



Around the Rideau

Environmental Information For Municipalities In The Rideau Valley

May | June 2004

Dragon Boats

The exciting 11th Annual Dragon Boat Race Festival goes June 26-27 on Mooneys Bay in Ottawa. Sights, sounds and activities to be found nowhere else. Part of the proceeds go to the outdoor education program at Baxter Conservation Area and the Rideau Valley Rural Clean Water Program. The Conservation Foundation boat called "Sweet Charity" is entirely sponsored by the Royal Bank branches of Eastern Ontario. Thanks very much to the Royal Bank for their generous assistance. If you haven't made a pledge yet, please give us a call to encourage the paddlers and the environment.

CHARLES at charles.billington@rideauvalley.on.ca or ext 1116.

Landowner Grants

The Rideau Valley Rural Clean Water Program is now receiving applications from farm and non-farm rural landowners for new clean water projects such as livestock fencing, erosion control, barnyard runoff controls, septic system repair, well capping and decommissioning, buffer strip planting and shoreline naturalization. The paperwork, incentive grant rates and general information is on the website (www.rideauvalley.on.ca). Watch for the new program brochure sponsored by the TD Friends of the Environment Foundation. **LANDOWNER RESOURCE CENTRE** at sommer.robertson@rideauvalley.on.ca or ext 1128 or 1132.

Invasive Species

The Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH) and RVCA will be monitoring Rideau Valley lakes this summer for invasive aquatic species such as zebra mussels and spiny water fleas. OFAH supplies the equipment and training while RVCA adds the sampling to its current monitoring program. Results will be shared with lake associations and the equipment will be available to interested lakes that do not fall in RVCA's current sampling program. **MARINA** at marina.petrovic@rideauvalley.on.ca or ext 1109.

Ottawa Well Inspections

Rural homeowners in Ottawa planning to drill a new well in 2004 should get in touch with the Well Inspection Pilot Program to get free professional inspections of your well construction, a free complete water test and a full report on the building of your new well. Available only until December 31, 2004. Get the professionals on your side and protect your family's health. Information and registration at **LANDOWNER RESOURCE CENTRE** 692-2390 or 800-387-5304 ext 1128 or 1132.

Kemptville Creek

The five-year update of the Kemptville Creek Watershed Plan is getting underway. Municipalities and stakeholders in the Kemptville Creek watershed will be polled and, in light of research, monitoring and improvement work done over the past five years, a new improved Kemptville Creek Watershed Update will be produced within the year to guide the next round of environmental work and development within the watershed.

LYNN at lynn.preston@rideauvalley.on.ca or ext 1171.

Lower Rideau Strategy

The Watershed Strategy for the Lower Rideau below Burritts Rapids is taking final shape over the summer. The Draft Final Strategy will be circulating among agencies after mid-July followed by finetuning before public Open Houses in the fall. The strategy is taking the form of a package of action plans that relate to specific environmental issues identified by the technical staff, the shoreline landowners and the general public last year. Details from **BRUCE** at bruce.reid@rideauvalley.on.ca or ext 1103.

Watershed Monitoring

The Rideau Valley watershed gets its annual checkup with a splurge of sampling and testing from now until the end of October. Staff are probing all kinds of environmental indicators from Central Frontenac to the City of Ottawa including benthic invertebrates, water quality, lake quality (Watershed Watch), beaver dams, forest cover and planting success rates, city streams, invasive species (with OFAH), assessments of stream environments, shoreline classifications, municipal drain classifications, streamflow, water levels and precipitation across the valley. All of this data enters the Watershed Information System where it is available for municipal decision-making, priority setting by environmental agencies, watershed planning and decisions by shoreline landowners about their own lake or river stretch. Call **CHARLES** at ext 1116 to get in touch with the right project manager for your question.

Ottawa Gardening Seminars

The City of Ottawa is holding an extensive series of June/July gardening seminars aimed at helping people make fabulous gardens without pesticides. Topics include Low-maintenance perennials in Ottawa, Xeriscaping (drought-resistant plants), Composting, Alternative Lawn Maintenance and Ground Covers. All seminars are free and last about two hours at local community centres around town. Check dates and times on the City of Ottawa website at www.ottawa.ca or call **BRIDGETTE BROWN** at 580-2424 ext 28510 or Bridgette.Brown@ottawa.ca.





Monterey Inn

Many people are aware of the lovely Monterey Inn located on one of the prettiest sections of the Rideau south of the Hunt Club bridge. But many people are not yet aware of the serious environmental work going on including some major investment for better slope stability, shoreline naturalization, habitat protection, ravine stewardship and successional planting to keep the famous pines as a landmark of the area. In addition, General Manager Jason Kelly made a major gift to the RVCA tree planting program allowing 5,500 native young trees to be planted this spring. **CHARLES** at ext 1116.

