trail strategy –OP will recognize new strategy “Linked trail strategy for Renfrew County”.

Hope to have CP rail as backbone of RC trail. Want more discussions with Algonquins on trails.

Snowmobile trails are private partnerships with the clubs – RC does not have resources to address private landowners. Multi-use e.g. K&P. Walking club not as organized as snowmobile clubs – they have gps data, etc. If walking clubs could get county data RC would work with them.

Q. Endangered species, etc. How does that fit into the plan?

A. OP would not allow development if it’s a provincial policy. Public has to adhere to it. MNR would have to delineate habitat and OP would have to adhere to it. Private property owner has onus to adhere to regulations.

2. Capacity-Building Support for Local Groups

Kristina Inrig, Sustainable Eastern Ontario (SEO) sustainableeasternontario.ca

Presentation highlights (full version on BRWP website BonnechereRiver.ca)

- SEO is a network organization that fosters partnerships and collaborations on sustainability activities for environmental groups of any type throughout Eastern Ontario around the following themes: connecting, collaborating, capacity building, celebrating

NCENN – a program of Sustainable Eastern Ontario – network of nonprofits in the region sharing common challenges and opportunities; does green pages directory, retreats with other groups, resources and tools and shared fundraising opportunities.





“Towards Watershed Planning”

November 30, 2015
Best Western, Pembroke

CONNECTING:

- Networking gatherings – west end well – how to raise capital, etc
- Groups across E Ontario- e.g. Lake Links in Perth
- Capacity building directory – add more for Renfrew County
- Book keeping, social media, logos, etc.
- Web based tools- board engagement for example
- Environmental Funders Forum- trying to match orgs to funders and supporting common work
- Match with groups doing similar work and shared funding

COLLABORATING:

- Working together on programs
- Collaborative grant proposals
- Coming soon - funding directory searchable tool
- Shared space at the new sustainable capacity centre in Ottawa, another in Perth in spring, partnering with *Watersheds Canada*

CAPACITY BUILDING:

- Financial management and fund development, provide plans for fundraising, book keeping
- Turn books into a clean format for funders
- Volunteer engagement and human resources, sample staff contracts, templates
- Communications and outreach, templates, social media, communication tools (e.g. branding and logos, microgrants for printing)
- Risk management and legal issues
- Capacity check-up

In 2016 - 10 spots for capacity check ups

- Office space at the sustainable capacity centre
- Book keeping support for 2 more orgs
- Capacity grants, limited

CELEBRATING:

- Sharing sustainability stories
- Recognize leaders and champions
- Celebrate successes





“Towards Watershed Planning”

November 30, 2015
Best Western, Pembroke

TOP 10 Tools and Resources

- Capacity check up
- Capacity building directory
- Book keeping support
- Shared office space
- Policy templates
- Fund development strategy
- Board 101 Fact Sheets
- Staff training tools
- NCENN conference call line
- Searchable funding tool

3. Panel: Engaging the Agricultural Community in Freshwater Stewardship

Presentation highlights (full versions on BRWP website BonnechereRiver.ca)

- Kathryn Lindsay, Bonnechere River Watershed Project
 - Described sampling process in watershed and map
 - Harris Creek shared with Muskrat and Snake watershed
 - Harris Creek macro-invertebrate samples comes up as poor over the years of sampling
 - MOE offered support for fecal sampling – discover high e-coli contamination
 - Also tracked were nitrate and phosphorus – nitrates slightly elevated- phosphorus is high
 - Land around Harris Creek catchment is largely agricultural: 46% hay/pasture, mixed forest, corn, etc.
 - Rodden Creek high as well and is also high in agricultural land use
 - Pre-dominance of agriculture seems to be related to poor water quality
- Karen and Rene Coulas, Muskrat Watershed Council, Agriculture Committee
 - Do beef, dairy, cash crop and custom work
 - Found out how farmers were viewed by non-farmers – voice needed
 - True that agriculture drains into Snake River and Muskrat Lake
 - Trying to make a living – farmers are afraid to be singled out and given more regulations – they are however interested in making improvements but do not want red tape. Farmers afraid – kitchen meetings – want to see improvements.
 - Science night – specialist in tile drainage – saw some sites – kitchen meeting with David Lapan, controlled tile drainage, saw some sites and provided information. Block end of tile drain in spring and reduce nutrients going to creek. Have worked on buffer zones – hard sell, put some farmers have put in a buffer zones. Lake Erie problem is high on the farmers’ radar.
 - Bob Dobson example of buffer zones and solar pumping of water to trough.





