The Advocate For
For Ottawa’s Great Forest

South March Highlands – Carp River Conservation Inc.

[All photos in this presentation were taken in or of the South March Highlands]
Areas shown in Blue are City of Ottawa owned
Why Advocacy Is Still Needed

- **Kizell Wetland / Beaver Pond**
  - No Environmental Assessment for SWM use
  - No pollution control for existing storm sewers
  - Incomplete PSW Evaluation
  - Storm Sewer usage conflicts with UNF designation
  - Flood levels already exceeded by current use

- **Urbandale Development**
  - Subdivision Plan based on diversion of water from Shirley’s Brook to Kizell Wetland
  - Not permitted by Sub-watershed Plan
  - Will devastate unprotected portion of Trillium Woods

- **Regional Group Development**
  - Plan to put SWM Facility in Carp River Floodplain
  - Cannot function during floods unless West Block is converted into a Storm Sewer Pond and Carp River flood levels are increased by removal of floodplain

- **Richcraft Future Development**
  - Has requested rezoning Environmentally Protected land to General Rural
  - Wants to extend the Urban Boundary further west and north to encroach on Conservation Forest
  - Auditor General has shown negative Net Present Value
Advocacy To-Date: Beaver Pond Forest

- Organized opposition to development of the forest
  - Prevented clear-cutting that could have occurred in July
  - Influenced City’s decision to conduct Environmental Assessment for water diversion
  - Influenced decision to re-evaluate Kizell as a Provincially Significant Wetland

- Conceived the Stewardship Plan as an alternative development proposal

- Represented the forest at City Council Committees
  - Agricultural and Rural Affairs Committee
  - Planning and Environment Committee
  - Forest & Greenspace Advisory Committee
  - Environmental Advisory Committee
  - Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee
  - Influenced passing of 4 council decisions
Advocacy To-Date: Greenbelt Expansion

- Obtained participant status within NCC Master Planning Process
  - Worked with Greenbelt Coalition to propose Emerald Necklace that incorporates the SMH into the Greenbelt
  - Met with NCC to educate & generate internal support

- Greenbelt expansion to include the SMH
  - 1 of 3 options emerging from the Master Planning process
The Emerald Necklace:
11 Eco-Corridors Linking 7 Eco-Reservoirs
Advocacy To-Date: TFDE

- No mitigation of impact of TFDE on eco-connectivity
  - City admits TFDE severs eco-connectivity
  - City eliminated large eco-passage without public review
  - Scientific evidence shows that existing tunnels will not work

- Filed for judicial review of environmental assessment (EA) process
  - Did NOT request that road be removed
  - Requested that proper EA be completed - decision pending
  - Intend to pursue the EA process to ensure that proper mitigation occurs

- Pre-decision legal action influenced City to-date:
  - Abandon major diversion of Shirley’s Brook
  - Conduct EA for planned diversion of water
  - Initiate first-ever population study for Blanding’s turtle
Advocacy To-Date: Carp River Corridor

- Kanata West Subdivision
  - Filed Part II Order Request with Ministry of Environment
    - EA completion by staff without approval of City Council
    - Questionable flood plain model results showing negative flow
    - Concern over human safety due to predicted increase in flood level and in flood flow rate due to lack of storm water flow management

- Richardson Ridge Subdivision
  - Filed OMB appeal over rezoning of flood plain for a storm water management pond
  - Concern for human safety due to inability of SWM facility to function during a flood – increases flood levels and flow rate
  - This appeal is currently in-progress

Terry Fox Dr
July 24, 2009
Why is there no Provincial support for Stewardship Plan?
- Economic benefits increase provincial tax revenues
- Enhances Ontario as an eco-tourism destination
- Reduces bussing costs for Ontario schools and improves quality of education
- Helps Ontario meet Kyoto Commitments on Climate Change
- Protects 19 Species-At-Risk

Why is there no Provincial support for Aboriginal Cultural Heritage?
- SMH have the only Paleo-Indian sites in Eastern Ontario
- Meets standard for Provincially Significant Cultural Heritage

Why is there no final Provincial recognition of SMH as an Area of Natural & Scientific Interest?
- Candidate Life Science ANSI has languished for over 5 years
- No ANSI evaluation ever done for Physical Science

Why does the Province continue to allow piece meal Storm Water management in an area prone to flooding?
Open Questions - Federal

• Why is there no Federal support for Stewardship Plan?
  • SMH is less than 30 minutes from Parliament Hill
  • Economic benefits of Stewardship Plan increase federal tax revenues and create jobs
  • Stewardship Plan enhances the prestige of the National Capital Region
  • Helps Canada meet international commitments on bio-diversity

• Why is Federal Government ignoring Aboriginal Issues?
  • Unresolved land claim by Algonquin First Nation who claim that the SMH is an ancient and sacred site for indigenous people
  • No assistance provided to City in evaluating or protecting 10,000 year old cultural heritage sites

• NCC Master Plan may take 2 years to conclude
  • NCC Greenbelt expansion lacks funding and priority
  • Need to pass Bill C-20 to provide official status for Greenbelt