



Around the Rideau

Environmental Information For Municipalities In The Rideau Valley

November | December 2004

City Stream Watch

Another fine field season for partners in the City Stream Watch project: close to 20 km of city streams assessed and recorded, 42 volunteer scientists trained and working, stream plantings and cleanups done on Sawmill Creek, and mountains of new data on city streams on the website for planning and development review purposes. Special thanks to the good people at the Ontario Trillium Foundation, Unilever-Evergreen Foundation and the Canada Lands Company for financial support and Brian Bezaire for project coordination. We have now completed work on eight streams from mouth to headwaters: Bilberry, Black Rapids, Cardinal, Monterey, Mosquito, Mud (Manotick), Sawmill and Stillwater. In 2005, we propose to do Graham Creek, Greens Creek and Stevens Creek. Call JENN to get involved at ext. 1108 or jennifer.lamoureux@rideauvalley.on.ca.

Jock River Flood Maps

New flood plain maps for the Jock River showing the updated flood lines will be on display for public comment at these times and places: Richmond Memorial Community Centre (above the arena) on Wednesday, November 17 from 7-9 pm, and in the Loblaws Community Room (corner of Greenbank and Strandherd) on Monday, November 22 from 6 – 8 p.m. The flows in the Jock and the related flood lines are very similar to those computed in the previous 1981 study. More from FERDOUS at ext. 1170 or ferdous.ahmed@rideauvalley.on.ca.

Haggart Island Dams

A decision is near on what to do about the deteriorating Haggart Island Dams on the Tay River in Perth. A consultant's report gave three options with various price tags and benefits. Following the public meeting in late October, the decision now goes to Perth Town Council who, on behalf of the population, will ultimately recommend the solution which they feel best suits the needs of the town. BRUCE has details at ext. 1103 or bruce.reid@rideauvalley.on.ca.



Haggart Island Dam

Lower Rideau Strategy

The Lower Rideau Watershed Strategy is also in the home stretch as senior staff at the ten river-related agencies and municipalities discuss the final communications products and documents to carry the strategy into its implementation phase. It will be wrapped up and in use as the common river priority action plan for all groups by the end of 2004. Celebrations will be short-lived however, as we move directly into implementation of this strategy and development of another on the Rideau Lakes part of the upper watershed. Talk to BRUCE for more information.

Canada Lands Company

Canada Lands Company has made a generous donation of \$7,500 to support the Green Acres Reforestation program in 2005. The gift will be used for tree planting across Ottawa and for site preparation, planting and tending of trees and shrubs in the Sawmill Creek corridor as part of the City Stream Watch program. Sincere thanks to Jacques Lanthier and Paul Page of CLC for leading this community-minded gift to conservation. CHARLES at ext. 1116 or charles.billington@rideauvalley.on.ca.

Monarch

And hats off again to MONARCH CONSTRUCTION, award-winning developers of the Stonebridge Community along the Jock River, for a further gift of \$5,000 to our Environmental Land Fund. This fund brings donated land into public ownership by helping with the appraisal, surveying and legal fees. MONARCH's donation has helped us secure about 300 acres of outstanding ecological land in the watershed for future public use and preservation over the past three years. CHARLES has the details.

Source Protection Planning

Conservation Authorities have been called on to coordinate the province-wide effort at Source Protection Planning (how to protect our drinking water before it gets in the pipes). CAs will be working with many partners to characterize the province's watersheds, to monitor and prioritize all threats of contamination, and finally to develop a reasonable approach to protecting all sources of drinking water including groundwater, rivers, lakes and streams. The Mississippi and the Rideau watersheds are lumped together as one source protection region for this important, five-year task. DELL at ext. 1114 or dell.hallett@rideauvalley.on.ca.

