



A NEWSLETTER FOR MUNICIPAL COUNCILLORS
 May 2009

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- Alan Arbuckle
- Glenn Brooks
- Steve Desroches
- Clive Doucet
- Ed Hand
- Maria McRae

Freshet 2009 in Review

The peak flow on the Rideau River this spring was 222 cubic metres per second (cms) recorded at the Carleton University gauge on April 7. This is the sixth lowest peak flow in 35 years of record. It caused only minor flooding. No property damage was reported. This past winter, the snow and cold weather we had in December/January had disappeared by early March. Each winter is a whole new ball game and each one has the potential to cause big problems for riverside residents.

RVCA keeps close watch on approaching weather conditions year-round and continues with detailed monthly monitoring of flow gauges on the Rideau and its tributaries.

Peak Spring Flows	In 2009	Ever on Record
Ottawa River	3,600 cms	5,060 cms (1979)
Rideau River	222 cms	597 cms (1976)
Jock River	47 cms	148 cms (1978)
Kemptville Creek	28 cms	82 cms (1972)
Tay River	23 cms	53 cms (1998)

Municipal-CA Presentations

Conservation Authority Chair Alan Arbuckle and General Manager Dell Hallett are scheduling visits to several municipal councils over the next six months. They have already met with councils in North Grenville, Smiths Falls and Perth. Traditionally, they make a short presentation followed by a question and answer period. The idea is to exchange information, hear each others priorities and align as much as possible any pending conservation work in the township with municipal programs. If you would like to book a presentation either in 2009 or 2010, please call Dell at 613-692-3571 or 1-800-267-3504 ext 1114.

Joint Advisory Board Meeting & Municipal Open House

The evening of Thursday, June 18 from 5 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. is the date of the next Joint Advisory Board meeting. It is likely that many municipal reps have not yet had the chance to see and visit the new, state-of-the-art Rideau Valley Conservation Centre (RVCA Headquarters) in Manotick which is owned by all watershed municipalities through the RVCA. All Advisory Board members are asked to invite their Head of Council (or other member of Council as available) to consider joining us for a couple of relaxing hours catching up on CA business.

Catered barbecue, new building tour with the architect Chris Simmonds and a short business meeting . . . speak to your RVCA appointee for an invitation! (Or send Joan a message (joan.sherwood@rvca.ca) for your very own invitation . . . the more the merrier!)

RVCA Carbon Neutral Program

Want to make your next business event, municipal meeting or golf tournament a little greener? RVCA offers a Carbon Neutral Program for our friends, municipal partners and watershed residents. We calculate the amount of carbon emissions caused by participant travel to and from your event and calculate the number of trees needed to be planted to absorb that amount of carbon over their 80 year lifespan. We then plant those trees on your behalf in the Rideau watershed the following spring at a total cost of \$2.25 per tree.

The best way to help control climate change is to reduce carbon emissions at their source. It is difficult for many Canadians to eliminate these emissions so the RVCA Carbon Neutral Program gives another option in the right direction. You should still work on reducing your carbon emissions but in the meantime, planting trees will help offset the carbon that you do produce.

150K Trees for Manotick's 150th

RVCA planted another 150,000 trees in the valley this spring. We are very pleased to announce this milestone number of new trees in 2009 during the 150th anniversary of the village of Manotick where RVCA established its office in 1970. Sincere thanks to our many sponsors who are helping to make the Rideau Valley the greenest watershed in Eastern Ontario. The municipalities receiving the greatest number of trees in 2009 are City of Ottawa (West Carleton), North Elmsley, Merrickville-Wolford and Elizabethtown-Kitley.

Seeking Unsung Environmental Heros

The annual Tri-Valley Conservation Awards of Excellence for 2009 program is underway. The three Conservation Authorities (Mississippi, Rideau and South Nation) are joining forces to find and recognize outstanding environmental volunteers in eight categories: Primary Schools, High Schools, College/Universities, Agriculture, Community Groups, Individuals, Businesses and finally Municipalities. The environmental work must contribute to cleaning the rivers, lakes, land or air within one or more of the three watersheds.

Nominations will be accepted until September 11. The nomination forms are available on any CA website.

We would love to have a municipality from the Rideau Valley win the bragging rights for 2009. . .don't hesitate to nominate your municipality for either one project or an ensemble of environmental work over several years. We can't win if you're not on the ballot.

Please Don't Move Firewood!

Emerald Ash Borers are destructive invasive insects munching their way through the ash trees of northeastern North America without an effective way to stop them anywhere in sight. The City of Ottawa discovered its first infestation site in 2008 and quickly brought together a Task Force of agencies to try and slow down the spread of this little green bug. Defensive measures include proactive planting of other species, removal of heavily-infested trees from city land, innovative research with pesticide injections and biological predators, and an information campaign telling people of the importance of not moving Ash material. Ash makes up about 25% of the forests in Ottawa including woodlots and hedgerows in rural Ottawa and along many residential streets in the urban area. The eventual loss of millions of ash trees (as is happening in Windsor) would have huge economic, social and environmental effects in the watershed.

The federal Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, the Honourable Gerry Ritz, signed a Ministerial Order on April 27, prohibiting the transport of ash and ash products from within a large portion of the cities of Ottawa and Gatineau to areas outside the restricted zone. Municipalities outside the City of Ottawa are asked to help inform citizens about this destructive insect.

Transport of firewood to campgrounds and cottages has been identified as the major source of new infested sites.

2009 Tree Planting Sponsors

Highland Boy Scouts,
Carleton Place High School,
Perth & District High School,
Montague Public School,
Churchill Elementary School,
Lanark Leeds and Ottawa
Stewardship Councils,
City of Ottawa, Municipality
of North Grenville,
Trees Ontario, Monterey Inn,
Pratt & Whitney Canada,
McGarry Family Chapels,
RVCA staff, Hydro Ottawa,
Ducks Unlimited,
Rideau Valley
Conservation Foundation.

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