



Around the Rideau

Environmental Information For Municipalities In The Rideau Valley

January | February 2004

Shoreline Health

In 2003, the Rideau River Shoreline Classification Project catalogued 127 km of shoreline between Kars and Merrickville in terms of vegetation, erosion, land use and shoreline structures. The survey, completed in mid-October, found that while an encouraging 62 percent of the shoreline along this stretch is in a regenerative/natural state, a troubling 38 percent is heavily or partially developed. As a cautionary note, the majority of properties in this reach are concentrated in heavily developed areas, where manicured lawns and human-induced erosion are typically found. This field work will produce the first set of baseline data for the Rideau River from Smiths Falls to Hogs Back. More from **BRAD** at bstephens@rideauvalley.on.ca.

Who Needs Trees?

RVCA is gearing up for the 2004 tree planting season. There are limited quantities of white pine, white spruce, cedar and black walnut seedlings still available for spring planting. Anyone interested in planting a minimum of 500 trees on a minimum of one acre should call now! Forestry staff are also interested in hearing about potential 2005 reforestation projects within the Rideau Valley watershed, such as establishing windbreaks or turning an abandoned field into a beautiful woodlot. Interested landowners should contact the **LandOwner Resource Centre** at 692-2390 ext. 1132 or 1128, 1-800-387-5304 or info@lrconline.com.

Green Acres 2004

The Green Acres reforestation program has planted 413,000 trees over the last four years with the generous support of the City of Ottawa. The unfortunate loss of 2004 tree planting support due to the municipal program review turned into a community success story when six exceptional groups and companies (Ontario Wetland Habitat Fund, Carleton University Charity Ball, Ottawa Stewardship Council, Pratt & Whitney Canada, Harris Computer Services and the Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation) teamed together with donations to save the spring tree plant in rural Ottawa. The 62,000 new tree seedlings slated for planting this spring will go in the ground as planned. Discussions regarding the continuation of the program in 2005 are ongoing. More from **RUDY** at ext. 1135 or rdyck@rideauvalley.on.ca.

Wetland Partnership

RVCA and Ducks Unlimited Canada have joined forces to develop an updated and comprehensive inventory of all OMNR-evaluated wetlands within the watershed and rank them according to a set of criteria to be developed. This information will eventually be used by the RVCA to regulate activities such as development and interference with wetlands, regulations which have been made possible by recent amendments to Section 28 of the *Conservation Authorities Act of Ontario*. The updated site-specific information will also be used to assist with decision-making regarding planning and development proposals affecting wetlands. More from **MARTIN** at ext. 1163 or mczarski@rideauvalley.on.ca.

Cleaner Rideau Water

Since its launch in May 2002, the Rideau Valley Rural Clean Water Program has received 90 applications, approved 79 and completed 67. Projects were split almost equally between lake country (Tay Valley, Rideau Lakes, Drummond/North Elmsley, South Frontenac) and the middle watershed area (North Grenville, Merrickville-Wolford, Augusta, Kitley-Elizabethtown, Beckwith, Montague and North Dundas). In just 20 months this program has created 79 on-the-ground projects worth a total of \$280,044 (\$109,106 in grant dollars). The most common project types were septic system repair, livestock restriction from water/alternate watering systems, well upgrades and decommissioning, and safer fertilizer, chemical, pesticide and fuel storage/handling. More from **MARTHA** at ext. 1136 or mbradburn@rideauvalley.on.ca.

Late-breaking Beer Dinner News!

Rose Roberts and her amazing staff at the Arrow & the Loon Pub and Restaurant have just announced another President's Beer Dinner — the legendary four-course Canadian gourmet meal, each course accompanied by a special Creemore Springs brew. It's happening Sunday evening, March 14 at the Arrow & the Loon, 99 Fifth Avenue at Bank in Ottawa. All proceeds to Clean Water Programs in the Rideau Valley. Reservations required. Call the **ARROW** soon at 237-0448.

Tree Marking

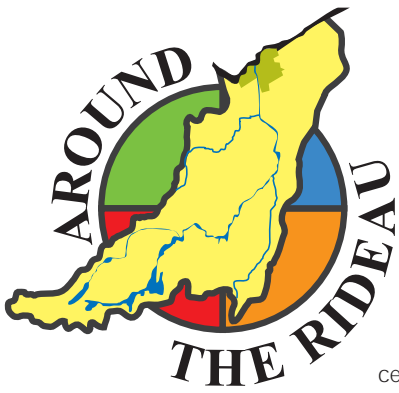
If your woodlot is ready for a thinning or harvest, you need the newest MNR Extension Note called *Promoting a Healthy Forest through Tree Marking*. Tree marking will help you get the most from your woodlot whether it is wildlife habitat, a continuous flow of forest products, conservation of biodiversity or just simple old forest health. This 12-page note is the latest of 55 different Extension Notes available to landowners on topics such as forests, agroforestry, water and wetlands, insects, wildlife and more. For a full listing, including downloadable versions in English and French, visit www.lrconline.com or call 692-2390 or 1-800-387-5304 for your complimentary copy.

Working Near Water

If you're planning any work near the water this spring, please call the LandOwner Resource Centre for a quick and efficient review of your plans, the permits or applications you need, any environmentally-friendly alternatives which are available and a package of background information on fish habitat, sediment control, shoreline naturalization and other critical matters. Be advised that there is a moratorium on in-water work between March 15 and June 30 each year. Call **SOMMER** at ext. 1128 or srobertson@rideauvalley.on.ca.

