



The Corporation of
THE TOWNSHIP OF LANARK HIGHLANDS

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES

Tuesday, October 27th, 2009

2:30 p.m.

**Lanark Highlands Municipal Office - 75 George Street, Lanark, Ontario
Council Chambers**

ATTENDANCE:

Members Present: Chair, Deputy Mayor, Bruce Horlin
Mayor, Bob Fletcher
Councillor Tom Lalonde
Councillor Peter McLaren
Councillor Leonard Echlin (arrived at 2:31 p.m.)

Staff Present: Tom Derreck, Chief Administrative Officer
Amanda Mabo, Clerk/Deputy CAO
Robert Bunker, Treasurer
Scott Cameron, Public Works Superintendent
(arrived at 2:31 p.m. and left at 3:36 p.m.)
Margot Hallam, Community Services (left at 3:17 p.m.)

Members & Staff Absent: Councillor Bob Sutcliffe
Councillor Brian Stewart

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 2:30 p.m.
A quorum was present.

2. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST & GENERAL NATURE THEREOF

None at this time.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

RESOLUTION #COW-2009-275

MOVED BY: Tom Lalonde

SECONDED BY: Peter McLaren

“**THAT**, the minutes of the Committee of the Whole Committee meeting held on October 6th, 2009 be approved as circulated;

AND THAT, the minutes of the “Special” Committee of the Whole Committee meeting held on October 15th, 2009 be approved as circulated.”

ADOPTED

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- i) Addition under New/Other Business: Report #CAO-13-2009 Staff Association - 2009 Benefits Allotment Request.
- ii) Addition under New/Other Business: Report #CAO-14-2009 Sewer & Water Project – Lobbyist Update.
- iii) Addition under New/Other Business: Calling of “Special” Committee of the Whole Meeting (verbal).
- iv) Addition under New/Other Business: Tri-Valley Conservation Awards Gala (verbal).

RESOLUTION #COW-2009-276

MOVED BY: Tom Lalonde

SECONDED BY: Peter McLaren

“**THAT**, the agenda be adopted as amended.”

ADOPTED

Councillor L. Echlin and S. Cameron, Public Works Superintendent arrived at 2:31 p.m.

5. DELEGATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

- i) **North Shore Road Construction (verbal).**
Nancy Markle, Resident.

N. Markle addressed the Committee – *attached, page 10.*

A number of questions were asked that the Public Works Superintendent responded to verbally at the meeting and will follow-up with a written response to the questions following the meeting.

The Public Works Superintendent, along with the Ward Councillor, will walk the North Shore Road with the residents prior to the winter to hear their comments and concerns.

The Committee suggested that in future a preliminary meeting with the residents of any Township Road with proposed construction be held so that the Township Staff and residents can share information and ideas.

The Committee recessed at 3:00 p.m.

The Committee returned to regular session at 3:10 p.m.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

- i) **09-10-15 Councillor Communication Package.**

RESOLUTION #COW-2009-277

MOVED BY: Tom Lalonde

SECONDED BY: Bob Fletcher

“**THAT**, the communication items for the October 27th, 2009 Committee of the Whole Committee meeting be received for information only.”

ADOPTED

7. REPORTS

- i) **Report #CS-10-2009 Supply of Hanging Baskets and Flowers in Lanark Village.**

Margot Hallam, Community Services.

RESOLUTION #COW-2009-278

MOVED BY: Leonard Echlin

SECONDED BY: Tom Lalonde

“**THAT**, Providence Point be awarded the contract for the supply, delivery and hanging of the flower baskets in Lanark Village at a cost of \$7940.38 for 2010 and \$7940.38 for 2011, plus applicable taxes;

AND THAT, these funds be drawn from the Recreation and Culture section of the 2010 & 2011 Budgets.”

ADOPTED

- ii) **Report #CS-09-2009 Tatlock Hall - Heating System.**

Margot Hallam, Community Services.

