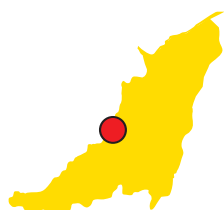




Around the Rideau

Environmental Information For Municipalities In The Rideau Valley

July | August 2005



Hurricane Francis Report

The story of the September 9th 2004 Storm Event in Eastern Ontario is now available for download on the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority website. The storm, created by the tail of Hurricane Francis, swept over Eastern North America on September 9, 2004. The Perth - Smith Falls - Carleton Place triangle was hard hit by the storm. For lessons learned from this storm go to

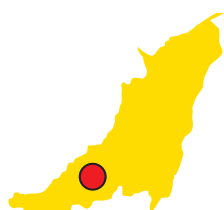
www.rideauvalley.on.ca/welcome/Sept_9_Storm_Report.pdf
More from FERDOUS at ext. 1170 or ferdous.ahmed@rideauvalley.on.ca.

Grants to Protect Water

The Rideau Valley Rural Clean Water Program (RVRCWP), now in its third year of operation, offers incentive grants to landowners for work to protect surface water and ground water in the Rideau watershed. Over 160 private landowners have shared \$200,000 in grants since 2003. Both farm and rural non-farm property owners (cottagers) are eligible for grants for projects such as farm wastewater management, nutrient management plans, livestock fencing from water, fuel/chemical storage facilities, planting creek buffers and windbreaks, septic system repairs, and upgrades and decommissioning of wells. For more, visit the RVCA website at www.rideauvalley.on.ca, look for RVRCWP under "programs," or contact the LANDOWNER RESOURCE CENTRE (LRC) at 692-3571 or 1-800-387-5304 ext. 1128 or 1132, info@lrconline.com.

"Life is richest along the shoreline in the transition zone – the buffer strips – between land and water. A thick permanent strip of aquatic and terrestrial vegetation along the waterfront (...) acts as a stabilizing influence."

Canada-Ontario Agreement Respecting the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem
2002-2003 Biennial Progress Report (July 2005)



Pike Lake

The State of the Lake Report for Pike Lake 2004 is now available. It is part of intensive monitoring on 35 key lakes in the Rideau watershed. The information gives us an early warning system to identify trends or problems in water quality. You can read the report at www.rideauvalley.on.ca/programs/wwatch/watershed_watch_docs.htm or contact PATRICK ext. 1110, patrick.larson@rideauvalley.on.ca.

Rideau Lakes Meeting

Local lake associations, businesses and the general public from the Rideau Lakes watershed area told us what they think about the region and what actions should be undertaken to address the challenges facing the area today. The community wants: clean water to swim in, sustainable fish communities, quiet lakes and plenty of vegetation on shorelines. Priorities include the introduction of septic re-inspection programs, maintaining or enhancing water quality, education for the general public to help improve the health of

the Rideau Lakes ecosystem, and better overall communication about environmental issues. Another meeting is planned for September. For those who would like to participate in a Public Advisory Committee and provide input in the planning stages of the Plan, please contact LYNN at ext. 1171 or lynn.preston@rideauvalley.on.ca.

Trees for Tomorrow

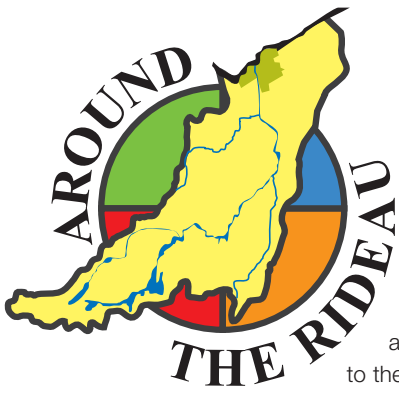
There's a colourful new brochure entitled *Trees for Tomorrow* now available from RVCA offices and the LRC outlining RVCA's very successful reforestation program. RVCA and its partners have been committed to tree planting in the Rideau watershed since 1983. An average of 100,000 trees are planted each year. The brochure outlines the benefits of tree planting as well as the services and incentives available to eligible property owners. To get your copy, contact the LANDOWNER RESOURCE CENTRE or call ext. 1132 or 1128, info@lrconline.com.

Under the Tent Event

The ever-popular LandOwner Resource Centre attended the Greater Bobs Lake Association's Under the Tent Event. As part of the Lake Management Plan being developed for Bobs and Crow Lakes, the association organized an environmental exhibition to help inform and engage local property owners. The event supplied the community with information on stewardship agencies, groups and people who contribute to the greater Bobs Lake area. The LRC provided information, advice and showcased their new display units. If you have an event where we could attend, please call the LANDOWNER RESOURCE CENTRE at ext. 1132 or 1128, info@lrconline.com.

Dragon Boat Festival Huge Success

The Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation offers its thanks and congratulations to staff, Foundation members, partners, relatives and friends who helped make the 2005 Ottawa Dragon Boat Race Festival a huge success. Three of our volunteers took top honours among the hundreds of volunteers at the event: Foundation Director (and Dragon Boat Team Captain) Dorothy Hearty was voted Top Pledge Volunteer by her co-workers; the amazing Dave Huddleston was top dog in the Festival Ambassador category; and finally Rural Clean Water Program Manager Martha Bradburn was voted as Top Team Services Volunteer for 2005 – congratulations to all. A note of thanks to the RBC Financial Group who again undertook the sponsorship of our Dragon Boat registration fees. Hats off to the Royal as one of our most loyal conservation partners! Sincere appreciation is also extended to the RICH CRAFT GROUP OF COMPANIES which financed our successful achievement of turning the Ottawa Dragon Boat Festival into Canada's first "carbon neutral festival" event – 2,287 trees will be planted in the Rideau watershed next spring to start offsetting the carbon emissions attributable to the 2005 Dragon Boat races. CHARLES ext. 1116 or charles.billington@rideauvalley.on.ca.



