



# The Ottawa River Institute

*"Fostering sustainable communities in the Ottawa River watershed"*

[www.ottawariverinstitute.ca](http://www.ottawariverinstitute.ca)

## **Report of the Directors to the Seventh Annual Meeting of Members, May 3, 2009**

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Ottawa River Institute, I am pleased to present this report on the activities of the calendar year 2008 – ORI's seventh year of operation.

### **Funding received for collaborative grant with Ottawa Valley Food Co-operative**

Late in 2007, ORI collaborated with the the Ottawa Valley Food Co-operative to submit a joint funding proposal to the Ontario Trillium Foundation. The application was approved early in 2008 with funding for a two-year project to promote local foods and enhanced relationships between Ottawa Valley food producers and consumers. Activities undertaken as part of this project in 2008 included planning and delivery of a number of food co-op events and workshops across the county and supporting the operations of the Ottawa Valley Food Co-operative. The OVFC has had a very successful first year thanks partly to this funding and partly to its network of enthusiastic volunteers.

### **Sustainable Energy Workshops Popular**

ORI coordinator Cheryl Keetch was very busy in 2008 delivering two different workshops on sustainable energy and related topics. Nine sessions of "Green Building and Passive Solar Design" were given at various locations around the Valley.

Ten Home Energy Upgrades workshops were coordinated in September, October and November in locations across the county. Each of the workshops was full to capacity and had a waiting list. The response to the workshops was very enthusiastic. Participants were very eager to learn about energy upgrading they can perform on their homes themselves and also very grateful for the information, practical hands-on demonstrations and free kits of materials.

### **House Tours Funded By Private Donation**

In July, ORI received a large private donation from Barb Winter of Toronto. This money funded ORI's Fall sustainable houses tour, coordinated by Janet McNeill. The tours took place on Saturday & Sunday, October 4 & 5<sup>th</sup>, and took in a total of 7 houses. The 60 participants from around the county (30 per day) were bused to the different houses. The tours were very well received.

### **Municipal sustainable energy consultations**

Discussions took place with four municipal councils in late 2008. ORI Board members and/or staff attended meetings with the Townships of Laurentian Valley, Whitewater Region, Horton Township and McNab/Braeside. The purpose of the meetings was to obtain input on how ORI and municipalities could work together to promote sustainable energy. The information presented by ORI at these

meetings was well received and the discussions that followed were interesting and informative. This series of meetings was a follow-up to similar meetings held in previous years.

### **On-line Art Gallery**

ORI is very pleased to have had artist Kathy Haycock join the ORI online gallery in 2008. Kathy donated two beautiful oil paintings, “Top of the Chute” and “Rock Lake from Booth’s Rock” which can be viewed on the ORI website. Several paintings and prints from the gallery were sold during the year.

The original paintings continued to be displayed at Purvis Gallery in Pembroke; ORI is grateful to Jayne Derooy for hosting the ORI gallery and handling sales for us.

### **Sustainable Energy/ Food Project successfully completed**

The two-year *Sustainable Energy-Food* project came to an end in December 2008. All of the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) deliverables were met, and in most cases exceeded. This project, with a grant value of \$43,000, was successfully delivered and came in at \$600 under budget. Deliverables included workshops on green building, passive solar design, home energy efficiency upgrades, and local food self-reliance.

### **ORI website revamped**

The ORI website was revamped in 2008 and a workshop was held to orient the Board and interested members to the new site and its interactive capabilities. The workshop was made possible by funding from the Sustainability Network.

### **Watershed Ways**

Our county-wide newspaper column continued for its seventh year. Four articles were written and distributed – three on the subject of food, and one about ORI’s energy-related projects in 2008.

### **Conclusion**

The Ottawa River Institute has had a very successful seventh year of operation, thanks to the contributions of many people. We are very grateful to the Trillium Foundation, Ministry of Energy, local donors, members, volunteers and staff for their support and assistance. We look forward to continued progress in the future toward sustainable communities and ecological integrity in the Ottawa River watershed!

*Ken Birkett, President  
For the ORI Board of Directors*