RESOLUTION #COW-2009-279

MOVED BY: Leonard Echlin

SECONDED BY: Tom Lalonde

“**THAT**, J.P. Brankin & Sons Ltd. be awarded for the contract for the installation, materials and labour relative to the Tatlock Hall renovations for \$12, 192.00 plus applicable taxes;

AND THAT, these funds be drawn from the Tatlock Hall Moving Expenses Line of the 2009 Budget.”

ADOPTED FORTHWITH

M. Hallam, Community Services left at 3:17 p.m.

- iii) **Report #PWWM-XX-2009 Road Construction – Middleville – *deferred to the next meeting.***

Scott Cameron, Public Works Superintendent.

The Township Public Works Superintendent will be meeting with the Construction Supervisor from the County of Lanark next week.

- iv) **Report #PWWM-25-2009 Proposed 2010 Projects – *attached, page 13.***

Scott Cameron, Public Works Superintendent.

The Committee requested the Public Works Superintendent check the timelines for completion for the Galbraith Road funding.

The Committee agreed that the reserves should not be depleted and that a healthy balance should be maintained so as not to leave the new Council without any reserves.

The Public Works Superintendent informed the Committee that a Roads Needs Study will be completed in 2010 and the list of projects can be altered as new projects come up or new information is available.

RESOLUTION #COW-2009-280

MOVED BY: Bob Fletcher

SECONDED BY: Tom Lalonde

“**THAT**, Report #PWWM-25-2009 be received for information.”

ADOPTED

The Committee recessed at 3:36 p.m.

S. Cameron, Public Works Superintendent left at 3:36 p.m.

The Committee returned to regular session at 3:50 p.m.

- v) **Report #C-08-2009 Closed Meeting Investigator – Revised.**

Amanda Mabo, Clerk/Deputy CAO.

RESOLUTION #COW-2009-281

MOVED BY: Leonard Echlin

SECONDED BY: Tom Lalonde

“**THAT**, the Township of Lanark Highlands enter into discussions with Stephen Fournier to provide “Investigator Services” as the Township’s Closed Meeting Investigator;

THAT, should a contract be reached where the terms are satisfactory to both Mr. Fournier and the Township, the necessary by-law to appoint Stephen Fournier as the Closed Meeting Investigator for the Township of Lanark Highlands be presented at a Township Council meeting.”

ADOPTED

- vi) **Report #C-11-2009 Municipal Drug Strategy Committee - Terms of Reference.**

Amanda Mabo, Clerk/Deputy CAO.

RESOLUTION #COW-2009-282

MOVED BY: Tom Lalonde

SECONDED BY: Peter McLaren

“**THAT**, the Terms of Reference for the Lanark Highlands – Municipal Drug Strategy Committee be approved.”

ADOPTED FORTHWITH

- vii) **Downtown Village Parking (verbal) – *deferred to the next meeting.***

Councillor Peter McLaren.

- viii) **November 12th Committee Meetings.**

Amanda Mabo, Clerk/Deputy CAO.

RESOLUTION #COW-2009-283

MOVED BY: Bob Fletcher

SECONDED BY: Tom Lalonde

“**THAT**, due to the conflict with other meetings/events and the limited number of agenda items, that the Community Services and Building, Planning and Protective Services meetings on November 12th be cancelled.”

ADOPTED

9. NEW/OTHER BUSINESS

- i) **Report #C-10-2009 Procedural By-Law Draft #1.**

Amanda Mabo, Clerk/Deputy CAO.

Subsection 7.3.1.1

- it was suggested that the Committee of the whole Chairs for Corporate Services; Building, Planning & Protective Services; Community Services and Public Works & Waste Management be appointed on an annual basis
- this would allow Councillors to Chair various Committees with different topics
- the new Chair would be appointed as of January 1st each year

Subsection 7.5.2

- will reflect the new changes whereby Corporate Services is now the 4th Thursday of the month and Community Services is the 2nd Thursday of the month

Subsection 7.10

- a clause will be included that states that no Member, Staff or other person present other than the Clerk or Chief Administrative Officer shall take notes during Closed Session

RESOLUTION #COW-2009-284

MOVED BY: Tom Lalonde

SECONDED BY: Leonard Echlin

“**THAT**, Sections 2.0, 7.0 as amended, 11.0 and 12.0 of the Draft Procedural By-Law be approved and be presented at the December 15th, 2009 Township Council meeting in the final version of the new Procedural By-Law for final approval.”

