



A N E W S L E T T E R F O R M U N I C I P A L C O U N C I L L O R S  
May 2008

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**Hearts Desire Weir Decision**

The Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA) has reviewed its current operation procedures for the Hearts Desire Weir on the lower Jock River near Prince of Wales Drive. Constructed in 1975, the RVCA has operated this seasonal weir for 33 years; however, the need for continuing its operation is in question.

There are three options for the future operation of the weir:

- Option 1 – continue to operate the weir in its present configuration
- Option 2 – continue to operate the weir, but in a modified configuration
- Option 3 – decommission the weir

RVCA staff have recommended that the RVCA should work towards decommissioning the structure; however, a plan is required. The RVCA Board of Directors agreed and the Hearts Desire Weir will not be permanently removed until a stream restoration plan has been prepared in consultation with interested stakeholders, and a budget for its implementation has been approved. In the interim, the RVCA will continue its annual installation and removal of the Hearts Desire Weir.

Starting fall 2008, the RVCA will prepare a possible decommissioning plan. Staff will consult with directly affected public and private landowners and regulatory agencies. The RVCA will also apply for Provincial funding through the Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure Program to support the preparation of a plan.

The RVCA, as owner and operator of the weir, recognizes that any steps taken towards retirement of the structure should be accompanied by action to effectively restore and rehabilitate public or private lands on the one kilometre length of river that has been altered by the weir's original construction and subsequent operation. The RVCA's plan will also need to contribute to flood and erosion control and aquatic habitat health goals. (bruce.reid@rvca.ca)

**Wash/Wake Survey**

Parks Canada wants to know what you think of wash/wake issues caused by boaters on the Rideau.

The survey asks two questions:

1. Have you had a negative experience on, or along, the Rideau Canal as a result of wash/wake caused by boaters?
2. Have you personally witnessed damage to the natural environment, as a result of wash/wake caused by boaters?

All answers are important and be sure to include details (where, when, what, by whom).

Plans are to collect and analyze information, create a working group, work with stakeholders and with regulatory agencies, produce a report on boating practices and coordinate remedial action and/or regulatory action where needed.

For more information visit the Friends of the Rideau website at [www.rideaufriends.com/wake-survey.html](http://www.rideaufriends.com/wake-survey.html).

## Stream Watchers Trained!

The City Stream Watch program held two successful "Stream Watch" training sessions on May 10 and 24 at Sawmill Creek in the City of Ottawa. Volunteers were trained in easy and basic techniques of stream assessment and learned about other projects planned for the season. It was a great opportunity to learn about and help care for local streams and also meet other dedicated stream stewards. The City Stream Watch program is a community-based partnership, which includes the City of Ottawa, Heron Park Community Association, the National Defence Fish & Game Club, the Ottawa Flyfishers Society, the Rideau Roundtable, and Rideau Valley Conservation Authority with the generous support of the Monterey Inn Resort & Conference Centre. (julia.sutton@rvca.ca)

## Municipal and Landowner Tools

Need some environmental resource information? Contact an RVCA Information Specialist at 613-692-3571 (1-800-267-3504) ext. 1126 or 1132 or download information from some of these helpful websites.

- Beaver Information Package – this package helps landowners understand their rights and responsibilities in managing beaver on private property. Available free from an Information Specialist.
- Financial/Technical Assistance Brochure – a listing of current grant and technical advice programs available to rural landowners in Eastern Ontario. Ask an Information Specialist to send you copies for your municipality's front counter or display rack!
- *Extension Notes* – user-friendly fact sheets on a variety of resource management topics including agroforestry, financial aspects, forests, insects and pests, water and wetlands and wildlife. Download them free at [www.lrconline.com](http://www.lrconline.com). Our favorites include: *Preserving Water Quality*, *Preserving and Restoring Natural Shorelines*, *Buffers Protect the Environment*, *Restoring Shorelines with Willows*, *Protecting Fish Habitat*, *Improving Fish Habitat* and *Protecting Fish Habitat from Sediment*.
- Forms and Fees – looking for application forms, fees and policies for Planning, Regulations and Septic Approvals? Get them online at [www.rvca.ca](http://www.rvca.ca). Look for and click on the orange forms and fees button.
- Butternut Recovery Program – we are looking for healthy butternut trees. Learn more by calling an Information Specialist or visit <http://conservation-ontario.on.ca/stewardship/factsheets/butternut.pdf>
- *Wetlands and Woodlots* – this booklet highlights benefits of wetlands, presents ways to preserve and enhance wetlands (produced by the North American Wetlands Conservation Council of Canada). Download it free at <http://www.wetlandscanada.org/pubs.html>

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.rvca.ca](http://www.rvca.ca).

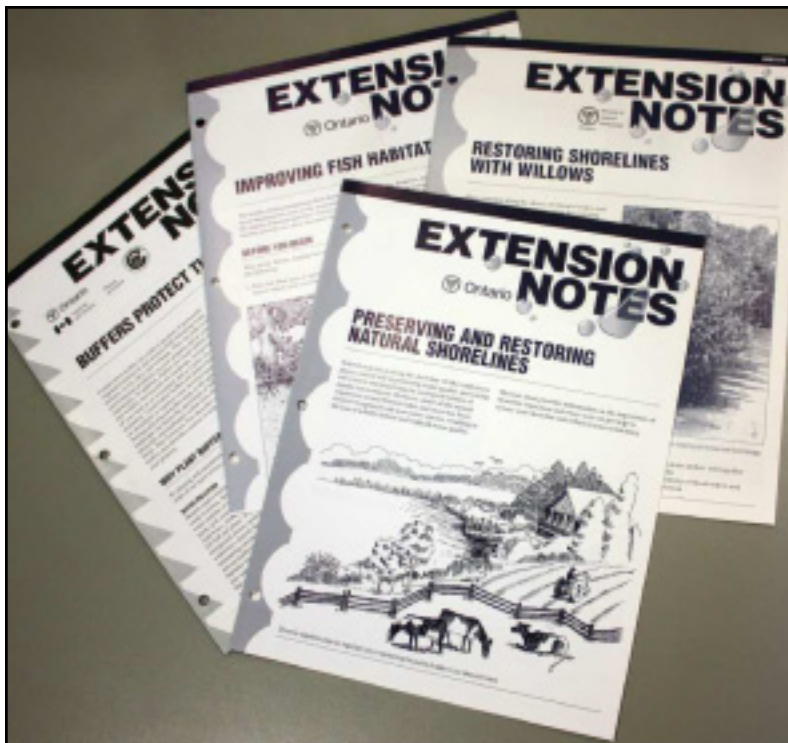
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### FAVORITE EXTENSION NOTES:

- Preserving Water Quality
- Preserving and Restoring Natural Shorelines
- Buffers Protect the Environment
- Restoring Shorelines with Willows
- Protecting Fish Habitat
- Improving Fish Habitat
- Protecting Fish Habitat from Sediment
- Butternut
- Planning for Tree Planting
- Careful Handling and Planting of Nursery Stock
- Naturalizing Your Local Park or Backyard