



Around the Rideau

Environmental Information For Municipalities In The Rideau Valley

July | August 2004

Water Taking

The provincial government's proposed tough new regulation for water takings is on the Environmental Bill of Rights Registry until August 22 for public comment. It includes improved assessment of water taking impacts (including water conservation as a factor), mandatory reporting of water takings by permit holders and enhanced notification to municipalities and Conservation Authorities. The regulation is a result of Commissioner O'Connor's recommendation in the *Report of the Walkerton Inquiry*. Read it at http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/envision/env_reg/ebr/english/index.htm.

Dragon Boats

The Foundation boat "Sweet Charity" filled with paddlers from the Conservation Foundation, Multiple Sclerosis Society and Eastern Ontario Rett Syndrome Chapter churned their way to an amazing amount of fun and excitement at the Ottawa Dragon Boat Races in late June. Besides the unforgettable experience, it looks like each charity will receive about \$40,000 as a result of the outstanding fundraising done by the paddlers and their support teams. Our share goes to Rural Clean Water projects and the outdoor education program at Baxter Conservation Area. Huge thanks to all participants, pledgers, volunteers and the Royal Bank for sponsoring the registration costs of our boat. CHARLES at charles.billington@rideauvalley.on.ca or ext 1116.

Lower Rideau Strategy

Consultants are working towards a well-developed draft Watershed Strategy document (with key supporting analyses) for the end of August. This draft document will be reviewed by the Technical Advisory Committee in early September and by the riparian landowners, the Community Focus Group and the general public in early fall. The proposed Action Program identifies both short and long term actions that need to be taken by the partners and stakeholders identified in the implementation plan. More from BRUCE at ext 1103 or bruce.reid@rideauvalley.on.ca.

Kemptville Creek Update

The five-year review and update of the Kemptville Creek Watershed Plan is underway. The technical agencies and municipalities have had one meeting to discuss the state of progress towards achieving the recommendations set out in the April 1999 plan. Public input and suggested priorities/revisions will be encouraged this fall with an invitation to a Kemptville Creek Open House. The entire update and revised strategy will be ready by the end of the winter. More from LYNN at lynn.preston@rideauvalley.on.ca or ext 1171.

Changing Channels

Anyone involved in natural channel and aquatic system restoration will want to attend the Third International Conference on Natural Channel Systems in Ottawa September 27-30. Papers, discussions, experts and technical training. Conference information and registration forms at www.rideauvalley.on.ca or Coordinators BRENDA at brenda.koenig@sympatico.ca (705-652-1078) or CATHERINE at rpiens@nexicom.net (705-652-9732).

New Tree Planting Program

The federal government wants to plant more trees to help meet our commitments under the Kyoto Accord. The Trees Ontario Foundation and Conservation Ontario hope to plant 600 hectares of new forest in Ontario in spring 2005. RVCA is the local delivery agent and the incentives are very generous. The landowner pays about ¼ of the costs and the program pays ¾ (for most programs its about half and half). If you have a minimum of two hectares of open area available, consider putting it into trees. The benefits include clean water, stable slopes, windbreaks, wildlife habitat, soil conditioning and better local microclimates. Private, municipal and CA lands are all eligible. Information on the Forest 20/20 Program from LandOwner Resource Centre at 692-2390, 800-387-5304 or sommer.robertson@rideauvalley.on.ca.

Ottawa Clean Water Grants

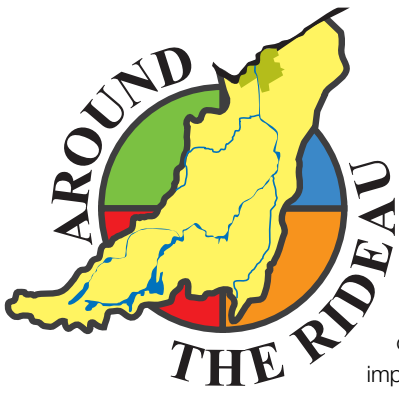
Farmers and rural landowners in the City of Ottawa thinking about shoreline or water conservation improvements on their private property can apply for a grant to help with the cost. Manure storage, well upgrades or plugging, septic system repair, buffer strip planting and more. LAST DEADLINE for applications this year is October 1. More information from LandOwner Resource Centre's Clean Water Hotline at 692-2390 or 800-387-5304 or joelle.pinsonnault@rideauvalley.on.ca.

Tay Septics

The busy Tay Valley Septic Office, a joint project of the Mississippi and Rideau Valley CAs, provides all septic inspection and approval services for Tay Valley Township as well as the septic re-inspection service to assist waterfront purchasers to evaluate the condition and age of the existing septic system on the property. Over 100 homes are in rotation to be re-inspected this summer and about half of the average number of annual anticipated septic permits have been issued. The Tay Valley program protects the good water quality in the Tay lakes and rivers, provides an inventory of private sewage systems in the township and gives staff an opportunity to inform cottagers and homeowners on the proper care and feeding of their septic systems. SARAH has all the dirt at 613-259-2421 or swillie@mvc.on.ca.

