



Around the Rideau

Environmental Information For Municipalities In The Rideau Valley

September | October 2004

Remembering Hurricane Hazel

October 15th officially marks the 50th anniversary of Hurricane Hazel. Hazel hit hard with the most severe flooding on record in Ontario — killing 81 people and leaving 1,868 families homeless. Property damage was estimated at \$180 million. From 7 a.m., Thursday, October 14 to midnight on Friday, October 15, 1954, an estimated 210 millimetres of rain fell on the watersheds of the Don and Humber rivers. Toronto was devastated by severe flooding.

Following this devastation, a flood forecasting and warning system was established in the province. Today, OMNR, CAs and Environment Canada continue to work together to monitor watershed conditions (snow conditions, precipitation and flows) and issues flood messages. Conservation Authorities also implement the regulations that were put in place to limit and control development in flood prone areas. Conservation Authorities continue to focus on flood management issues through prevention and protection measures and work with municipalities to implement emergency preparedness and response plans. For more ask **PATRICK** at patrick.larson@rideauvalley.on.ca or ext. 1110.

Toronto and Region Conservation commemorates the 50th anniversary of Hurricane Hazel with the launch of a new web site, funded by Conservation Ontario. Visit www.hurricanehazel.ca for an in-depth look at what occurred on that tragic weekend when Hazel unleashed her wrath on Southern Ontario. Read fascinating first-hand accounts, test your hurricane knowledge, tour a photo gallery, learn about the evolution of flood control in Ontario and more!

5,000 Beetles Released at Chapman Mills

5,000 Galerucella beetles have a new home at the RVCA's Chapman Mills Conservation Area. Released on August 5th, these beetles will make themselves useful by feeding on purple loosestrife — an invasive plant that is choking our wetlands. Loosestrife replaces our diverse watershed plants with a monoculture of itself. The Galerucella won't destroy the

loosestrife, but they should reduce its chances of taking over the wetland. Special thanks to the four partners involved in this project — Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters, Rideau Valley Conservation Authority, the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Ontario Wetland Habitat Fund. For more information on Project Purple, contact the **OFAH** hotline at 1-800-563-7711.

Shoreline Surveys

The three year Shoreline Classification Project is now complete. Over 400 properties were surveyed in 2004 as our crew moved up the Rideau River from Merrickville to Poonamalie Locks in Smiths Falls. Kemptville Creek from downtown Kemptville to the Rideau River was also surveyed.

When combined with the 2002 and 2003 data, the Rideau shoreline has been classified from Hog's Back to Poonamalie, including Kemptville Creek. A special thanks to **HURST MARINA** for donating a boat and safety equipment to the project for the third season. Download the 2002 and 2003 reports and learn more about shorelines and your stretch of the Rideau on the RVCA web at www.rideauvalley.on.ca under "watershed information" or contact **BRAD** at brad.stephens@rideauvalley.on.ca or ext 1157.

Free Well Inspections

Constructing a new well? Don't forget to participate in the free Well Inspection Pilot Program. Participants receive free inspections, water quality analysis and a well inspection report to confirm their wells have been constructed according to provincial and local standards. Time is running out as the pilot program ends December 31, 2004! Call 692-3571 or 1-800-267-3504 ext 1132 for details or visit www.rideauvalley.on.ca/wells.

Tree Planting Package

Looking to reduce Canada's greenhouse gas emissions and take advantage of funding opportunities for reforestation? Contact RVCA to see if you can get funding for your next tree planting project. White cedar, white and red pine, sugar maple, red oak, tamarack and other native Canadian trees are available for spring 2005 planting projects. Landowners interested in planting a minimum of 500 trees should call the RVCA's LandOwner Resource Centre at 613-692-3571 or 1-800-387-5304. **JOELLE** (ext 1132) or **SOMMER** (ext 1128) are ready to help.

Streamflows Online

Flood or drought? Find out what the streamflow is in your section of the Rideau River online at www.rideauvalley.on.ca. Hourly flow and daily means are also available on the Jock River, Tay River, Kemptville Creek and Ottawa River at the click of a button. Any special advisories are also available in a timely fashion on line. More from **PATRICK** at patrick.larson@rideauvalley.on.ca or ext 1110.

