

**5. BRITANNIA VILLAGE OTTAWA RIVER FLOOD PROTECTION:
AMENDMENT TO THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE
RIDEAU VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**

**PROGRAMME DE PROTECTION DU VILLAGE DE BRITANNIA CONTRE
LES CRUES DE LA RIVIÈRE DES OUTAOUAIS : MODIFICATION AU
PROTOCOLE D'ENTENTE ÉTABLI AVEC L'OFFICE DE PROTECTION DE
LA NATURE DE LA VALLÉE RIDEAU**

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

That Council approve an amendment to the Britannia Village Ottawa River Flood Protection Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City of Ottawa and the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority to increase the investment by \$500,000 to further investigate and undertake repairs as a result of the spring 2019 flood event.

RECOMMANDATION DU COMITÉ

Que le Conseil approuve une modification au Protocole d'entente du Programme de protection du village de Britannia contre les crues de la rivière des Outaouais conclu entre la Ville d'Ottawa et l'Office de protection de la nature de la vallée Rideau afin d'augmenter l'investissement de 500 000 \$ pour poursuivre l'étude et entreprendre des réparations à la suite des inondations du printemps 2019.

DOCUMENTATION / DOCUMENTATION

1. Director's Report, Infrastructure Services, Planning, Infrastructure and Economic Development Department dated 5 September 2019 (ACS2019-PIE-IS-0004).

Rapport du Directeur, Services de l'infrastructure, Services de la planification, l'infrastructure et du développement économique, daté le 5 septembre 2019 (ACS2019-PIE-IS-0004).

2. Extract of Draft Minute, 17 September 2019.

Extrait de l'ébauche du procès-verbal, le 17 septembre 2019.

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION,
WATER AND WASTE MANAGEMENT**

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**REPORT 5
25 SEPTEMBER 2019**

**COMITÉ PERMANENT DE LA
PROTECTION DE
L'ENVIRONNEMENT, DE L'EAU ET
DE LA GESTION DES DÉCHETS
RAPPORT 5
LE 25 SEPTEMBRE 2019**

**Report to
Rapport au:**

**Standing Committee on Environmental Protection, Water and Waste Management
Comité permanent de la protection de l'environnement, de l'eau et de la gestion
des déchets**

17 September 2019 / 17 septembre 2019

**and Council
et au Conseil**

25 September 2019 / 25 septembre 2019

**Submitted on September 5, 2019
Soumis le 5 septembre 2019**

Submitted by

Soumis par:

Alain Gonthier

Director / Directeur

Infrastructure Services / Services de l'infrastructure

**Planning, Infrastructure and Economic Development Department / Services de la
planification, l'infrastructure et du développement économique**

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Ward: BAY (7) / BAIE (7)

File Number: ACS2019-PIE-IS-0004

**REPORT 5
25 SEPTEMBER 2019**

SUBJECT: Britannia Village Ottawa River Flood Protection: Amendment to the Memorandum of Understanding with the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority

OBJET: Programme de protection du village de Britannia contre les crues de la rivière des Outaouais : modification au Protocole d'entente établi avec l'Office de protection de la nature de la vallée Rideau

REPORT RECOMMENDATION

That the Standing Committee on Environmental Protection, Water and Waste Management recommend Council approve an amendment to the Britannia Village Ottawa River Flood Protection Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City of Ottawa and the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority to increase the investment by \$500,000 to further investigate and undertake repairs as a result of the spring 2019 flood event.

RECOMMANDATIONS DU RAPPORT

Que le Comité permanent de la protection de l'environnement, de l'eau et de la gestion des déchets recommande au Conseil d'approuver une modification au Protocole d'entente du Programme de protection du village de Britannia contre les crues de la rivière des Outaouais conclu entre la Ville d'Ottawa et l'Office de protection de la nature de la vallée Rideau afin d'augmenter l'investissement de 500 000 \$ pour poursuivre l'étude et entreprendre des réparations à la suite des inondations du printemps 2019.

BACKGROUND

Portions of Britannia Village are constructed within the 1:100-year flood plain limits of the Ottawa River, as defined by the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA). There has been historical flooding in the area resulting in compromised access and use of property, increased public safety risks and inconveniences, and flooding damage to property and dwellings.

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The Britannia Village community requested the RVCA to review and develop a project aimed at protecting existing properties in the flood prone portion of the Britannia Village community against flood damages, public safety risks and inconveniences that would be associated with over-bank flooding during a 1:100-year flood event on the Ottawa River.

