



RIDEAU VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY WATERSHED BRIEFS

November/ December 2011

A newsletter for municipal councillors

2011 Board of Directors

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Tom Dewey *Central Frontenac*

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Making the Grade Ontario gets an 'A' for drinking water protection

The federal government may get an "F" for failing to protect drinking water, but the province of Ontario has earned itself an "A" in Ecojustice's *Waterproof 3*. *Waterproof 3* is the organization's third drinking water report card that evaluates water policies, programs and legislation across the country and assigns the provincial, territorial and federal governments a grade based on how well they are protecting drinking water. Released every five years, the report also shows if each jurisdiction is getting better or getting worse over time. Ontario's score moved up to an 'A' with its implementation of "the most ambitious source water protection program in Canada. . ." the grade also credits the province for having some of the country's strongest treatment testing, operator training and public reporting standards. **Your local conservation authority is pleased to be part of the province's ongoing delivery of the Clean Water Act through the Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Committee which is currently working closely with all municipalities, key industry sectors, impacted property owners and the general public to draft policies that will keep contaminants out of our local sources of drinking water.**

Ecojustice is a national charitable organization dedicated to defending Canadians' right to a healthy environment. Made up of lawyers and scientists, Ecojustice believes in leading the way to a sustainable future through clean water, natural spaces, healthy communities and climate protection. For more information visit: www.ecojustice.ca/waterproof-3

Ottawa Twelfth in Green Cities Index

The *US and Canada Green Cities Index* has Ottawa Ranking 12 out of 27.

This index, conducted by the Economist Intelligence Unit and, sponsored by Siemens, seeks to measure and compare the environmental performance of 27 major cities across nine categories using 31 indicators. ". . .82 percent of Americans and 81 percent of Canadians are urban dwellers — and the trend is increasing. The ongoing urbanization poses tough challenges for infrastructures and environment (Siemens website)." Vancouver is tops in Canada (2nd overall), followed by Toronto (9th), Ottawa (12th), Calgary (14th) and Montreal (19th). Ottawa ranked an impressive third in land use. **The RVCA is proud to assist the City of Ottawa with their green performance, especially our ongoing partnership through the Green Acres Tree Planting Program. The RVCA assists all its rural municipalities do the same through the Trees for Tomorrow Program.** For more information on the US and Canada Green City Index, visit sustainablecitiescanada.ca/challenge or check out October's *Canada Business Magazine*.

Green Cities Index Ottawa: Ranked 12

- **Strength:** Ottawa's low output of CO₂ thanks in part to an air quality management plan
- **Challenge:** The city's number of LEED certified buildings is a quarter the North American study's average
- **Innovation:** The GREEN ACRES Program assists homeowners with tree planing plans with a goal of increasing urban forest over to 30 percent from 27 percent.

Source: Canada Business Magazine

Where's the Water?

In September, the RVCA issued a Level 1 drought condition notice. The watershed continues in that state. Stream flows and lake levels recovered somewhat from rainfall events in October and November, but there was still a rainfall deficit. December's precipitation has helped and we expect to withdraw the Level 1 soon. Conditions are reviewed weekly while in a Level 1 (patrick.larson@rvca.ca).

Board of Director's Meetings

Thursday, February 23, 2012
RVCA Annual General Meeting
Elections, Budget and Levy

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NEW! Active • Outdoor • Life Series

The RVCA is pleased to present its new Active • Outdoor • Life Series — a number of special programs featuring great opportunities to get you active, outside and take full advantage of what Mother Nature has to offer. And best of all, the RVCA has just the spot for the fun — your local conservation area! Visit www.rvca.ca/active-outdoor-life for more details on:

- Winter Adventurers Day Camps (for the kids)
- Family Snowshoeing Adventures (for families)
- Conquer Foley Mountain This Winter (for adults)
- Blaze Baxter This Winter (for adults)

Did you know one trip to a conservation area is equal to a visit to:

- an oxygen bar
- personal trainer
- and a naturopath
- massage therapist
- stress management counselor
- detox program
- aromatherapist



These all come with the added benefit of a healthy dose of vitamin D and minerals! And without any side effects, high costs, overdoses, waiting times or adverse reactions (kristy.giles@rvca.ca).

Season's Greetings

The RVCA wishes our readers a happy and safe holiday season. Our offices will be closed as of December 23 at 4:30 p.m. and will reopen on January 3, 2012 at 8:30 a.m.

RVCA In Action — Community Development

Project: Riverside South Community Design Plan, Master Drainage Plan, Infrastructure Servicing Study Update and Plan Implementation

Description: detailed planning documents to guide the development and related servicing (water, sanitary and stormwater management) for an 1,800 (approx.) area south of the Macdonald-Cartier International Airport, east of the Rideau River. The community has been designed for a total buildout of 20,300 housing units, plus employment, commercial, institutional and open space lands to support a projected population of 54,500 over the next 20 years.

RVCA involvement:

- member of the Technical Advisory Committee for the Community Design Plan, Master Servicing Study and Infrastructure Servicing Study Update — providing expertise and advice on all areas of the Conservation Authority's mandate and interests
- participated in the environmental assessment for the \$48 million twinning of 6.3 kilometres of Limebank Road to Earl Armstrong to accommodate future growth of the South Urban Community
- worked with Fisheries and Oceans Canada, developers and consultants since 2004 to manage the potential impacts on fish and aquatic habitat in the Rideau River, Mosquito Creek and its many tributaries
- technical advice on hydraulic modeling and fluvial geomorphology work related to stormwater management
- issued permits and monitored works relating to the *Alteration to Waterways* regulation under the *Conservation Authorities Act*
- review and management of subdivision applications

Significant achievements in the design of the community are:

- protection and restoration of Mosquito Creek, parts of the Rideau River and many tributaries through a coordinated approach to stormwater management, appropriate development setbacks and restoration work
- delineation and management of natural hazards relating to slope stability, meander belts, erosion protection and floodplain avoidance
- creation of an open space network including woodlots, watercourses, major overland flow routes and recreation areas
- protection of the environmental integrity of the valley lands, fish and aquatic habitat and their connection to other natural features

Ongoing efforts include:

- fish habitat compensation project completed at Chapman Mills Conservation Area. Design for a second project on the east bank of the Rideau is nearing completion
- 13 permits under *Ontario Regulation 174/06* have been issued or are under review
- there are currently six plans of subdivision in various stages of review and approval process

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