



A NEWSLETTER FOR MUNICIPAL COUNCILLORS
September 2010

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Conservation Foundation Turns 40

On September 3, 1970, five visionary municipal representatives signed the Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation into life. Frank E. Ayers (Ottawa), Denis M. Coolican (Ottawa), Arthur Daines (Perth), Howard E. Henry (Ottawa) and Patrick J. McManus (Bastard & South Burgess) served as the first Board members to "...aid the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority in the cultivation and enhancement of conservation..." in the Rideau watershed.

Since that historic day, after five Chairs and two changes of office space, the Foundation has blossomed into one of the best and most respected environmental charities in Eastern Ontario. It has raised over \$2 million in gifts, holds title to 14 properties donated by visionary families and businesses for future conservation use and has made friends with hundreds of generous, community-minded, loyal donors across the watershed.

"The Conservation Foundation is a big factor in helping us achieve cost-effective conservation projects for our municipalities," said RVCA Chair Alan Arbuckle. "The Foundation is to be congratulated on a strong fundraising performance bringing new funds to bear on some of the most pressing conservation issues in the watershed."

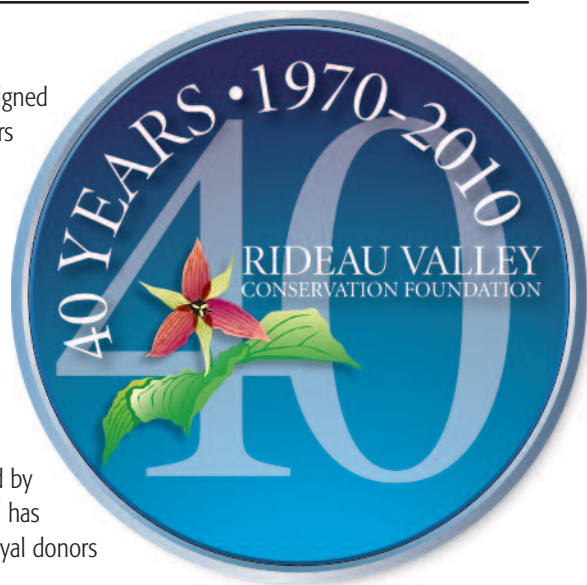
The Foundation Chair Jason Kelly and the entire Board of Directors take this opportunity to publicly thank the generosity of the people and businesses of this watershed. The Foundation's work would be impossible without the help of the people.

Tributary Planting In Ottawa

Recent studies show that the feeder streams are often in worse environmental condition than the main stem of the Rideau. That's what makes the recent announcement of a \$75,000 grant from Environment Canada to the Conservation Foundation to undertake shoreline planting on some of the most degraded sections of tributary streams in the City of Ottawa so very important. These small creeks and streams often get some rough treatment such as removal of shoreline vegetation, alteration of stream patterns and drainage, and hardening of nearby surfaces causing faster and dirtier water to enter the watercourse.

With the planting of 12,000 trees and shrubs along about four kilometres of shoreline, we hope to start the long, slow process of rehabilitation of the Rideau River itself.

The two-year project is managed by the RVCA stewardship staff lead by Andrea Klymko, Manager of the Shoreline Stewardship Program.



RVCA Featured

The wetland protection work of the RVCA was featured as a "Community Snapshot" in the recent Vital Signs Annual Report of the Community Foundation of Ottawa. The story described the RVCA work in quantifying the role of local wetlands in flood reduction and other economic reasons for keeping as much as possible of our current stock of wetland intact. One of the environmental vital signs that the report highlighted was the historic loss of up to 90% of Ottawa area wetlands according to the most recent Ducks Unlimited data. You can view the document at www.communityfoundationottawa.ca under *What's New* on the right hand side.

Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program

A quick look at the ongoing ODWSP shows that the combined Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Region has received about 60 project enquiries and paid \$163,000 to 27 completed projects as of October 26, 2010. Another \$133,000 has been allocated for another 22 projects that are in progress. Eligible projects are in the vulnerable areas around municipal wells (for groundwater sources) or intake zones (if the source water comes from a river or lake). Projects tend to eliminate or reduce the risk of contamination of source water in areas close to the well head or intakes by undertaking septic system inspections and upgrades, well decommissioning or upgrades (casing repair or extensions) and other best management practices.

Climate Change Tool

A study released by Credit Valley Conservation shows that forests within that watershed store about 6.5 million tonnes of carbon and are capturing an additional 13.3 tonnes of carbon every year. The climate regulation value represented by this carbon storage has been estimated at \$11.4 million annually.

Conservation of forests retains the carbon stored in them and planting new trees captures carbon from the atmosphere, helping to reduce greenhouse gases and defend against climate change. But the old existing trees put on much more wood and absorb much more carbon than the newly-planted seedlings each year. "Preventing deforestation is the best way to fight climate change," says the study. "New trees are important but we need to be aggressive about protecting the forests and trees we already have."

In many watersheds including the Rideau, forests are under threat with many hectares of often mature forest lost to development each year.

Globally, it is estimated that deforestation contributes as much as 20 per cent of all greenhouse gas emissions. More information about the Credit study is available at www.creditvalleyca.ca/bulletin/resources.htm.

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