In June 2007, Council approved the implementation of the proposed Ottawa River 100-year flood protection measures in Britannia ([ACS2007-PWS-INF-0007](#)). After Council's decision to support the capital project, the RVCA initiated the project and undertook the necessary administrative steps to define the RVCA-Ottawa relationship specific to the Britannia project.

In June 2010, Council approved a total expenditure of \$670,000 (\$195,000 recovered from property owners) and paying 50% of ongoing operations and maintenance fees ([ACS2010-CCS-PEC-0027](#)).

Subsequently, the RVCA and City entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with respect to roles for the Britannia project. The MOU was signed by the City and RVCA in 2009. It was subsequently revised in 2014 and 2017.

Following extensive public engagement, construction of an earth berm commenced in the fall of 2015 and was substantially completed late in 2016. Work was completed on the remaining small section of berm by the end of 2017, at a cost of approximately \$2 million.

In 2018, Council approved a Special Area Charge ([ACS2018-PIE-IS-0002](#)) to recover the community's share of the project.

The berm was very effective in protecting the community during the 2017 and 2019 flooding events, demonstrating the significant value of the investment to the community.

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's approval to amend the Britannia Village Ottawa River Flood Protection MOU between the City of Ottawa and the RVCA to complete the necessary work, valued at an estimated \$500,000, to maintain the integrity of the berm.

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DISCUSSION

The flood event in 2019 was a prolonged event. While the berm demonstrated its effectiveness, there was some evidence of leakage. Further investigation is required along with completing necessary repairs to maintain the berm's integrity. These works will be coordinated by the RVCA. The investigation is expected take place in the fall 2019 and pending the results, the required repairs will follow, in coordination with any water work restrictions. The City and the RVCA will be keeping the community informed of progress.

The City of Ottawa takes a proactive approach for planning for these unfortunate events, including emergency preparedness. The City partners with local conservation authorities, including the RVCA for defining natural hazard areas, including flood hazard areas. During increased environmental factors such as flooding, the City takes every precautionary measure to protect assets and maintain service delivery. Contingency measures are put in place as required. Ongoing inspections, including monitoring changing conditions, are taking place on a regular basis.

Building resiliency in our infrastructure in order to protect our communities has been and remains a priority. This is reflected in the City's development policies and design standards. The City also continues to work on improving its capacity for climate resilience, through important initiatives such as updating floodplain mapping (in collaboration with Conservation Authorities) and community flood risk profiles to better position vulnerable areas for future environmental stresses.

RURAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no rural implications

CONSULTATION

There has been extensive dialogue with the community and community association dating back to 2004 and through to final implementation over the course of 2016 and 2017.

City staff will be keeping the community informed throughout the project.

COMMENTS BY THE WARD COUNCILLORS

Bay Ward Councillor Theresa Kavanagh is supportive of the proposal to proceed with undertaking the additional investigation and subsequent repairs to ensure the continued performance of the Britannia Village – Ottawa River flood control structure. It's understood that City staff and the RVCA will continue to work closely with the Britannia Community Association throughout the investigation and repair process.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal impediments to Committee and Council's approval of the recommendation of this Report.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

Flooding and the integrity of the berm are risk factors if this work is not undertaken.

ASSET MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

The recommendations, as outlined in this report, align with the [Comprehensive Asset Management Program](#), by investing in the right asset at the right time and committing to providing a continued level of service in the most effective and efficient way.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Funds are available within 908982 2018 Joint CA/City Renewal Activities, \$200,000; and 909150 2019 Stormwater Improvements, \$300,000. Pending Council approval, these funds will be transferred into a new account, 2019 Britannia Village Ottawa River Flood Protection.

ACCESSIBILITY IMPACTS

There are no accessibility impact implications associated with this report.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

During increased environmental factors such as flooding, the City takes every precautionary measure to protect assets and maintain service delivery. Building resiliency in our infrastructure in order to protect our communities continues to remain a priority.

TERM OF COUNCIL PRIORITIES

The priorities for the current Term of Council have not yet been announced. However, the recommendations in this report support the following 2015 –2018 Term of Council priorities:

- Environmental Sustainability;
- A Healthy and Caring Community;
- Planning and Decision Making.

DISPOSITION

Upon approval, Infrastructure Services will work with Legal and Financial Services to finalize the amendment to the MOU. The RVCA will then move forward with the investigation and repair work required. The City is committed to working with the community and keeping them updated throughout the process.