Summer Stream Flows

Streamflows in the Rideau watershed continue to respond to thunderstorm activity with widely erratic inflow levels. Streams in the watershed are generally at or below long-term averages due to the hot temperatures. Lake levels have also declined due to erratic flow in the feeder streams and the extreme evaporation caused by prolonged hot temperatures. Stream flows are graphed hourly; daily flow and water level data is updated routinely each Friday. For further information contact PATRICK ext 1110 or patrick.larson@rideauvalley.on.ca or read the data online at <http://209.217.72.100/RVCAFF/forecast.htm>.

Hot and Dry

A record-breaking summer like this one puts a big strain on private wells and public water distribution systems. Here are five simple ways to help conserve our water supplies and save your money:

- 1 fix that leaky faucet
- 2 install a water-saving water faucet aerator to cut the flow in half
- 3 place a toilet dam in the toilet tank to save up to four litres per flush
- 4 keep a jug of drinking water in the fridge
- 5 don't cut the grass too short

Want more tips? Call the LANDOWNER RESOURCE CENTRE at 692-3571 ext. 1128 or 1132 (1-800-387-5304) or write joelle.pinsonnault@rideauvalley.on.ca.

2005 Beaver Dam Study

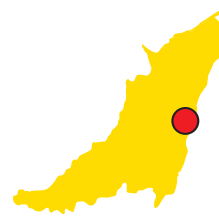
The Beaver Management Pilot Project began in 2003 with an assessment of 47 dams on the Kemptville Creek. The study looked at fish habitat, bank erosion, vegetation and water levels above and below the dam. Dam removals on three reaches of the Kemptville Creek were approved by DFO and trapping began that Fall. In 2004, trapping and dam removal concentrated on the North Branch and above the Oxford Mills dam. Flooding from the September 9, 2004 storm (Hurricane Francis) wiped out or submerged many of the dams. In 2004, for example, there were over 20 dams on the Kemptville Creek, whereas by 2005 only eight remain. Only six dams remained on the North Branch this year. The dams will be examined this fall to access their status and see if there is any new beaver activity. The final report on the beaver pilot project will be ready late this Fall. For more information call CLIFF at ext. 1134 or cliff.craig@rideauvalley.on.ca.

Mattamy Homes Boosts Environment

Mattamy Homes working in the South Urban Community has made a generous major donation to the Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation as part of a three-year pledge to conservation. The funds will be put towards the Foundation's Environmental Land Fund, specifically to assist in covering the costs of bringing donated land into public ownership. The fund ensures that land is protected and maintained in a natural state

for future public use. Hats off to Mattamy Homes for their boost to the environment! CHARLES ext. 1116. charles.billington@rideauvalley.on.ca.

Kemptville Creek Gets Macro'ed



A macro stream assessment survey, is underway in the Kemptville Creek watershed. This survey records basic streambank and biological characteristics on sections of Kemptville Creek, the North Branch and Barnes Creek. The streams will be sampled in 100-metre sections. Information

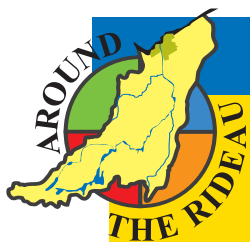
gathered includes GPS coordinates, air temperature, water temperature, stream width and depth, observations on land use, man made alterations, bottom characteristics and in-stream vegetation, bank characteristics and bank vegetation, tributaries, agricultural impacts, and presence of wildlife. Each site will also be photographed. The final report will be ready late fall and plans are to have it available at www.rideauvalley.on.ca. For more, call CLIFF ext. 1134, cliff.craig@rideauvalley.on.ca.

Bear Wise

This MNR program helps reduce human-bear conflict through education and prevention. Most human-bear interaction in Eastern Ontario comes from non-natural food sources such as garbage cans, dumpsters, birdfeeders and composters. The program has checklists and educational material to help prevent unwanted encounters with bears. More information from the Bear Wise line at 1-866-514-2327 or <http://bears.mnr.gov.on.ca>. Municipalities can call SCOTT or JOEL at Kemptville District MNR to develop community awareness or bear education projects in their areas at (613) 258-8500. For emergency bear situations, call 911 or local police.

Lakes O'Tay

A coalition of local lake care organizations has announced an ambitious, community-based program to help develop management plans in the Tay watershed area. The 'Lake Management Planning Program' is an initiative of the Otty Lake Association, the Friends of the Tay Watershed, Rideau Valley Conservation Authority, Tay Valley Township and the Community Stewardship Council of Lanark County. The program will provide training and guidance to volunteers in developing and managing their own lake plans. By coordinating and grouping this assistance, the hope is to reduce the cost of lake planning to a level that will allow all lakes to participate. Sincere thanks to the crucial and generous support of our first two funding partners – The Community Stewardship Council of Lanark County and Rideau Lakes Environmental Foundation. For more, contact SHEANNA at 1-800-267-3504, ext 1173 or sheanna.tinlin@rideauvalley.on.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 3,600 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.