

# Vermilion River Stewardship Special Event – Trillium Grant Announcement

Wednesday, January 9th, 2013

7:00-9:30 pm

Beaver Lake Sports & Cultural Centre

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Present: Linda Heron, John Purdon, Holly Purdon, Sheri Johnson Purdon, Terry Little, Dale Kilbey, Eija Hietaharju, France Gelinias, Helen Makela, Ken Makela, Cis Hughes, Bob Hughes, Ruth Svensk, Gary Desabrais, Neeltje Van Roon, Jacques Barbeau, Byron Basso, Ron Basso, Sandra Henderson, Calvin Henderson, Paul Sajatovic, Stuart Greaves, Niilo Saari, Barry Donnelly, Robert Little, Betsy Little, Pat Banersleg, Franco Mariotti, Leslie Flowers

## 1. Opening Remarks

- Sheri Johnson Purdon, Master of Ceremonies expressed the pride and gratitude of the VRS towards the Trillium Foundation for approving the two year \$103,200 grant for the Lower Vermilion River Source Water Quality Monitoring Project.

## 2. Introduction of Partners and Team



*Left to right: Dale Kilbey, VRS Board Member; Jacques Barbeau, Ward 2 Councillor; Paul Sajatovic, Conservation Sudbury; France Gelinias, NDP MPP; Linda Heron, Chair, VRS; Niilo Saari, Chair, Algoma, Cochrane, Manitoulin, Sudbury Grant Review Team, OTF; Lesley Flowers, VRS; Sheri Johnson Purdon, Vice Chair, VRS.*

- Linda Heron introduced the Strategic planning team that submitted the grant proposal. The team members are Al Stanley, Sheri Johnson Purdon, Dale Kilbey, Leslie Flowers and Linda Heron
- The partners are Ontario Trillium Foundation, Conservation Sudbury, Beaver Lake Sports and Cultural Club and the Penage Road Community Centre

### **3. Ontario Trillium Foundation**

- Niilo Saari stated that the grant is an investment in the communities along the Vermilion that will improve the health and well-being of their citizens.

### **4. Conservation Sudbury**

- Paul Sajatovic thanked the VRS for partnering with Conservation Sudbury on this project and committed to providing technical and field support for the two year project.

### **5. France Gelin, NDP MP**

- Applauded the VRS for initiating a top notch research project that will provide the hard data allowing people and government to assess the health of the Vermilion River. This data will turn into knowledge that will, in turn, be used to plan courses of action to restore and maintain the health of the river and its inhabitants.

### **6. Jacques Barbeau**

- Through this project the VRS, its partners and other stewardship groups will be able to educate all of the citizens that use the Vermilion River on their responsibility for its health.

### **7. Lower Vermilion Source Water Quality Monitoring Project**

- A slide Presentation by Lesley Flowers outlined the project goals to characterize the water quality of the Vermilion by taking 280 samples over a two year period at 25 strategic points along the river from Milnet to the confluence with the Spanish River. Other measurements such as oxygen and water clarity will be taken using MNR and RIC standards with an eye to determining potential negative inputs and outputs. With climate change upon us this study is very timely. (Presentation Attached.)

### **8. Questions**

- Ruth commented that the health of the river is not only important to people but often more important to its wildlife inhabitants.
- Sheri commented that development pressures also have the potential for removing aesthetically beautiful and cherished places along the river.

### **9. Social**

- The Beaver Lake Sports & Cultural Club provided a delightful repast containing many traditional Finnish dishes and beverages.

**Next Meeting:** Undetermined.