April Septic Courses

The Ontario Rural Wastewater Centre is offering a number of practical professional courses on septic systems in April at the Baxter Conservation Area south of Kars. April 7 is a one-day course designed to equip real estate professionals with the know-how they need when selling rural homes including how conventional and alternative septic systems work,



relevant legal issues, the *Ontario Building Code* and how to recognize a faulty system. April 14 is a one-day advanced design course of on-site sewage systems intended for experienced installers and designers. April 19–23 is a week-long certification course to become a licensed sewage system installer or inspector. April 27 is a day-long course on alternative wastewater treatment systems. For more call **SOMMER** at ext. 1128 or srobertson@rideauvalley.on.ca.

Natural Channels Conference

The Third International Conference on Natural Channel Systems (including a technical training session) is being planned for September 27–30, 2004 at the Ottawa Marriott. *Making it Work* is all about the emerging science of natural channel design and fluvial technology. There is a steady demand for this type of knowledge to assist in the practice of river management and restoration. Book the dates now. Conference announcements and invitation to submit abstracts at www.rideauvalley.on.ca. Registration forms coming soon.

Well Inspection Program Continues

The City of Ottawa's Well Inspection Pilot Program has been extended for another season. This valuable program, which is free for any new well being installed within the City of Ottawa, provides homeowners with peace of mind that their well is inspected throughout its construction by qualified well inspectors. Inspectors evaluate the well during all stages of construction and provide a complete water quality analysis report at the end of the well installation. The program will run until December 31, 2004 or until all remaining funds are used. Interested homeowners who are installing a new well should contact **ROBERT** at ext. 1106 or rpassmore@rideauvalley.on.ca.

Rain and Runoff

RVCA has installed a new water level gauge at Chapman Mills Conservation Area to measure the water level of the Rideau River on an hourly basis between Black Rapids and Long Island. As well, two new tipping bucket rain gauges are now in place to measure precipitation in the upper end of the watershed. One gauge is located on the OMYA property west of Perth and the other near Irish Creek south of Smiths Falls. The data from these rain gauges will be used to strengthen existing data to determine historical averages of precipitation in the watershed. More info from **PATRICK** at ext. 1110 or plarson@rideauvalley.on.ca.

Our people's health is our most precious resource. We share a responsibility to protect [...] water before it enters our drinking water systems.

Environment Minister
Leona Dombrowsky
February 12, 2004

Snowpack

RVCA and Parks Canada measure snow pack throughout the Rideau Valley watershed. Measurements done on February 16 show that the snow depth is 104 percent of the historical average but, fortunately, the water equivalent is only 88 percent. In other words, if the melt were to happen now, the risk of flooding would be lower than average. Unfortunately, there is a very good chance that we will get some more snow before winter wraps up. More from **PATRICK** at ext. 1110 or plarson@rideauvalley.on.ca.

When the Ice Flows

The City of Ottawa is cutting keys in the ice of the Rideau River between Bronson Avenue and Rideau Falls beginning February 16. Between February 28 and 29 the City will use the Amphibex machine to break up ice on the Ottawa River near Rideau Falls to allow ice flow from the Rideau into the Ottawa. Preliminary blasting of the ice on the Rideau is scheduled to begin about March 1 between the Minto Bridges and Rideau Falls followed by the Amphibex breaking up further ice on the Rideau until an unobstructed steady flow is achieved out to the Ottawa River. Call City of Ottawa information for details at 580-2424.

Dragon Boats

The Conservation Foundation has been chosen as one of four charitable partners in the Dragon Boat Race Festival in Ottawa for 2004 and 2005. We are joining the Ottawa Food Bank, the Fragile X Research Foundation and the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Ottawa in this major community and river celebration on Mooneys Bay on June 26–27 this year. Volunteers needed for many jobs (display booth, the mini-Childrens' Water Festival, parking patrol, etc). Call **CHARLES** at ext. 1116 or cbillington@rideauvalley.on.ca to get involved in this ancient fertility rite.

Wetland Working Group

The goal of the new *Interagency Wetlands Working Group*, made up of MMAH, OMNR, City of Ottawa, RVCA, MVC and SNC, is to tackle wetland boundary problems. The group will focus on cooperation between agencies and figuring out who does what regarding wetland boundaries. Other goals of the group are prioritizing the many wetland issues which exist, promoting the use of the Wetland Impact Statement guidelines, providing staff with wetland training, and general public education. More from **MARTIN** at ext. 1163 or mczarski@rideauvalley.on.ca.

Order Now!

Order your 2004 Conservation Areas Pass and enjoy our many developed conservation areas all year long. Contact **JOAN** at ext. 1100 or jsherwood@rideauvalley.on.ca.

On-Site Wastewater

The Annual Ontario On-Site Wastewater Conference and Exhibition will be held March 8 & 9, 2004 in Ottawa. Call 519-767-5000 for details.

Around the Rideau

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Office de protection de la nature de la
vallée de la rivière Rideau
Box 599, Manotick, Ontario K4M 1A5
692-3571 or 1-800-267-3504 www.rideauvalley.on.ca

Around the Rideau circulation has risen to 2,500 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:



- The Base Mapping Co. Ltd, Nepean** (613) 723-8100
Providing Conservation Authorities with digital topographic mapping for flood plain management.
- Bell Baker, Barristers and Solicitors** (613) 237-3444
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