Watershed Computer Model

October's public meeting introducing the RVCA's new computer model of the Rideau watershed was well received with over 30 attendants. The computer model will support RVCA decision-making by providing more precise understanding of the complex hydrologic and hydraulic functions of our watershed. For more



information on this project, visit our website or contact the Project Engineer, SHAHBAZ at ext. 1142 or shabaz.asif@rideauvalley.on.ca

Kemptville Creek Watershed Plan Update

As part of the on-going watershed management cycle, the RVCA is reviewing the Kemptville Creek Watershed Plan released in 1999. This five year update will look at the issues, actions and objectives outlined in the plan. It will assess past activities and look towards continued implementation by all partners including government, special interest groups and members of the general public. A public meeting is scheduled for November 23 at Kemptville College to get input from watershed residents. For more details, contact LYNN at ext. 1171 or lynn.preston@rideauvalley.on.ca.

Beaver Management

Started in 2003, the Beaver Management Pilot Project began with a survey and assessment of 37 dams on the main channel of Kemptville Creek and 10 dams on the North Branch of Kemptville Creek. The assessment looked at specific local conditions such as fish habitat, bank erosion, vegetation and the difference in water level above and below the dam. From here, the project identified and received DFO approval for beaver dam removal in three specific reaches of Kemptville Creek



— North Augusta area, North Branch around Bishop Mills and a distance above the Oxford Mills dam. Trapping began in the late fall of 2003 in the North Augusta area. In 2004, trapping and beaver dam removal has focused on the North Branch and above the Oxford Mills Dam.

Monitoring continued

throughout 2004. Interestingly, the September 9th storm (resulting from Hurricane Francis) removed or submerged many of the dams — leaving only nine active dams on Kemptville Creek and seven on the North Branch. The RVCA expects this pilot project will continue next year with a final report late in 2005 to assess the results and make any recommendations about expanding the program. For more information on the project, talk to CLIFF at ext.1134 or cliff.craig@rideauvalley.on.ca.

“One pound of phosphorus can grow 300—700 pounds of algae.”

Source: Environmental Association for Great Lakes Education (EAGLE)

Kiwanservation

Good news for the Outdoor Education Program at the Baxter Conservation Area thanks to a partnership with the Kiwanis Club of Manotick — the Ontario Trillium Foundation has given \$35,800 to improve the education infrastructure at Baxter. That means another 100 metres of boardwalk over the wet spots, more information signs and a new education platform for marsh studies that can hold an entire class of kids at once! Baxter will soon be the most accessible and well-equipped wetland education centre in the region. Sincere thanks to Manotick Kiwanis for helping make our community a little more enjoyable. For more, contact PETER at 489-3592 or peter.goddard@rideauvalley.on.ca.

ORWC Courses

The Ontario Rural Wastewater Centre (located at the RVCA's Baxter Conservation Area) continues to offer excellent courses for septic professionals, real estate professionals and homeowners.

The most popular course the ORWC offers is the Part 8 Installer/Inspector Certification course that prepares participants for the MMAH licensing exam. Book now for the one week course scheduled for January 10 to 14, 2005. Visit the ORWC website for listing of other upcoming courses, including:

- ▶ Onsite Wastewater & Water Systems for Real Estate Professionals
- ▶ Alternative Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems
- ▶ Pumps and Controls
- ▶ Surveying Course — 100

For more details or to register, contact SOMMER at ext. 1128 or sommer.roberston@rideauvalley.on.ca.

Meisel Woods Bridge

The RVCA's newest Conservation Area keeps getting better! The Conservation Foundation has been awarded \$3,500 from the Community Foundation of Greater Kingston for the construction of the Meisel Woods Bridge. The new bridge is part of the proposed recreational loop trail around Beaver Lake. A result of Dr. John Meisel's massive legacy of good work at Queens University and in the Kingston area, this donation is an excellent start at fundraising for the bridge construction. Opened in 2003, the Meisel Woods Conservation Area has become a very popular spot for nature lovers and hikers. For more, contact CHARLES at ext. 1116.

Foundation Executive 2005

The Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation sticks with its experienced executive heading into its 2005 fundraising season. Foundation Chair Mary Bryden, Vice-Chair Steve Simmering and Secretary-Treasurer Pat MacGregor continue to lead our strong Foundation team. Contact CHARLES at ext. 1116 or visit www.rideauvalley.on.ca/foundation for more information about the Foundation and its projects.

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

Around the Rideau circulation has risen to 3,100 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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