ADOPTED

- v) **Report #CAO-13-2009 Staff Association - 2009 Benefits Allotment Request - attached, page 16.**

Tom Derreck, Chief Administrative Officer.

RESOLUTION #COW-2009-285

MOVED BY: Leonard Echlin

SECONDED BY: Tom Lalonde

“**THAT**, the Treasurer be directed to create and place the sum of \$8,000 - approved in the 2009 Township budget for allocation to improvements in employee benefits - into a special reserve for said use when the newly-organized Staff Association is ready to use it.”

ADOPTED

- vi) **Report #CAO-14-2009 Sewer & Water Project – Lobbyist Update - attached, page 18.**

Tom Derreck, Chief Administrative Officer.

RESOLUTION #COW-2009-286

MOVED BY: Tom Lalonde

SECONDED BY: Leonard Echlin

“**THAT**, the Chief Administrative Officer direct the firm of Hills & Knowlton to immediately discontinue its actions on the Township’s behalf;

THAT, upon receipt of a satisfactory report and detailed billing from Hills & Knowlton arising out of the Council’s September 22nd, 2009 decision to engage the firm, the information be presented to Council for information;

THAT, the said firm be advised that no further services will be required;

AND THAT, CH2MHILL be directed to resume and complete the sewer and water system design as originally approved by the Council at its meeting conducted on September 8, 2009.”

ADOPTED FORTHWITH

- vii) **Calling of “Special” Committee of the Whole Meeting (verbal).**
Mayor Bob Fletcher.

Mayor B. Fletcher informed the Committee that a “Special” Committee of the Whole meeting will be called on Thursday, October 29th in order to hold a Closed Session with the Township’s HR Consultant regarding Labour Relations. Any decision from this meeting will be brought forward to the November 10th Council meeting for final approval.

- viii) **Tri-Valley Conservation Awards Gala (verbal).**
Councillor Peter McLaren.

Councillor P. McLaren reported that the Awards were held on October 21st. The awards are to recognize the stewardship efforts and environmental achievements in the Mississippi, Rideau and South Nation watersheds. The McDonald’s Corners ReUsers received an award in the Community Group category – *attached, page 22*. Pinegrove Productions – Franziska and Douglas von Rosen received an award in the Business category – *attached, page 23*.

RESOLUTION #COW-2009-287

MOVED BY: Peter McLaren

SECONDED BY: Bob Fletcher

“**THAT**, Council present a letter of congratulations to the McDonald’s Corners ReUsers and Pinegrove Productions at the November 10th, 2009 Council Meeting for receipt of Tri-Valley Conservation Awards.”

ADOPTED

8. IN-CAMERA ITEMS

- i) **CONFIDENTIAL: OMB Pre-Conference Hearing – McKinnon Pit (verbal).**
Bob Fletcher, Mayor.

RESOLUTION #COW-2009-288

MOVED BY: Tom Lalonde

SECONDED BY: Leonard Echlin

“**THAT**, the Committee move “in camera” at 4:57 p.m. to address a matter pertaining to litigation or potential litigation, including matters before administrative tribunals, affecting the municipality or local board;

AND THAT, T. Derreck, Chief Administrative Officer; A. Mabo, Clerk/Deputy CAO and R. Bunker, Treasurer remain in the room.”

ADOPTED

RESOLUTION #COW-2009-289

MOVED BY: Peter McLaren
SECONDED BY: Bob Fletcher

“**THAT**, the Committee return to regular session at 5:00 p.m.”

ADOPTED

RESOLUTION #COW-2009-290

MOVED BY: Bob Fletcher
SECONDED BY: Tom Lalonde

“**THAT**, the Legal Counsel representative for the Township be Janet Bradley and the Planner representative for the Township be Pierre Mercier, for the OMB Pre-Hearing regarding the McKinnon Pit.”

ADOPTED FORTHWITH

10. DEFERRED ITEMS

**The following items will be discussed at the next and/or future meeting:*

- *None.*

11. ADJOURNMENT

The Committee adjourned at 5:05 p.m. on motion by Councillor L. Echlin and P. McLaren.



