



Around the Rideau

Environmental Information For Municipalities In The Rideau Valley

January | February 2005

2.8 Million Trees

This year's reforestation efforts will bring the total number of trees planted through the RVCA to 2.8 million over the past 22 years. Trees are being planted for erosion protection, windbreaks, connecting fragmented forest, stream and riverbank rehabilitation, and to establish forest cover on idle or marginal land. This spring RVCA and its planting partners will plant approximately 140,000 tree seedlings (70,000 in rural Ottawa and 70,000 in the remainder of the RVCA watershed). Partners such as Scouts Canada, Friends of the Jock River, Friends of the Carp River and landowners will plant 30,000 of these trees. RVCA's tree planting is made possible with the support of our many partners, City of Ottawa, Wetland Habitat Fund, Ottawa, Lanark, Leeds & Grenville Stewardship Council, Eastern Ontario Model Forest, Ontario Power Generation, Hydro One Networks, Pratt and Whitney, Canada Lands Company, Carleton University Charity Ball, McGarry Family Chapels, Monterey Inn, Mountain Equipment Co-op, and Harris Computers. More from RUDY at ext. 1135 or rudy.dyck@rideauvalley.on.ca

A fifth of the carbon dioxide released annually from fossil-fuel emissions could be "sequestered" by planting groves of trees on marginal agricultural and rangeland areas.

Source: December 20, 2004 — Virginia Hennessey, The Monterey County Herald/Knight Ridder—Tribune Information Services

What's new at Baxter?

The RVCA and Baxter Conservation Area have received major funding from the Ontario Trillium Foundation (thanks to our community partners at Manotick Kiwanis Club) and Ducks Unlimited Canada in partnership with the Ministry of Natural Resources, to upgrade Baxter's wetland interpretive facilities. The \$100,000 project will result in significant additions to our boardwalk network and visitor services facilities, a new wetland observation tower and a wetland education platform. This will allow more public, school and camp groups a closer look at Baxter's wetlands and a better understanding of these diverse but fragile ecosystems. Watch for these developments through 2005. For more information contact PETER at 489-3592 or peter.goddard@rideauvalley.on.ca.

Business Fees

One of the key ways RVCA protects the aquatic environment is by providing technical advice on a range of environmental concerns linked with *Planning Act* applications. In 1997 the provincial government cut funding and these services had to be provided on a cost-recovery basis. All fees have been adjusted to reflect current costs and harmonized with those of our neighbours, Mississippi Valley Conservation and South Nation Conservation. The new fee schedule is (effective March 1, 2005) posted on our website at www.rideauvalley.on.ca. For more information, contact DON at ext. 1105, don.maciver@rideauvalley.on.ca

Source Protection Planning

Source Protection Planning (SPP) is a provincial program delivered by Conservation Authorities across Ontario. It is the first barrier in a multi-barrier approach to protect drinking water from contamination. It is all about protecting surface and groundwater from hazardous substances that could get into our creeks, rivers and aquifers. The Mississippi and Rideau Valleys are lumped together as one watershed region for purposes of SPP. A team of technical experts is being assembled to start the process of setting up governance, public consultation and watershed characterization. Provincial funding pays 100 per cent of this effort. Our local citizens and visitors reap 100 per cent of the benefit. Information from Project Manager BRIAN STRATTON at ext. 1141 or brian.stratton@rideauvalley.on.ca.

LandOwner Resource Centre

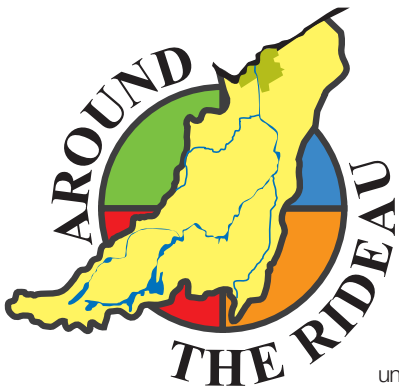
The LRC is the RVCA's friendly front-end customer service centre providing accurate, impartial, user-friendly information on a variety of environmental topics. 2004 saw staff field over 3,000 phone calls and nearly 1,500 walk-in clients. 2005 looks like its shaping up to be another busy year. For more information call SOMMER at ext. 1128 or JOËLLE at ext. 1132 or visit www.lrconline.com.

