



A NEWSLETTER FOR MUNICIPAL COUNCILLORS
February 2007

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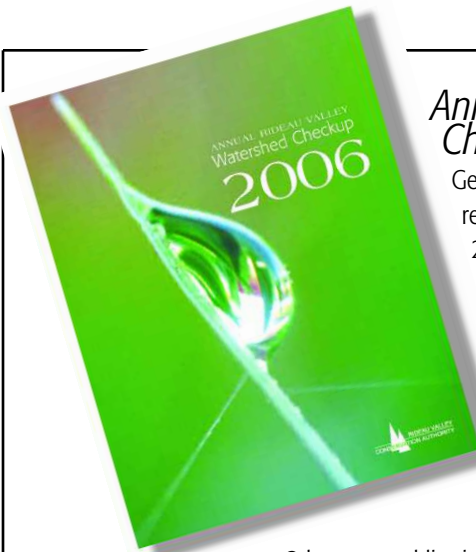
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Annual Rideau Valley Watershed Checkup 2006 – Now Available

Get your Annual Rideau Valley Watershed Checkup 2006. This 16-page report is our first annual summary of watershed conditions and health. The 2006 Checkup looks at a few common indicators: water budget, water quality – biology and chemistry, forest cover and watershed planning. It is not a complete catalogue of all the data and information our staff collects, but a snap shot in a user-friendly format. Each year, we plan to highlight different indicators (such as wetland area, biodiversity, forest cover, water quality, flood damage centres, or development pressure) to report on various aspects of watershed health and RVCA activities. Copies are on their way to all municipalities.

Other new publications include the RVCA 2006 Annual Report and *Making It Happen – Work Plan*. If you haven't received your copies, let us know. Contact Joan at joan.sherwood@rideauvalley.on.ca and she'll mail you a copy or download the files at www.rideauvalley.on.ca.

Flood Forecasting – Long Range Outlook

As of March 9, the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA) is expecting below average spring flow conditions this year. There was no real accumulation of snow on the ground in the Rideau watershed until mid-February. The snowpack is very light with low water content. The RVCA most recent snow measurements were completed on Thursday, March 1st, when the snow depth was close to the long-term average, but the water equivalent of the snowpack, at 33 millimetres, was only 50 percent of the long term average. The storm on March 2nd added 15 to 20 centimetres of new snow on the ground, but the increased water equivalent in the snowpack remains well below the long term average for March 1.

The RVCA is now in the daily planning cycle of its flood forecasting and warning operations – weather forecasts are being monitored and estimates of expected river flows and water levels are being prepared on a daily basis. Flood advisory or warning messages will be issued as required based on those forecasts.

Everyone is advised to be cautious around watercourses. Please supervise children and make them aware of the danger of unstable ice and increasing flows as the spring thaw progresses.
(patrick.larson@rideauvalley.on.ca)

<p>Municipal officials should review their flood response plans at this time and the usual preparations should be made to respond to emergency situations as required.</p>	
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Approved RVCA Budget

Earlier this year, the RVCA Board of Directors instructed staff to sharpen their pencils and reduce the proposed program levy for 2007. At February's Joint Advisory Board Meeting, the RVCA's improved budget was approved in the amount of \$14,331,000. This includes:

- levy of \$3,329,000 for ongoing programs, plus general levy of \$338,000 for capital projects for a total general municipal levy of \$3,667,000
- special levies to Ottawa of \$450,300 (Rideau River Ice Management, Ashton Dam Decommissioning Study, Children's Water Festival, Green Acres Tree Planting Program)
- special levy to Town of Perth of \$264,000 (Haggart Island Dam Reconstruction)

Contact DELL at ext. 1114 or dell.hallett@rideauvalley.on.ca for more details.

Rural Clean Water Program

The Rural Clean Water Program is clearly a popular program at the RVCA with over 130 potential projects already on the waiting list for 2007! Needless to say, our clean water staff will be busy with project delivery for both the Ottawa and Rideau programs again this year.

The program, aside from supplying grants to participating landowners, continues to promote "watershed stewardship" at events throughout the year (septic and well workshops and contractor sessions, federal agricultural sessions, local EFP workshops, the International Plowing Match, Ottawa Valley Farm Show, cottage and rural trade shows, etc). The program wants to spread the word about what rural residents can do to keep our creeks, streams and rivers as clean as possible. (martha.bradburn@rideauvalley.on.ca)

Coming Soon – Beaver Landowner Package

Dams and ponds created by beaver can sometimes be a nuisance on private land – flooding agricultural fields and forests, washing out roads and killing trees. The RVCA is well aware of these types of problems. The *Kemptville Creek Beaver Dam Monitoring Pilot Project (2003 – 2006)* monitored, surveyed, removed dams and trapped beavers. The program also helped landowners with issues and concerns about flooding on roads and property due to beaver activity. Although the pilot project officially ended in fall 2006, the RVCA is committed to providing on-going advice and guidance to landowners. A local, beaver information package will soon be available to clients through the RVCA's LandOwner Resource Centre (1-800-387-5304), guiding them through their options when dealing with pesky beavers. (rudy.dyck@rideauvalley.on.ca)

New Planning Fees Online

New fees for planning and advisory services are posted online at www.rideauvalley.on.ca. Click on "forms and fees" to see Schedules A, C and D which had new fees kick-in as of March 1, 2007. (don.maciver@rideauvalley.on.ca)

Laying Roots – Lake to Lake

Working in co-operation with Leeds County Stewardship, the RVCA is participating in the new Lake to Lake Project. One aspect of this multi-faceted project is to plant trees on private property to create a wildlife corridor connecting Belamy Pond and Irish Lake (near Toledo). Leeds County Stewardship contacted most of the landowners and the RVCA's role is to plant the trees this spring. Twelve landowners are involved resulting in 51,600 trees being planted on close to 25 hectares. More planting will happen next year as the project moves into its second and final year. Special thanks to all the Lake to Lake partners including Eastern Ontario Model Forest, Tree Ontario Foundation, Wetland Habitat Fund and Ontario Power Generation. (dan.cooper@rideauvalley.on.ca)

Naturalize Your Local Park or Backyard

Spring is right around the corner! Thinking about your next outdoor project? The RVCA's LandOwner Resource Centre can help you think "natural"! Naturalizing your local park or backyard can provide a multitude of benefits to you, your community and the environment. Natural landscapes eliminate the need for chemical weed and insect control that might damage your health and the environment. And, over the years, they require less work than lawns, giving you more time to enjoy nature in your own backyard. Download a copy of the Extension Note entitled *Naturalize your Local Park* at www.lrconline.com. This Extension Note provides information on some of the many benefits of backyard naturalization, as well as factors to consider when planning a naturalization project for your property. (jamie.batchelor@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.

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☎ 800 267 3504
☎ 613 692 0831