**Amanda Mabo,
Clerk/Deputy-CAO**

DELEGATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

I and others are here to discuss
Cor 9B & North Shore Rd at Dalhousie Lake
We would like to know the official
plan for this primarily seasonal road
could you address these points in your
response

1. what factors influenced the decision to do the work.
2. the extent of the work to be done
3. the length of work from what point to what point
4. the width of the road, road top shoulders & ditches
5. the depth of the ditches
6. the cost of previous work (SBH) plus the cost of the work to come & funding
7. the overall plan with regard to future work (e) west of present project
8. purpose of fenced area at Chas. Series

Concerns - speeding, accidents, ATU's.
- the funds being spent on a minor seasonal rd mainly Oct to May to Oct. with approx 8 permanent residence
- environmental impact, wild life, frogs turtles birds
- loss of landscape that draws people to the cottage life feeling
- the lack of communication and consultation with the primary users
- quite a few people are in favor how was this obtained
- transparency

Recommendation

- delay project for an open review of the overall plan for the complete road
- carry out a volume count

REPORTS

**THE CORPORATION OF THE
TOWNSHIP OF LANARK HIGHLANDS**

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

October 29, 2009

Report #PWWM-25-2009
of the Public Works Superintendent

PROPOSED 2010 CAPITAL PROJECTS

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

“**THAT**, Council for the Township of Lanark Highlands receives the Preliminary 2010 Capital Projects Report as information only.”

BACKGROUND

As per Council’s request, this Report will outline staff’s proposed work schedule for Capital Works projects in 2010.

DISCUSSION

It must be noted that the proposed Capital Works projects potentially will be constructed in 2010 but are subject to being approved within next year’s budget approval process.

CAPITAL PROJECTS CONSIDERED & FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

(See attached spreadsheet)

CONCLUSION

Staff recommends that Council receives the Preliminary 2010 Capital Projects report as information only, and that further discussion on these projects be subject to the 2010 budget approval process.

ATTACHMENTS

Prepared and Submitted By:

Approved for Submission By:

**Scott Cameron,
Superintendent of Public Works**

**Tom Derreck,
Chief Administrative Officer**

2010 PROPOSED CAPITAL ROADS PROJECTS

| CAPITAL - ROADS | COST | PROVINCIAL | FEDERAL | MUNICIPAL | General Tax | Roads Bridges Infrastructure | Investing In Ontario | Gas Tax Infrastructure | Borrow |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|----------------|------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| Highland Line - Construction | \$ 1,452,696.00 | \$ 484,232.00 | \$ 484,232.00 | \$ 484,232.00 | | | \$ 50,000.00 | | \$ 434,232.00 |
| Highland Line - Land Purchase/Legal | \$ 70,000.00 | | | \$ 70,000.00 | | | \$ 70,000.00 | | |
| Gailbraith Road - Construction | \$ 1,505,670.00 | \$ 501,890.00 | \$ 501,890.00 | \$ 501,890.00 | | | \$ 50,000.00 | | \$ 451,890.00 |
| Gailbraith Road - Land Purchase/Legal | \$ 85,000.00 | | | \$ 85,000.00 | | | \$ 85,000.00 | | |
| Sheridan's Rapids Road | \$ 164,500.00 | | | \$ 164,500.00 | | \$ 164,500.00 | | | |
| 7th Conc. Lanark | \$ 100,000.00 | | | \$ 100,000.00 | | | | \$ 100,000.00 | |
| Other Improvements | \$ 80,000.00 | | | \$ 80,000.00 | \$ 80,000.00 | | | | |
| North Shore Road / 9th Concession | \$ 135,000.00 | | | \$ 135,000.00 | | | | \$ 135,000.00 | |
| Wabalac Road | \$ 8,100.00 | | | \$ 8,100.00 | \$ 8,100.00 | | | | |
| Robertson Drive - Paved Shoulder | \$ 44,000.00 | | | \$ 44,000.00 | | | \$ 44,000.00 | | |
| Sub-Total | \$ 3,644,966.00 | \$ 986,122.00 | \$ 986,122.00 | \$ 1,672,722.00 | \$ 88,100.00 | \$ 164,500.00 | \$ 299,000.00 | \$ 235,000.00 | \$ 886,122.00 |
| CAPITAL - BRIDGES | | | | | | | | | |
| Bridge Structure and Deck Assessment | \$ 3,000.00 | | | | \$ 3,000.00 | | | | |
| Bridge 1 - Geddes Bridge | \$ 3,000.00 | | | | \$ 3,000.00 | | | | |
| Bridge 4 - Gunn Creek | \$ 11,000.00 | | | | \$ 11,000.00 | | | | |
| Bridge 5 - Umperson Bridge | \$ 24,000.00 | | | | \$ 24,000.00 | | | | |
| Bridge 6 - Joe's Lake Bridge | \$ 700,000.00 | | | | | \$ 700,000.00 | | | |
| Bridge 7 - Clyde Forks Bridge | \$ 21,600.00 | | | | \$ 21,600.00 | | | | |
| Bridge 8 -Folger Road Bridge | \$ 31,000.00 | | | | \$ 31,000.00 | | | | |
| Bridge 11 - Rosetta Rd. Bridge | \$ 14,500.00 | | | | \$ 14,500.00 | | | | |
| Bridge 12 - Galbraith Rd. Bridge | \$ 29,000.00 | | | | \$ 29,000.00 | | | | |
| Bridge 13 - Clyde River Bridge | \$ 6,000.00 | | | | \$ 6,000.00 | | | | |
| Bridge 14 - Cedardale Bridge | \$ 15,000.00 | | | | \$ 15,000.00 | | | | |
| Sub-Total | \$ 158,100.00 | | | | \$ 158,100.00 | \$ 700,000.00 | \$ - | \$ - | |
| Total Roads & Bridges | \$ 3,803,066.00 | | | | \$ 246,200.00 | \$ 864,500.00 | \$ 299,000.00 | \$ 235,000.00 | \$ 886,122.00 |
| Reserves Available | | | | | \$ - | \$ 968,991.00 | \$ 352,259.00 | \$ 369,968.00 | |
| Reserves Remaining | | | | | | \$ 104,491.00 | \$ 53,259.00 | \$ 134,968.00 | |

| | |
|----------------------------|---------------|
| Reserves Remaining - Total | \$ 292,718.00 |
| Potential Borrowing Amount | \$ 593,404.00 |

NEW/OTHER BUSINESS



THE CORPORATION OF THE
TOWNSHIP OF LANARK HIGHLANDS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

October 27, 2009

Report of the CAO

#CAO-13-2009

SUBJECT: STAFF ASSOCIATION – 2009 BENEFITS ALLOTMENT REQUEST

RECOMMENDATION

THAT, the Treasurer be directed to create and place the sum of \$8,000 - approved in the 2009 Township budget for allocation to improvements in employee benefits - into a special reserve for said use when the newly-organized Staff Association is ready to use it.

BACKGROUND

The 2009 Township budget approved by the Council included a lump sum allotment of \$8,000 to be applied to improvements to employment benefits extended to Township staff.

The Council also directed that staff be invited to form an internal association for the purposes of:

- a. Determining how they would like that money applied, and;
- b. On an ongoing basis, discussing and submitting to the Council requests for wage and benefits adjustments to be considered in the course of annual Township budget deliberations.

Accordingly, a staff association has been formed (serving inside and outside workers together) and representatives were recently elected to a 5-member board.

The Board has only been able to meet a few times to get acquainted and organized and consequently has had little time to study and address the benefits issue.

With the year winding down, a formal request has been received from the Board for the Council's approval of the said \$8,000 being placed in a special reserve for application at such time as the Association has identified what benefits improvements it would it applied to.

CONCLUSION

Per the recommendation.