MAPLE Fall Cutting Day

Join MAPLE for its Fall Cutting Day on Saturday October 30th from 9 a.m. to noon (free lunch) at the Christie Lake Camp for Boys and Girls. This is a great opportunity to help the nursery build its stock of red osier dogwood, virginia creeper and sweet gale for future shoreline restoration and planting



RVCA Watershed Watch Supervisor Marina Petrovic and OFAH's Vicki Hatyes releasing two species of the Galerucella beetle to battle loosestrife.



projects. For more details or to register, contact **AUSTIN** at 829-1323 or asweezey@magma.ca

For more details on how to restore and enhance your waterfront by encouraging natural regeneration, visit MAPLE's website at www.rideauvalley.on.ca/maple. The site includes a list of suitable native species to restore your shore plus information on the popular *Shoreline Classification Survey Manual*.

Rideau Watershed Model Project

The Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA) has started a two-year project to build the first modern integrated computer model of water quantity and movement for the Rideau watershed. The model will be developed to include the main rivers (Rideau, Tay, Jock and Kemptville), sub watersheds and all water control structures that fall within the RVCA's jurisdiction.

Scheduled for completion by the end of 2005, the model will provide reliable scientific input on day-to-day decision making and policy formation. In a field that is often riddled with subjective judgements, limited historical data, conflicting interest and unpredictable natural events, numerical modeling provides a scientific and unbiased component to the decision making process.

The model will help us understand the Rideau's overall dynamics including issues such as: fluctuating water levels in the Rideau Lakes, impacts of water taking, benefit of ice control, impacts of land use changes and more.

For more visit the RVCA website or contact **SHAHBAZ** at ext. 1142 or shahbaz.asif@rideauvalley.on.ca.

Highlights Interesting Trends on Flooding in Ontario

"In Ontario, flooding emergencies have been declared virtually every year since 1996. In 2002 alone, Ontario provincial disaster assistance to municipalities for flood related damages amounted to over \$5 million dollars, while private landowners, farmers and businesses received over \$4 million in disaster relief payments."

Flood Damages in Ontario
OMNR Report — March 31, 2004
highlighting the ever increasing need for data collection and analysis of flood plain management efforts.

A new report entitled *Flood Damages in Ontario — 1996–2003* suggests that trends in flood data show an increase in the occurrence, the severity and the damages caused by Ontario floods. "In Ontario, a state of emergency/municipal disaster has been declared virtually every year since 1996. Disaster relief assistance to municipalities have been provided by the Province at increasing rates since that time, with some of the most extensive payments being made in the last two years," states the report. Flood

damage costs are increasing with year round flooding rather than spring snowmelt and runoff. In the end, the report states that flooding is the most common type of disaster occurring

in Canada this century, which stresses the need for increased data collection and analysis. Without this information it is difficult to determine if Ontario's approach to flood plain management is accurate or cost effective. The RVCA is committed to data collection and implementation of flood plain management strategies to reduce flood damage and flood risk. To learn more about the report and current RVCA activities, contact **BRUCE** at ext. 1103.

Lake Monitoring Workshop — A Popular Success

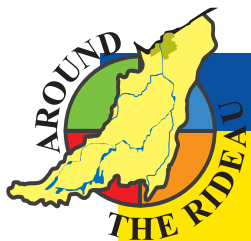
The RVCA's September Lake Monitoring Workshop was booked in full with 20 participants and 20 more on a waiting list for next year! Focusing on lake bugs, the workshop showed participants how to collect, identify and record their bug findings. Lake bugs, better known as benthic invertebrates, tell us a lot about the health of the lake and what kind of stresses it may be under. Volunteers are very involved in collecting this information as part of the RVCA's ecosystem database that identifies water quality trends in Rideau Valley. Special thanks to Wildlife Habitat Canada for their participation in this event. For more information on how you can participate in bug monitoring or to register for next year's event, contact **LYNN** at lynn.preston@rideauvalley.on.ca or at ext 1171.

Sawmill Creek Constructed Wetland Ceremony

Ottawa Mayor Bob Chiarelli and Councillor Maria McRae recently launched construction of the pivotal Sawmill Creek stormwater management facility near Walkley Road — one of the key recommendations of the Sawmill Creek Watershed Plan. The ponds will eliminate a good portion of the storm pollution flowing to the Rideau. More information from **COUNCILLOR MARIA MCRAE** at 580-2486 or maria.mcrae@ottawa.ca.



Left to right: Wade Clouthier, Manager, Construction Services, City of Ottawa, Councillor Maria McRae (Ward 16 — River), Shawn Gibbons, Vice-President, CH2MHILL, Mayor Bob Chiarelli.



Around the Rideau

Rideau Valley Conservation Authority
Office de protection de la nature de la
vallée de la rivière Rideau

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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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