Rural Clean Water Program

2004 has been a busy year for the Rideau Valley Rural Clean Water Program (RVRCWP). The program offers financial incentives to farmers and rural property owners to undertake projects to protect and improve water quality along the Rideau and its tributaries. Types of projects funded include wells (improving and protecting groundwater by improving construction and maintenance of existing private wells, as well as plugging and sealing abandoned or dormant wells), fencing (to improve water quality by eliminating



Winter fun at Baxter Conservation Area



livestock access to water bodies), and shore/buffer planting (preventing and reducing soil erosion and sediment/nutrient runoff to surface water). A total of 72 projects at a cost of \$275,000 (including landowner share) were undertaken in 2004. Most projects were

undertaken in the "Golden Triangle" from Kemptville to Sharbot Lake to Addison. North Grenville, Drummond-North Elmsley and Rideau Lakes were the top takers in terms of project numbers per township. Contact MARTHA at ext.1136 or the LANDOWNER RESOURCE CENTRE at 692-2390 or 1-800-387-5304, ext. 1128 or ext. 1132.

Eco-Gifts

It is a pleasure for RVCA to publicly acknowledge the generosity and vision of donors to conservation in 2004. The Conservation Foundation raised over \$154,000 for conservation projects ranging from tree planting, groundwater protection and outdoor education to conservation areas, cattle fencing and landowner advice. Hundreds of individual gifts, increasing support from our community-minded business community and donations from Foundations and other granting agencies in the valley all added up to some outstanding progress at protecting our water resources. Next time you're in Manotick, please stop by and enjoy our "Partners in Conservation" donor wall in the Boardroom at 1128 Mill Street. CHARLES for more, ext. 1116 or charles.billington@rideauvalley.on.ca.

Green Winter Roads

As winter tightens its grip, municipalities and road authorities undertake winter maintenance measures to ensure safe road conditions. The use of road salt remains one of the preferred ways to de-ice roads with close to five million tonnes of road salts used each winter in Canada. A recent study on the impacts of road salt on the environment concluded that they can cause damage to aquatic ecosystems, vegetation and fauna including birds, fish and mammals. As a result, Environment Canada produced a *Code of Practice for the Environmental Management of Road Salts* to reduce the harmful effects while keeping roads safe. Municipalities can get the full story on cheaper, smarter use of road salt from the EC website at http://www.ec.gc.ca/nopp/roadsalt/cop/en/rs_main.htm or in hard copy from JOCELYNE at enviroinfo@ec.gc.ca.

Winter Roller-coaster

We had above average snow pack conditions in mid-December 2004. Warm temperatures through late December and early January have reduced the snowpack and it's now below average for this time of the year. Snow levels will be measured again mid-January. More from PATRICK at ext. 1110 or patrick.larson@rideauvalley.on.ca.

Inn-Ovation

Canada's first carbon neutral company is nestled along the wooded banks of the Rideau River in Ottawa. The landmark Monterey Inn Resort was recently certified as the first company in the country to plant enough trees to offset their annual carbon dioxide emissions. The Monterey planted 5,500 native Canadian trees to offset 584 tonnes of CO₂ over 15 years. Jason Kelly, Manager of the Monterey Inn said, "We see a cleaner, well-treed and managed environment as being not only good for the Rideau River and the planet, but it is also good for the growth of our business and a win-win scenario." For more contact CHARLES at ext. 1116, charles.billington@rideauvalley.on.ca.

Annual Report

RVCA's 2003 Annual Report to municipalities is now available on the website at www.rideauvalley.on.ca under "News & Publications." The City Stream Watch 2004 Annual Report, compiled lake reports and other monitoring data is also available on the website. Help yourself to information.

Rideau Lakes Watershed Plan

The Rideau Lakes Watershed is the next section of the Rideau River to undergo a planning exercise. Staff from the affected municipalities and government agencies will be meeting in early February to discuss issues and determine a course of action. Public meetings will follow to ensure that all sources of knowledge, experience and advice are identified. The watershed management plan will provide a roadmap, for government agencies, interest groups and the general public to use in protecting and enhancing the health of the Rideau Lakes ecosystem. Watch your local papers for meeting times and locations. LYNN for more details at ext. 1171 or lynn.preston@rideauvalley.on.ca.

Biodiversity Classes

Interested in learning more about taxonomy, behaviour and life history of plants and animals of Eastern Ontario? Saturdays and Sundays between April and July, the Eastern Ontario Biodiversity Museum in Kemptville will offer a series of classes on local biodiversity including butterflies, moths, insects, dragonflies and damselflies, birds, mammals, lichens, mosses, ferns and lots more. Each course is taught by specialists through hands-on study, microscope work, lectures, field trips and resource materials. Limited to 10 participants per course, age 12 or more. Information on registration and content from HEATHER HAMILTON at 258-3415 or admin@eobm.ca using the subject heading "Taxonomy Institute" or the website at www.eobm.ca.

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:



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.