



A NEWSLETTER FOR MUNICIPAL COUNCILLORS  
 April 2007

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**Spring Peak 2007**

This year's peak was measured at the flow monitoring station along the Rideau at Carleton University on April 18 at 6 a.m. with a flow of 262 cubic metres per second. This is only 66 percent of our average peak which is 400 m<sup>3</sup>/second. The RVCA monitors streamflow at 17 sites along the Rideau. This data, along with information from climate stations, helps us forecast spring floods, predict summer droughts and understand our river environment. Regularly updated information on streamflow conditions can be seen at [www.rideauvalley.on.ca](http://www.rideauvalley.on.ca) under "Showcase." ([patrick.larson@rideauvalley.on.ca](mailto:patrick.larson@rideauvalley.on.ca))

**City Stream Watch Program Continues in 2007 – Volunteers Wanted**

The popular and successful City Stream Watch is moving into its fifth year. The program collects, records and manages information on the physical and biological characteristics of creeks and streams in the City of Ottawa. What is unique about the program is that it relies on community volunteers, guided by an experienced coordinator, to conduct macro stream assessments, participate in sampling fish communities through seining, and assist in stream clean-ups and stream rehabilitation projects. Since its inception, volunteer numbers have grown from 26 to over 100. In 2006, community volunteers worked over 550 hours on a number of different projects on city streams.

Volunteers are wanted to help with this year's City streams – Cranberry Creek (south - Rideau), Nepean Creek (west - Nepean) and four tributaries of Green's Creek (east - Gloucester) – Ramsey, Mud, Borthwick and Black Creeks. The first of two "Stream Watch" training sessions for community volunteers is being held on May 12 from 9 a.m. to noon on Sawmill Creek– for more details see "Volunteer Connection" story on page two. Special thanks to the program sponsors: RVCA, City of Ottawa, Heron Park Community Association, Ottawa Flyfishers Society, Ottawa South Community Association, Rideau River Roundtable and National Defense HQ – Fish and Game Club. ([grant.nichol@ottawa.ca](mailto:grant.nichol@ottawa.ca))

**Kemptville Creek Watershed Plan**

The Rideau Valley Conservation Authority, together with the watershed community, has completed the first review and update of the Kemptville Creek Watershed Plan (KCWP). Originally completed in 1999, the KCWP addressed a number of ongoing water and land management issues within the drainage area of Kemptville Creek. The updated report looks at what recommendations were successfully put in place from the original report and re-evaluates watershed health seven years later. The updated report also identifies new goals, objectives and actions that address today's Kemptville Creek area. To get your copy, contact Lynn Preston at 692-3571 ext. 1171 or [lynn.preston@rideauvalley.on.ca](mailto:lynn.preston@rideauvalley.on.ca). You can also download a copy from the Kemptville Creek Watershed Plan webpage on the RVCA site under "Protecting our Water." ([lynn.preston@rideauvalley.on.ca](mailto:lynn.preston@rideauvalley.on.ca))



RVCA Meeting Dates,  
Board of Directors and  
Advisory Board  
Agendas, Minutes (after  
approval), *Watershed  
Briefs* and Media  
Releases are available  
on our website at  
[www.rideauvalley.on.ca](http://www.rideauvalley.on.ca).

Next Meeting  
Board of Directors  
Thursday May 24, 2007

☎ 613 692 3571  
☎ 800 267 3504  
☎ 613 692 0831

## Clean Water Act – Your Chance to Influence How it Will Work

The Ministry of Environment (MOE) has made the first batch of draft Regulations available for public comment. These regulations contain details about how the *Clean Water Act* will unfold, including how Source Protection Committees will be formed. Under the Act, a Source Protection Committee will be formed in each region to oversee the process, and in particular, create locally-developed source protection plans. The draft regulations propose that a region the size of Mississippi-Rideau have 12 members on their SPC. It also proposes that SPCs be made up of one third municipal representatives, one third agricultural, commercial and industrial representatives and one third other representatives including the general public.

There are a total of five draft regulations and this is the last opportunity for the public to comment on these regulations before they become final. You can find the draft regulations at [www.ebr.gov.on.ca](http://www.ebr.gov.on.ca) (enter EBR registry number 010-0122). Comments must be submitted by May 12, 2007 and the final regulations are expected to be released in July. (sommer.robertson@mrsourcewater.ca)

## Wanted: Nominations for the 2006 Conservation Awards

The Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation (RVCF) is looking for candidates for its annual RVCF Conservation Award. This distinction is offered to an individual, business, non-profit group or community association doing outstanding, voluntary work to improve the health of our Rideau River. Download a nomination form at [www.rideauvalley.on.ca/foundation](http://www.rideauvalley.on.ca/foundation) and submit before the application deadline of June 1, 2007. The RVCF will present the award at a ceremony on June 21, 2007. Previous winners include Riverside Park Girl Guides (1995), Friends of Foley Mounation (1997), Friends of the Tay Watershed (2003) and Cheryl and Eric Ruhs of North Grenville and Brian and Les Billings of Balderson (2005). (charles.billington@rideauvalley.on.ca)



## Volunteer Connection

*Volunteers are not paid – not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless.*

### City Stream Watch Program Community Training Session

The Program is holding the first of two "Stream Watch" training sessions for community volunteers on May 12 from 9 a.m. to noon at the small park at the mouth of Sawmill Creek about 100 metres east of Billings Bridge Shopping Centre (Bank Street bridge at Riverside Drive). All necessary equipment is provided and there is no cost to volunteers. Contact Grant Nichol at 613-580-2424 ext. 22886 or [grant.nichol@ottawa.ca](mailto:grant.nichol@ottawa.ca) for details.

### Mother's Day Rideau River Cleanup

Hosted by the Urban Rideau Conservationists, this clean-up takes place on Sunday, May 13 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. along the downtown Ottawa stretch of the beautiful Rideau River. Drop-in on at one of three locations to sign-in, have a snack and get cleanup supplies – the Field House at 193 Stanley Avenue, the Rideau Tennis Club at

1 Donald Street or the Ottawa Tennis and Lawn Bowling Club at 176 Cameron Avenue. For more information, visit [www.urbanrideauconserve.blogspot.com](http://www.urbanrideauconserve.blogspot.com) or contact Catherine Canning at 613-325-7204 or [cathcanning@hotmail.com](mailto:cathcanning@hotmail.com).

### Ottawa Children's Water Festival

The Festival returns to the Baxter Conservation Area for its fifth year from Wednesday May 16 to Friday May 18. As many as 10 classes of local kids will move through the 28 "Water Discovery Centres" over the three days – picking up valuable information, experiences and insights about the irreplaceable role of water in our daily lives. Adult volunteers are needed to supervise programs and assist the student instructors. Call Peter Goddard at 613-489-3592 or [peter.goddard@rideauvalley.on.ca](mailto:peter.goddard@rideauvalley.on.ca) for details. Hats off to the City of Ottawa for supporting the festival in 2007.