Cottage Books

The Landowner Resource Centre (LRC) has more information than you really need on all aspects of healthy lake and riverfront living including building or rebuilding docks, fish habitat, shoreline naturalization, woodlots, access to incentive grants for septic system repairs, advice on erosion problems, all types of permit requirements right up to the current fishing regulations for your lake. Two favourites are the *MAPLE Shoreline Classification Manual* and *On the Living Edge*, both priced publications, all about doing the right thing for the health of your lake or river in Eastern Ontario. Information is power. **LRC** is at 692-2390 or 800-387-5304 ext 1128 or 1132 or rsrobertson@lrconline.com.

Trees for Tomorrow

Spring tree planting is over for 2004 with another 140,000 trees in the ground. Just imagine the huge clean air and water benefits from all those little environmental cleaning stations over the next 80 years! Thank you very much to all of our participating landowners and our generous and community-minded conservation partners Carleton University, City of Ottawa, Eastern Ontario Model Forest, Harris Computer Services, Hulse Playfair & McGarry Funeral Homes, Hydro One Networks, Grenville Land Stewardship Council, Leeds County Stewardship Council, Monterey Inn Resort and Conference Centre, Mountain Equipment Coop, Ontario Power Generation, Ottawa Stewardship Council, Pratt & Whitney Canada, Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation, TELUS, Tree Canada Foundation and Wetland Habitat Fund. Over the past 21 years, 2.5 million trees have been planted in the watershed. More from **RUDY** at ext 1135 or rudu.dyck@rideauvalley.on.ca.

Kids Water Festival

The second annual Eastern Ontario Children's Water Festival was rolled out at the Baxter Conservation Area from May 12-14. Close to 900 school children, their teachers and parent volunteers sloshed their way through the 30 work stations where volunteers coordinated a short activity or demonstration all about water conservation. Weather was good, the classes were great, the demonstrations worked and the festival was a big success. Robert Gratton and Peter Goddard, the water festival gurus, will be bringing a mini-version of the Festival to the Dragon Boat Races in late June to introduce more Ottawa people to the wonders of water education. **PETER** can be reached at 489-3592 or peter.goddard@rideauvalley.on.ca.

Natural Channels Workshop

The Third International Conference on Natural Channel Systems is being held in Ottawa, September 27-30 at the Ottawa Marriott. Participants will better understand the emerging issues and challenges of natural channel design and aquatic ecosystem restoration approaches. Three days of international papers and discussion followed by one day of technical training. Information and registration at www.rideauvalley.on.ca or Conference Coordinators **BRENDA KOENIG** at brenda.koenig@sympatico.ca, 705-652-1078 or **Catherine Jefferson** at rpiapiens@hexicom.net, 705-652-9732.

City Stream Watch

The very successful City Stream Watch program continues in 2004 with volunteer scientists monitoring and recording four new urban streams (Bilberry, Monterey, Mosquito and Stillwater Creeks) to protect them into the future. Along with last year's streams (Black Rapids, Cardinal, Mud and Sawmill), we are now in the process of gathering basic assessment data on eight urban watercourses that are all under various degrees of development pressure and urbanization threats. Look for stream restoration work this year with plantings and garbage removal on the most heavily impacted sections of Sawmill Creek thanks to a Unilever-Evergreen Aquatic Stewardship Grant. More from the **PROJECT MANAGER** at Brian.Bezaire@ottawa.ca or 580-2424 ext 24352.

(L') Envirothon

Two Rideau Valley high schools- Rideau High School and Collège catholique Samuel-Genest — won the right to represent the Ottawa area in what is commonly called the high school "environmental Olympics." Rideau H.S. placed well in the provincial English-language competition in Tobermory in early May. Samuel-Genest traveled to Mattawa in late May and ended up with their fourth consecutive French-language provincial championship! RVCA hats off to inspiring environmental performances by both schools. Envirothon is delivered by the Ottawa Stewardship Council in partnership with the Ontario Forestry Association, the Prescott-Russell Stewardship Council, TD Friends of the Environment Foundation and Mountain Equipment Coop. More from **JOFFRE** at ext 1119 or joff.cote@mnr.gov.on.ca.

"... (the people at the Clean Water Program) helped us replace our old fuel storage tank with a safer setup. The experience was a remarkably pleasant one instead of the runaround you sometimes get dealing with other agencies."

Don Ralph
Rideau Crest Farms, Kemptville

Around the Rideau

Rideau Valley Conservation Authority
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 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:



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