Tay Fish Reports

Fish Habitat of the Tay River Watershed: Existing Conditions and Opportunities for Enhancement is an up-to-date encyclopedia of fish and fish habitat information including the roadmap for protecting and improving it on the Tay. This volume is one of the key recommendations from the community-driven 2002 *Tay River Watershed Management Plan*. For a free copy (CD or sirlox bound) call SOMMER or JOELLE at the LRC at 800-387-5304 or sommer.robertson@rideauvalley.on.ca.



Conservation Winners

The "Friends of the Tay Watershed" took top prize in the Foundation's annual Conservation Award ceremony held at Crow Lake in late June. The Friends are the major community force in the ongoing implementation of the 2002 Tay River Watershed Management Plan. A Manotick couple, Douglas Frosst and Lori Gadzala, also received an Honourable Mention in 2003 for their outstanding work at preserving natural shoreline in the Manotick area of the Rideau River. The selection committee is delighted to report many decidedly extraordinary volunteer conservationists at work in our watershed. Hats off to them all. More from **CHARLES** at ext 1116.

Cash for Conservation

Applications for clean water projects are now being accepted for areas outside the City of Ottawa. The Rideau Valley Rural Clean Water Program gives money to landowners for livestock fencing, fuel/chemical storage facilities, septic repairs, planting creek buffer strips and well upgrades or plugging. To date, 90 conservation projects have been completed with over \$110,000 in incentive grants to landowners. Special thanks to our corporate sponsors including the Ottawa Dragon Boat Festival, R.W.Tomlinson Limited, the Kemptville Truck Centre, AON Reed Stenhouse, OMYA (Canada) Inc., Lanark Stewardship Council, Golder Associates and TD Friends of the Environment Foundation. Information on our website (www.rideauvalley.on.ca) or from the **LRC's Clean Water Hotline** at 692-2390 or 1-800-387-5304.

Fendock and Baxter

Greg Westwell and the good folks at FENDOCK donated an entire dock system to the Baxter Conservation Area for use in the canoe and youth leadership camps this summer. FENDOCK is a Canadian leader in producing environmental friendly docks and shoreline equipment based in Ottawa. The donation makes the camping programs much safer, easier and more fun. Sincere appreciation to FENDOCK for their generous gift. **CHARLES** for details at ext 1116.

Jock River Floods

Consultants are still working on the updated Jock River Flood Risk maps showing the new flood and fill elevations for the Jock corridor from the Rideau River right up to the Village of Ashton (excluding the large Richmond Fen wetland). Flood risk maps identify areas expected to be flooded during major flood events. Planners and watershed managers rely on the maps to help steer development away from flood-prone

areas. Draft maps should be available within a month. A public Open House to view them will be held in early fall. **BRUCE** for details at bruce.reid@rideauvalley.on.ca or ext 1103.

Water Bug Workshop

Biology staff will be holding a Macro Invertebrate Workshop in Perth one Saturday in August from 10 am–2 pm (date to be finalized). The workshop, of interest to many lake associations, will include some field sampling in the Tay River (collecting bugs with nets from the bottom of the river), identification of them back in the hall, and details about the Ontario Benthos Biomonitoring Network Protocol. What do the bugs tell us about the health of the river? Lunch provided. Limit of 20 participants. Call **LYNN** for the date and registration details at 800-267-3504 ext 1171 or lynn.preston@rideauvalley.on.ca.

Lake Reports

Lake Reports from the Watershed Watch Program are all available on the RVCA website at www.rideauvalley.on.ca. Click on Programs & Services, look for Source Management and you will see Watershed Watch Program. Lake characteristics, historical data, new data and analysis of water quality of eight lakes from 2001, five lakes from 2002, and five lakes from 2003 (including the nine major basins of Bobs Lake) are all available in the reports. Check them out. Information is power.

Rideau Lakes Watershed Plan

A questionnaire has been circulated to all of the lake associations in the Rideau Lakes watershed (Big Rideau, Upper Rideau, Westport Sand, Wolfe, Long, Adams and Bass) seeking their perceptions about the issues affecting the health of the Rideau Lakes watershed. This survey is an attempt to get the landowners' perspective as we move slowly forward with a watershed management plan for the Rideau Lakes area this winter. If you need more questionnaires or want to fill it out independently of the lake association, contact **LYNN** at ext 1171.

Graham Creek

The report detailing the condition of the 20+ year-old flood and erosion control structures on Graham Creek in the west end of the former City of Nepean (now Ottawa) has been received. The condition report covers about five kilometres of watercourse and includes visual examination on condition of the structures, recommendations on rehabilitation methods on deteriorated structures, and a ballpark estimate of the cost for recommended remedial work (estimated at \$1.5 million). Findings to be discussed with the City of Ottawa for possible maintenance work in 2005. **BRUCE** at ext 1103.

"A healthy watershed is the greatest legacy to our children and the key to our continued economic growth and future prosperity."

Making it Happen,
RVCA Three Year Strategy and Work
Plan 2004-2006

Around the Rideau

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Office de protection de la nature de la
vallée de la rivière Rideau

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692-3571 or 1-800-267-3504 www.rideauvalley.on.ca

Around the Rideau circulation has risen to 3,000 Heads of Council, Councillors, senior municipal and provincial staff, interested persons and the media throughout the 18 municipalities in the Rideau Valley watershed courtesy of our friends at:

 **RIDEAU VALLEY**
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