“Towards Watershed Planning”

November 30, 2015
Best Western, Pembroke

- Lynn Clelland, Renfrew County Agricultural Water Quality Leadership Group; Renfrew County South District Women's Institute
- Gerry Richards, Renfrew County Agricultural Water Quality Leadership Group; Ontario Soil & Crop Improvement Association
- Fall 2014- Needs to come together to have input into problem – many farm groups came together to form committee- each made contribution and leveraged federal funding ie OMAFRA and Moving Forward 2. With funding they hired someone to put together document.
- Issues around levels and flows and quality – some organizations doing water quality work
- Report page 23. Everyone wants community efforts including government behind them – conservation authority model not desirable in Renfrew County – collective vision and collaboration
- Report page 14 – strengths: a number of groups are interested – lakes, rivers and streams are a big asset of County. Water for tourism, collective incentive – funding is limited- not funding for administration, or education and minimal to individuals – long term sustainable capacity funding is very difficult.
- Dollars does not necessary mean success – Lake Erie has been funded well but not much improvement- show County why is it so important would be helpful for funders
- Heavily rely on volunteers, share resources and a working group at county level – clear leadership is needed to make use of volunteers and efficiency –
- Report p. 16 – education and awareness so important – Best Management Practices (BMPs) for farmers e.g. buffer zones
- Difficult to question our own practices – nutrients that end up in the lake are not helping the farming ie lost inputs – completing land interest – buffer zones take land out of production, need to see long term value of action
- Report p11. Money has been spent on environmental projects and some have received grants from the Growing Forward program, but funding of this program has been cut, - Fencing takes time and effort. Progress is being made. US is leading the way ie. Chesapeake Bay spending lots of buffers etc.
- Report p32 - BMP cost to maintain once established – e.g. leaving cover crop in place over the winter – most are site specific
- Report p16 – need cohesive plan for Renfrew County – paid coordinator at County level – well managed water resource in the County
- AG community wants to be at the table during discussions. – basis for lobbying for funding. Need to take leadership role in stewardship for future generations





“Towards Watershed Planning”

November 30, 2015
Best Western, Pembroke

Questions/Answers

Q. One acre of land feeds how many people?

A. 100 bushel of corn to acre 20 years ago, it's now almost double that, partly because of changes in practices. No till farming, applying nutrients as needed by plant analysis – control tile drainage has many advantages and 2-3 year pay back- not having level land a problem. Controlled tiles will hold back 50-60% of nutrients and benefit the plants. Buffer zones should be planted with grass or something that's harvestable – no interest in trees, - cost of farmland is expensive and too expensive to not farm the buffer.

- minimum amount of fertilizer in spring – vary the flow of nutrients to field using a high tech soil reader.

Technology will drive the problem solving

-Activating Key players in the farming community helps to promote more BMP and make changes – get farming champions to work for you and your cause.

Shaw Woods and Snake river is not being used as a highway – image to protect

IDEAS for Follow up:

- Put something together on highlights and success stories, John would put on-line
- Recommendation in WQ Report – joint statement of endorsement/support from Environmental and Agricultural groups – would make impact at County/ funders
- Muskrat Lake was a health issue and no Ontario Ministry cared
- Meeting with interested parties in new year – Lynn Clelland to organize.

Table Discussions

The Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) says that municipal official plans shall protect, improve or restore water quality and quantity by using watersheds as the planning unit and by having municipalities across a watershed work together. As evidenced by the meeting starting today in Paris, planning also needs to consider how to address climate change - things like, building codes, ensuring that new developments are designed to enable solar energy installations, minimizing the need for built storm water infrastructure.

- Input from five sets of table notes

Question 1: How does or should the new official plan and planning process facilitate watershed planning in the County of Renfrew?

On the process:

- Keywords: Communication/Transparency/Inclusivity/Partnerships
- Public involved/informed early in the planning process
- The County OP does not currently support watershed planning and management. It will not do so unless there is support (lobbying) from the community to get involved in watershed planning.





“Towards Watershed Planning”

November 30, 2015
Best Western, Pembroke

- Local agriculture, tourism and community-based organizations should collectively encourage County Council to take a leadership role in watershed planning and management for improving water quality in Renfrew County. This should include lobbying the local councils to also support county-wide support for watershed planning and management related to water quality.
- Include a process for input, consultation and education with the land owners and non-profit environmental groups on issues and actions concerning watershed planning.
- Bring together major players & decision makers including lake property owners associations.
- Include other expertise (college/university/ ...)
- Educate & regulate groups e.g. lake POAs, communities, councils, businesses
- Help to educate all levels of government (e.g. building inspectors, municipal planner & politicians) on what is needed to protect watersheds
- Water quality coordinator to be “umbrella” for all the watershed groups, lake property owners associations

On setting objectives:

- Define watershed
- Identify and map watersheds
- Any new plan or changes to an existing plan must include a clear – rationale for plan/change, impacts (positive & negative), benefits and cost.
- Propose standardized water quality and watershed analysis through the OP
- The County OP should include policies that support local initiatives and funding proposals for improving water quality within watersheds.
- The County OP should include policies to support water quality goals/objectives of watershed-based organizations.
- The County OP should recognize the work of community-based watershed groups such as the Bonnechere River Watershed Project and the Muskrat Watershed Council.

Question 2: How does or could the new Official Plan help advance stewardship action more generally in the County of Renfrew?

- KEYWORDS: Communication/Transparency/Partnerships/Inclusivity/Education
- Make the plan readable by a lay audience (e.g. max 50 pages)
- Easily accessible information
- Re-organize OP and PP so it increases incentives, more readable/accessible to the public, increases education at schools and for youth, provides more basic information for the average person.
- The County OP should support education and stewardship initiatives that enhance the knowledge and understanding of water quality issues within watersheds.





