



# Around the Rideau

Environmental Information For Municipalities In The Rideau Valley

March | April 2004

## Low Low Peak Flow

The flood of 2004 may already be behind us. A peak flow of about 200 cms (cubic metres per second) occurred on March 6 and the level has been subsiding slowly ever since. The slow descent down to summer levels should not be interrupted by more than small blips because of rainy days and the remaining bit of snowmelt. No flooding has been reported. A peak flow of 200 cms is well below normal according to long term averages on the Rideau. More from PATRICK at [plarson@rideauvalley.on.ca](mailto:plarson@rideauvalley.on.ca) or ext 1110.

## Tay Valley Septic Approvals

A Conservation Authority team is pleased to be managing all septic inspections and approvals in Tay Valley Township as of April 1, 2004. The forms are available, a staff person has been hired and inspection work starts right away. The CAs currently operate the Ottawa Septic System Office and are very experienced in new technology, assisting landowners to find a suitable system for their situation, and protecting the streams and groundwater resources of the watershed. Call SARAH WILLEY (Mississippi Valley office in Lanark at 259-2421 after April 22) or TERRY DAVIDSON (cell: 223-2773).

## Shoreline Permit Confusion?

Thinking of doing some work along the lake or river shore this spring or summer? Not sure which if any permits you need? Municipal, Conservation Authority, Parks Canada, Ministry of Natural Resources? One quick call to the LandOwner Resource Centre (LRC) will give you the answers you need. Experienced staff will ask a few questions and then clearly outline the process you need for a smooth, hassle-free project whether it's a new dock, erosion control work or shoreline naturalization. Call the LRC Shoreline Hotline at 692-2390 or 1-800-387-5304 ext 1128 or 1132.

## Ottawa Well Inspections

The free well inspections and water quality report for new wells being built within the City of Ottawa continues to December 2004 thanks to a program extension by the Ministry of the Environment. Homeowners planning to have a new well drilled are invited to gain that extra bit of comfort knowing that their new well will be built to current provincial and local standards. For more information and application forms, contact LRC at 692-2390 or [srobertson@rideauvalley.on.ca](mailto:srobertson@rideauvalley.on.ca).

## Lake Reports 2001 – 2003

The intensive lake water quality monitoring program called Watershed Watch is an RVCA core program. Since 2001, 17 of the 45 key lakes in the watershed have been intensively sampled for trends in water quality. Several have been re-studied in subsequent years on a cost-recovery basis with the lake associations. The lakes under the microscope in 2004 include Carnahan, Elbow, Leggat, Long (Tay Valley Township) and Wolfe. All lake reports from 2001 to 2003 are on the website at [www.rideauvalley.on.ca](http://www.rideauvalley.on.ca). Special thanks to our sponsors FENDOCK, the Lanark County Stewardship Council, the Ontario Trillium Foundation and the Farren Lake Property Owners Association who were fundamental in the establishment and current success of the Watershed Watch program.

## Tree Planting Package

For people planting their own trees, may we suggest some very helpful free how-to brochures from the LandOwner Resource Centre? Ask for your five-brochure tree planting package (*Planning for Tree Planting, Preparing the Site, Careful Handling of Nursery Stock, Controlling the Competition, Tree Guards*) from the friendly LRC staff at ext 1128 or 1132 (1-800-387-5304) or [srobertson@rideauvalley.on.ca](mailto:srobertson@rideauvalley.on.ca). Landowners interested in a larger reforestation project should call now for spring 2005 planting.

## Telus Trees

And speaking of trees, it is a pleasure to mention TELUS who are sponsoring the planting of 13,000 trees in the Rideau Valley this spring as a result of a pledge to help make the XII World Forestry Congress in Quebec City last September a carbon neutral event. The TREE CANADA FOUNDATION solicits funds and manages the carbon neutral program which plants enough trees to offset the carbon dioxide emissions related to your event or festival. The generous gift from TELUS is a big boost to the reforestation efforts in the watershed. RUDY at ext 1135 or [rdyck@rideauvalley.on.ca](mailto:rdyck@rideauvalley.on.ca).

## Baxter Day Camps

As the melting snow slowly turns our thoughts to summer, it is the perfect time to consider a day, canoe or leadership camp for your youngsters that promises fun, adventure and an increased awareness of our natural world. Peter Goddard and his staff are preparing one week day camps for junior and senior kids and specialty camps in canoeing and leadership skills this summer at the Baxter Conservation Area on the Rideau River just north of Kemptville. Check out the website [www.rideauvalley.on.ca](http://www.rideauvalley.on.ca) or call PETER at 489-3592 ([pgoddard@rideauvalley.on.ca](mailto:pgoddard@rideauvalley.on.ca)).

## Lawn/Garden Care

Free seminars sponsored by the Alta Vista Environmental Network and the City of Ottawa: *Lawn and Yard Care Naturally*, 7 – 9 pm, Tuesday April 20 Pleasant Park Baptist Church, 414 Pleasant Park Road (call 523-6648 to register); *Attracting Butterflies to your Garden*, 7 – 8:30 pm, Wednesday April 28, Elmvale Acres Branch Ottawa Public Library (call 738-0619 ext 6 to register); *A Backyard Insect Safari*, 7 – 8:30 pm, Wednesday May 19, Alta Vista Branch Ottawa Public Library (call 737-2837 ext 6 to register).