T. Derreck, CAO



THE CORPORATION OF THE
TOWNSHIP OF LANARK HIGHLANDS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

October 27, 2009

Report of the CAO

#CAO-14-2009

**SUBJECT: DISCONTINUANCE OF LOBBYIST SERVICES
AND
RESUMPTION OF SEWER & WATER SYSTEM DESIGN**

RECOMMENDATION - FORTHWITH

THAT, the CAO direct the firm of Hill & Knowlton to immediately discontinue its actions on the Township's behalf;

AND THAT, upon receipt of a satisfactory report and detailed billing from Hills & Knowlton arising out of the Council's September 22, 2009 decision to engage the firm, the information be presented to Council for information;

AND THAT, the said firm be advised that no further services will be required;

AND THAT, CH2MHILL be directed to resume and complete the sewer and water system design as originally approved by the Council at its meeting conducted on September 8, 2009.

BACKGROUND

1. On September 15, 2009, the Mayor and CAO were engaged in telephone conversation by Mr. Andy Gibbons of the lobby firm of Hills & Knowlton. Mr. Gibbons offered his firms services to help the Township ascertain its position with respect to the likelihood of attracting federal/provincial funding for its sewer and water project.

2. He advised that he had already done some preliminary work and that it appeared that;
 - a. An upper-level political blockage exists to the Township's sewer and water project;
 - b. Nothing about the project, or about the Village's water contamination problem, seems to be known at Queens Park, and;
 - c. His firm's preliminary suggestion would be that the Township should consider altering its funding focus and efforts from the federal government and redirecting them to the provincial government - which government is actually responsible for both public health and sewer and water issues in Ontario.
3. Mr. Gibbons explained that his firm has means and access to Parliament Hill and Queens Park that could be employed to confirm that information and that his firm could thereafter recommend a course of action to the Township based on its findings.
4. He stressed that federal and provincial ministers were currently meeting to determine the disposition of funds remaining and not yet awarded in the just-completed Build Canada Fund Program – and therefore time was of the essence.
5. Mr. Gibbons suggested a start-up engagement to an upset limit of \$5,000 to fund further investigation and confirmation of his firm's initial conclusions.
6. The matter was put to the Council and on September 22nd, a motion was approved to accordingly engage the firm on the basis of the suggested \$5,000 upset spending limit.
7. Following the CAO's October 13th return from vacation, Mr. Gibbons confirmed his conclusions noted above – at which time he was requested to provide them in writing together with any other relevant information.
8. To date, that written submission hasn't arrived.

9. On October 22, 2009, the firm emailed a suggested contract to engage it further on the basis of a phase one payment of \$15,000 (plus a 6% administration fee and applicable taxes) to the end of January in exchange for its services to;
 - a. Mitigate the impact of new standards & policies
 - b. Provide advice on compliance and enforcement issues
 - c. Facilitate MOE approvals and environmental assessment projects

 - d. Liaise with government and manage stakeholder relations
 - e. Co-ordinate complex environmental or land-use projects
 - f. Review relevant municipal documents
 - g. Hold discussions with your technical / engineering consultants;
 - h. Assess the MOE perspective and identify issues requiring specific negotiation with MOE
 - i. Research programs and provide strategic advice with respect to federal and provincial funding
 - j. Arrange and attend meetings as required

None of which services – other than perhaps d and I - are needed by the Township or were contemplated in discussions with Mr. Gibbons.

The proposed contract suggests that additional funds would be paid by the Township as on a phase-by-phase basis as the project moved along.

CONCLUSION(S)

1. The information already provided and verbally confirmed substantially answers the question that led to the Council's approval of the firm's limited engagement, that being;
 - a. An upper-level political blockage exists to the Township's sewer and water project at the federal government level;
 - b. Nothing about the project, or about the Village's water contamination problem, is known at Queens Park, and;
 - c. His firm's preliminary suggestion would be that the Township should consider altering its funding focus and efforts from the federal government and redirecting them to the provincial government - which government is actually responsible for both public health and sewer and water issues in Ontario.

2. The services outlined in the firm's proposed longer-term contract are not required by the Township.
3. Through the Mayor's connection made at the recent symposium of the Association of Local Public Health Agencies in Toronto, and the invitation extended to him to provide that contact with a full package of project information, a substantive and advantageous inroad to Queens Park - and

particularly to the upper echelons of the provincial environment ministry – appears to have been effectively made.