“Towards Watershed Planning”

November 30, 2015
Best Western, Pembroke

- Through public education and public consultation with property owners and non-profit environmental groups. The BIG TENT approach
- Little or no input from “walkers” on various trails. To whom should we report information?
- Get youth involved
- Easy access to interesting green space
- Showcase bird/animal habitats and field naturalist groups
- How to become more productive
- Give initiatives to people to participate e.g. partly refundable loans for work
- New policy on stormwater
- How much is available to do this? Does provincial Green Energy Act?
- Local green energy consumption; make use of technology
- What is the long-term policy re: population growth?
- Provincial building code
- County planning: control municipal buildings; public use
- Impacts to be clearly stated

Forum Evaluation

Thank you for attending the 4th annual Renfrew County Stewardship Forum. We encourage you to answer this questionnaire to continue and improve the Forum and its positive outcomes for the County of Renfrew. Your feedback is greatly appreciated.

- 14 responses

Did you find the event useful?

Yes = 10 No response = 4

What was the best part in your opinion?

- All parts
- All presentations good
- Learned a lot
- Sharing of ideas – realizing the commonalities
- Hearing the presentations and capturing a few more ideas
- Provided lots of good materials for future activities
- Learning what groups are within Renfrew County
- How OP will affect planning
- Interesting – county staff informative
- The fact that government people were there to hear
- Nice perspective from farmer Rene Coulas





“Towards Watershed Planning”

**November 30, 2015
Best Western, Pembroke**

- Helpful resources from Kristina Inrig (Sustainable Eastern Ontario)
- Was interested in Sustainable Eastern Ontario
- Capacity building support
- Engaging agricultural sector
- Panel: farmers’ input
- Panel on how agriculture can help
- Table groups opinions & recommendations re: policy changes, environmental clean-up
- Environmental solutions are win/win
- Environmental/Economic from grass roots; bottom-up not top-down

Would you attend this event next year?

1	extremely likely	4
2	likely	9
3	undecided	1
4	not likely	
5	very unlikely	

What changes would you recommend for upcoming Forums?

- I think you do well as it is.
- Broaden to Ottawa Valley groups including attracting farmers and tourism representatives
- Need to make sure lake property owners associations are aware of the Forum
- Get county & other municipal leaders here to see what is being done
- Larger font, etc., on power point presentations
- Provide clear instructions on how to prepare presentations
- Outlines on-line to facilitate comprehension & discussion
- More info on success stories related to water quality
- “Easy” methods for obtaining info we are personally interested in
- Less policy in depth explanations
- Continue to invite all groups and maybe representatives from all municipalities
- Involve County of Renfrew
- Possible more education/background
- Rationale-> Benefits-> Impacts +/- -> Financial cost

Do you have suggestions for future Stewardship Forum themes or speakers?

- MNRF representatives on land & water use
- Have good] loading on lakes and rivers
- Please make sure that all government levels are present





“Towards Watershed Planning”

**November 30, 2015
Best Western, Pembroke**

- More speakers on how to get people involved with these ideas
- Ways of informing people/organizations about these topics; how to access information (e.g. on-line links) to learn more about these topics; to explain the benefits of being informed about these topics
- Focus on safe drinking water for all
- Need to follow up all examples to reduce [nutrient groups
- Waste management/waste diversion (R+R+R+C) particularly organics as produce greenhouse gases = +2oC
- Trees Planting/Renaturalization
- Water Quality Best Practices

Can you think of any other groups/organizations/individuals that were not in attendance/represented at the Forum that should be invited in future years?

- Municipalities; MOECC; Forestry; Ministry of Health; First Nations

What type of format do you prefer?

1	Presentations	4	
2	Table discussions	1	
3	Panel	4	
4	Networking time		
5	Mix of the above	10	20% presentations; 80% table/panel/networking Workshop format Should inform in advance so discussions more meaningful

How important is watershed planning to you?

1	extremely important	8
2	important	4
3	undecided	1 – Need to know why I should be concerned
4	not important	
5	a waste of time and money	
	No response	1

How important is stewardship action to you?

1	extremely important	9
2	important	4
3	undecided	
4	not important	





“Towards Watershed Planning”

November 30, 2015
Best Western, Pembroke

5 a waste of time and money
 No response 1

Do you have any other comments?

- When I came to the meeting this morning I was very discouraged about and hope of progress. The discussion on agriculture in the afternoon has given me new hope
- The farmer discussion was good but lacked sufficient detail to make it relevant to my life
- I hope that the farming community more broadly is aware of what the farmers on the panel presented
- Wish we could attract more farmers to convince them that we have all the community’s interest at heart
- Working together for government recognition
- Lunch could use improvements
- Learned a lot
- Educational process
- Great session!
- Please continue these annual Forums!

Next Steps

- Share the Forum report with participants and post on the web.
- Meeting with interested parties to follow-up on recommendations in the Renfrew County Agricultural Water Quality Leadership Group report.
- Seek partnership and funding opportunities to continue the Forum.