## Protecting Groundwater

A packed municipal meeting to start implementing the recommendations from the recent Renfrew County-Mississippi-Rideau Groundwater Study was held in Carleton Place in early April. Staff will start working on the details of some generic planning document initiatives, a shared groundwater data management system, and public information and awareness about our groundwater resources. Upwards of 200,000 people in the study area rely on groundwater for drinking on a daily basis. DELL has more at [dellhallett@rideauvalley.on.ca](mailto:dellhallett@rideauvalley.on.ca) or ext 1114.



## Buying Waterfront Land?

With spring comes the siren call tempting you to buy waterfront property. People who are interested in purchasing land near a watercourse within the Rideau Valley watershed are strongly encouraged to contact the LRC prior to purchasing. It is important to prospective owners to know whether or not a property is in the flood plain and if it is subject to any Conservation Authority or other environmental regulations. A quick call to the [LandOwner Resource Centre](#) at 692-2390 (1-800-387-5304) ext 1128 or 1132 will give you all of the information you need to make a wise waterfront decision.

## McGarry Living Memorials

We are pleased to announce that HULSE, PLAYFAIR & McGARRY Funeral Homes will continue to plant a native Canadian tree in memory of each person whose funeral is in their care in 2004. RVCA is the planting partner and we appreciate their confidence in our program. Family and friends can have additional trees planted through a donation to the Conservation Foundation. Trees are a lovely, long-lasting, community-minded gift in honour of lost loved ones. [CHARLES](#) at ext 1116 or [cbillington@rideauvalley.on.ca](mailto:cbillington@rideauvalley.on.ca).

## Children's Water Festival

The dates for the next three Eastern Ontario Children's Water Festivals have been set. Grade four classes from across the area will be converging for a full day of interactive, exciting, memorable fun and education about water in all its glory: how watersheds work, how much water it takes to brush your teeth, how different soils react to erosion, how water is a big issue in the developing world, or how to conserve water around the home. Thirty learning stations in all scattered around a picturesque natural area. Collège d'Alfred May 4-6; Baxter Conservation Area May 12-14; Upper Canada Village October 13-15. Call Festival Coordinator [ROBERT GRATTON](#) at (613) 936-6620 or [rgratton@riverinstitute.com](mailto:rgratton@riverinstitute.com).

## Spring Planning Season

Development season is off to a roaring start in the City of Ottawa. RVCA staff review the majority of applications submitted under the Ontario Planning Act within the city for environmental parameters including wells and septic systems, stormwater management, natural hazards such as flooding, erosion and slope instability, and natural heritage. On average, planning staff deal with about 130 files per month in the city. Fees are collected up front by city staff when the application is submitted. [JOCELYN](#) at ext 1137 or [jchandler@rideauvalley.on.ca](mailto:jchandler@rideauvalley.on.ca).

## Shoreline Work Prohibited

A reminder that almost all in-water construction or shoreline rehabilitation work is now restricted in the watercourses of the Rideau Valley from now until at least June 30 to allow time for fish to spawn and raise young in our local lakes and streams. This is extremely important if we wish to sustain or even increase the \$1.7 billion recreational fishing and related service industry in Ontario. Landowners, cottagers, construction project managers are asked to delay in-water work until after the restrictions are lifted. Make sure you know the rules. Call biologists [JENNIFER LAMOUREUX](#) ext 1108 [jlamoureux@rideauvalley.on.ca](mailto:jlamoureux@rideauvalley.on.ca) or [ANNE BENDIG](#) 258-8303 [anne.bendig@mnr.gov.on.ca](mailto:anne.bendig@mnr.gov.on.ca) for information about your shoreline.

## Meisel Woods Gift

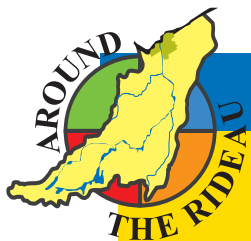
Sincere thanks go to Peter Nedow of NEDOW CONSTRUCTION in Sharbot Lake for the generous gift of preparation of the Meisel Woods Conservation Area entrance and parking lot. Mr Nedow's crew removed stumps and leveled the parking area, provided and spread gravel and moved two presentation boulders into place to hold the John Meisel and Sandi Slater memorial plaques. Hats off to Peter Nedow and his crew — our latest Partners in Conservation!

## Wild Turkeys

A reminder to Wild Turkey hunters that the season in our area opens on Monday, April 26 this year. Turkey hunters are required by law to be licensed and to report to an MNR check station with their intact bird between 8 am and 2 pm on the day of the kill. Stations are located in Bishops Mills, Ottawa, Perth, Smiths Falls and Westport. More information from [MNR District Office](#) at 258-8204 or the website at [www.mnr.gov.on.ca](http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca).

"Studies like this one are critically important in helping us understand the groundwater situation. Studies over the past five years have given us 95% coverage of all groundwater-dependent communities in Ontario."

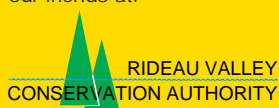
Brian Nixon,  
MOE Director of Water Policy,  
at Municipal Groundwater  
meeting in Carleton Place,  
April 5 2004



# Around the Rideau

Rideau Valley Conservation Authority  
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](http://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  
Effectively providing quality legal services in Eastern Ontario for over 40 years.
- CH2MHill Canada Limited, Ottawa** (613) 723-8700  
Providing excellence in environmental engineering, planning and science across Canada.
- Robinson Consultants Inc., Kanata** (613) 592-6060  
Able to assist you in optimizing your municipal works and related operations in an environmentally-friendly, cost-effective way.