

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**No permits affecting the floodplain in Kanata West have been issued by MVC**

April 24, 2008— The City of Ottawa Auditor General has raised concerns with the proposed restoration of the Carp River and the role of the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority (MVC) in the planning process.

The Carp River Restoration plan proposed by the City of Ottawa and the Kanata West Owners Group (KWOG) would modify the existing floodplain and channel of the Carp River creating a more natural and functional stream system and the design will maintain floodplain storage.

“Neither MVC nor the City of Ottawa has approved any development within the Carp River floodplain in the Kanata West area. MVC has been working with the City and the KWOG design teams to ensure that provincial policy and our regulatory requirements are addressed before the necessary approvals are considered,” says Paul Lehman, MVC General Manager.

MVC is confident that a third-party review of the Carp River Environmental Assessment Process will alleviate concerns around a modeling error caught by city staff earlier in the year.

“Although Kanata West development plans have brought the issues of the Carp River to the forefront, the restoration of the Carp River must be undertaken regardless of whether or not the land is developed,” says Lehman. “The Conservation Authority is concerned that further delays with the restoration will ultimately affect residents and the environment along the Carp River.”

The restoration plan emerged from the Carp River Watershed/Subwatershed Study. A community effort that involved extensive public consultation and was completed with input from Federal, Provincial and local governments, MVC, special interest groups and the general public. The Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) has confirmed that provincial policies are being appropriately applied in the restoration plan.

There are several examples where Conservation Authorities across the province have permitted similar modifications to shallow flood fringe areas in urban quarters, says Lehman. One Conservation Authority for example has incorporated this type of scenario into its stream management policies, he adds.

Under the proposed restoration plan, the majority of restoration costs would be funded by the Kanata West developers. Any filling activities within the flood fringe, will be subject to MVC approval, and would trigger the restoration project which, once started, must be seen to completion.

*Mississippi Valley Conservation is a community-based environmental organization dedicated to the protection and water management of the Mississippi and Carp River watersheds.*

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