4. The purpose contemplated and leading to the Council's September 22nd decision to engage the firm has been satisfactorily met.

These considerations support the recommendation.

T. Derreck, CAO

Community Group Category Finalists

McDonald's Corners ReUsers

One person's trash is another person's treasure! McDonald's Corners ReUsers know all about it! They are a group of volunteers who divert useable items from the landfill into the hands of those who could use them – all for free. Toys, books, clothing, dishes, furniture and other useful items are recycled on to new owners. It is a real win-win-win situation and has become overwhelmingly popular with summer gridlock as people drop-off and pick-up items.

Being so popular has its drawbacks as it quickly became clear that they were outgrowing their space. The ReUsers raised money and supplies and enlisted volunteers to build a new building to house the used items. There is now a new 64 foot by 16 foot building that features three open-air, covered bays for furniture and large items as well as weather-proof rooms for books, clothes, household items and miscellaneous yet useful things.

What an amazing community effort and an excellent example of environmental action.

Rideau Valley Field Naturalists

In 2005, the Rideau Valley Field Naturalists (RVFN) embarked on a new project – protecting the monarch butterfly. The monarch butterfly is a species at risk as both their summer and winter habitats continue to disappear. The RVFN started their butterfly garden project at the Perth Wildlife Reserve. They developed gardens that would provide both nectar and host plants for all butterfly species, but also with an ample supply of milkweed for the Monarch who lay their eggs on milkweed plants.

Volunteer labour from the RVFN over the next four years resulted in five large garden plots and enhancement to the surrounding meadow with extra plantings of milkweed, shrubs and trees.

The RVFN also embarked on a public awareness campaign that promoted their gardens as a "model" for backyard habitat. People were encouraged to start their own butterfly garden. In 2008, the University of Kansas certified and registered the RVFN butterfly garden as an "official Monarch Waystation." The garden also received a "Certified Backyard Habitat" certification from the Canadian Wildlife Federation for helping wildlife.

Congratulations to the Rideau Valley Field Naturalists for their work to protect the monarch butterfly, their efforts to enhance local habitat for all plants and animals and their drive to encourage others to do the same.

Business Category Finalists

Lafèche Environmental

André Lafèche, founder of Lafèche Environmental, first became aware of the problems associated with waste management in the 1970s when he watched a documentary on the subject. As he watched, André realized that given Eastern Ontario's demography and consumer habits, the region's challenges were unique and would need unique solutions.

He shared his vision with a few dedicated individuals who joined him to form a team. With their help, he worked to adapt and implement the most efficient and environmentally sustainable and economically durable waste management practices from around the world.

The result is the Lafèche Environmental BioReactor – a state-of-the-art landfill site in Moose Creek, Ontario that combines the best of nature and technology to ensure that household and commercial waste will provide benefits to society for decades to come. The BioReactor transforms waste into a valuable asset. The waste leachate is collected and broken down. As the waste decomposes, methane gas is created and collected. The gas is then used to generate electricity. Over its lifetime, they believe the BioReactor will produce enough methane to power at least 1,000 homes for more than 50 years.

The BioReactor is just the beginning. Lafèche Environmental is pursuing other projects that will move them towards their simple mission: to find long-term solutions to protect the environment and to build a legacy they can be proud of for generations to come. Congratulations to André and the team at Lafèche Environmental.

Pinegrove Productions – Franziska and Douglas von Rosen Our Incredible World (OIW) Video series, website and study guide

Pinegrove Productions is owned and operated by a mother and son team Franziska and Douglas von Rosen. The von Rosens are gifted multimedia professionals who have produced numerous educational programs. Passionate naturalist Franziska took an idea from a local school teacher and recruiting the expertise of educators, scientists, media people and countless volunteers turned it into a multifaceted environmental learning tool for educators across the country. Our Incredible World is a six part series about kids engaged in wetland monitoring and preservation with an emphasis on biodiversity, species at risk and stewardship. A corresponding study guide and website complement the video series. Pinegrove Productions specializes in environmentally educational material travelling extensively around the country to film and produce their works.