



A NEWSLETTER FOR MUNICIPAL COUNCILLORS
August 2008

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DRAPE Partnership

The RVCA has entered into an agreement with Groupe Alta Geomatique, which will provide RVCA with digital aerial photography of RVCA's entire area of jurisdiction. The Agreement is part of a larger agreement called the Digital Raster Acquisition Project – East (DRAPE) and is modeled after similar initiatives in Central and southern Ontario. Its purpose is to provide public and private organizations with high-resolution digital imagery across eastern Ontario. The images will be integrated into the RVCA's Geographical Information System and used for flood plain mapping, generic regulation, enforcement issues, tree planting, CA Area management and more. Cost savings due to this partnership will allow the RVCA to acquire complete coverage for the entire watershed, something that has previously not been possible (ewan.hardie@rvca.ca).

Tri-Valley Conservation Awards Gala

Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation with our neighbouring CAs (Mississippi Valley and South Nation Conservation) are getting together to hold the first Tri-Valley Conservation Awards Gala on Wednesday, October 22 here at the Rideau Valley Conservation Centre. The Gala will take over where the former RVCF Conservation Awards left off. The "Gala" consists of an evening of conservation highlights from around the watersheds, door prizes, winner recognition and audience appreciation. A reception catered by Monterey Inn Resort will follow. Cost of the Gala is \$10 and includes the reception and a cash bar. There are seven categories for the awards (elementary schools, high schools, colleges/universities, agriculture, municipalities, business, community groups/individuals). All proceeds from the gala go towards tree planting in the three watersheds (charles.billington@rvca.ca).

Lake Links Workshop

The seventh annual Lake Links Workshop is to be held on October 25, 2008. This informative workshop will be an opportunity for stewardship groups across the five eastern Ontario watersheds to share information and address common issues. It will be held on Saturday, October 25 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (registration and networking at 9 a.m.) at the Perth Lion's Hall, 50 Arthur Street, Perth, Ontario. Cost of the workshop is \$10 per person and will include lunch and refreshments. Participants can look forward to hands-on workshops, updates and information sharing, a variety of guest speakers and a lot of pertinent information. To register, contact the Centre for Sustainable Watersheds at info@watersheds.ca or call 613-272-5136 (andrea.klymko@rvca.ca).





SepticSmart — A Homeowner's Guide to Septic Systems

Municipalities and landowners can get free copies of SepticSmart by calling KELLIE or MEGAN at 613-692-3571 ext. 1128 or 1132. The twelve page booklet helps landowners understand their septic system. Great tips and advice on care and maintenance, separation distances and more. This booklet was written and designed at the RVCA in cooperation with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs and the Ontario Ministry of the Environment. Watch for more in a growing series of rural onsite wastewater information — next up: new technology for septic disposal like tertiary treatment systems (diane.downey@rvca.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.rvca.ca.

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SOURCE WATER PROTECTION

Source Protection Committee Fall Meetings Cancelled

Meetings previously scheduled for the Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Committee (SPC) for September through December 2008 have been cancelled because the Committee has finished the first phase of its work. Committee members will tour local municipal drinking water systems in November and Chair Janet Stavinga could call a fall meeting if important issues arise.

Over the past seven months, the SPC has gotten up to speed on the Clean Water Act, developed governing policies, approved a public engagement strategy, reviewed preliminary draft technical reports and developed proposed Terms of Reference. The Committee of 15 community representatives must now await the completion of the remaining preliminary draft technical studies before they can proceed with their next task which is developing proposed Assessment Reports for the Mississippi and Rideau watersheds. Assessment Reports are due one year after the Terms of Reference are approved by the Minister of the Environment so we anticipate they will be due late in 2009 or early 2010.

The SPC will reconvene in January 2009 and anticipate meeting four times throughout 2009. Meeting four times during the year will allow staff to undertake public consultation on draft technical studies in between meetings in preparation for proposed Assessment Reports by the end of next year (sommer.robertson@mrsourcewater.ca or www.mrsourcewater.ca for more information).