



Around the Rideau

Environmental Information For Municipalities In The Rideau Valley

March | April 2005

Protect Spawning Fish!

Restrictions for near or in-water work on our lakes, rivers and streams are now in place to make sure that fish are given an opportunity to spawn successfully and raise their young in healthy, stress-free aquatic environments. No in-water work is allowed between March 15 and June 30 for most areas but other dates apply on the Ottawa and on special lake trout lakes. Successful spawning will ensure a sustainable in-land fishery for the future. Why is this important? \$1.7 billion dollars are spent annually on goods and services related to the recreational fishing industry, it also employs thousands of people. Fewer fish mean fewer jobs, less revenue and degraded river health. The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources sets these restrictions and violators risk being fined. It is important to check before beginning work on or near water. If you're considering shoreline work please check with the knowledgeable staff at the LANDOWNER RESOURCE CENTRE at ext. 1128 or 1132 who can advise you on permit requirements or restrictions or ask HAL at ext. 1127 or hal.stimson@rideauvalley.on.ca.

SWP—Source Water Protection

Source Water Protection (SWP) is a major long-term project to help protect people against contamination or depletion of drinking water across Ontario. The province's 36 Conservation Authorities have been designated as the coordinators of a multi-partnered approach to protecting sources of drinking water in streams, rivers and aquifers on a watershed basis. Preparatory work such as establishing scientific and administrative teams, getting started on water budgets for each watershed and determining the scope of the assessment work needed to

develop valid, community-based Source Protection Plans is underway. The Mississippi and Rideau watersheds are lumped together as one

Watershed Region for this work. Look for a special newsletter this summer giving all the information you'll ever need on SWP. More from BRIAN at ext 1141 or brian.stratton@rideauvalley.on.ca.

Clean, safe drinking water is the single most important factor in maintaining a high quality of life, good health and strong prosperity.

The Hon. Leona Dombrowsky,
Ontario Minister of the Environment
Source: *Water Protection Primer*

Carbon Neutrality

Our area boasts some movers and shakers in the fight for carbon neutrality. Carbon neutral means that the amount of carbon generated (through travel, heating, lights, etc.) be offset through the planting ("afforestation") of trees. To date, the Monterey Inn was the first private company in Canada to receive carbon neutral status. They also won Hotel Association of Canada's Award for Energy Conservation. Hats off to the Monterey Inn! As well, the University of Ottawa will hold "The Animals in this Country: A Canadian Literature Symposium" in May, which will be the first carbon neutral event of any kind at the University of Ottawa. We congratulate these two forward thinkers who are leaders in achieving carbon neutrality in our area. Interested in learning more, call MICHAEL ROSEN at Tree Canada Foundation (613) 567-5545.

Dragon Boats

The hugely popular Nortel Ottawa Dragon Boat Race Festival goes on June 25 and 26, 2005, at Mooney's Bay in Ottawa. The festival combines the excitement and competition of the dragon boat races with multi-cultural food and entertainment, community spirit and charitable fundraising. The festival raised over \$170,000 for local charities in 2004! The Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation is thrilled to be one of the recipient charities. The Foundation and other charities will be racing in its dragon boat "Sweet Charity." You can make donations online at www.dragonboat.net. For more ask CHARLES at ext. 1116 or charles.billington@rideauvalley.on.ca

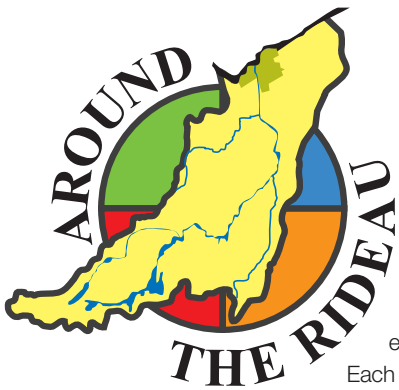


Lower Rideau Watershed Strategy

The Lower Rideau Watershed Strategy, a study to coordinate watershed management efforts on the lower Rideau, is scheduled to release its final draft at the end of April. The multi-partnered task force who worked on the study represents all levels of Government. The main goal is to coordinate the regulatory and operational activities of the many organizations involved with management on the lower Rideau. Working together, all these organizations can be more effective in protecting and improving the river as an important cultural, recreational and environmental feature. The City of Ottawa, municipalities of the Rideau Valley (through RVCA levy) and the Ministry of Natural Resources fund the study with participation from seven other organizations. Plans are to produce a colourful, informative tabloid for all shoreline residents of the lower Rideau and a website for the general public. For more, ask BRUCE at ext. 1103 or bruce.reid@rideauvalley.on.ca.

RVCA Website

The RVCA website hosts the Watershed Information Site which is your gateway to the most complete and current collection of technical information on the creeks, streams and rivers in the Rideau watershed. Detailed historical and current data on many aspects of river health from water quality and flow levels to aquatic bug populations and shoreline characteristics, as well as general watershed health summaries and watershed planning can be studied. Detailed information on planning and regulations is all there for you to peruse, including forms, fees, applications, regulations and much more. Both the Ottawa Septic System Office and the Tay Valley Septic Office are available online through the website. Grant Programs, such as the Rural Clean Water Program and Reforestation programs, are available as well. Everything you wanted to know about Conservation Areas is at your fingertips. Looking for the most up-to-date news or perhaps looking for a job, it's a click away. Check it out at www.rideauvalley.on.ca.



Enviro-Events

"Explore and Embrace a Special Wild Place"

April 10 to 16, 2005 is National Wildlife Week! The National Capital Region Wildlife Festival 2005 events will be held from March 1 to May 31, 2005.

Each year, thousands of Canadians participate in the celebration of wildlife. Join with many wildlife organizations and your community for fun and learning about the wildlife in your area. Visit <http://ncrwildlifefestival.org/frameset.html> to see how you as a school, individual, group or business can participate in events.

Maple Nursery Day

The Mutual Associations for the Protection of Lake Environments (MAPLE) will be holding their spring nursery cleanup and planting day on Saturday, May 7, 2005 from 9 a.m. until early afternoon. BBQ lunch is provided. Help is needed to tidy up the nursery after the winter and to plant the 12,300 cuttings of Dogwood and Shrubby Willow that were prepared last fall. The nursery is at the east end of Christie Lake near Perth. For more information visit www.rideauvalley.on.ca/maple or contact AUSTIN at 829-1323 or asweezey@magma.ca.

Bugs Workshop

The Second Benthic Invertebrate Workshop (Bugs) is slated for April 23 at Foley Mountain from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Lunch Provided! No special equipment is necessary — just bring yourselves. The workshop will cater to people from lake country interested in volunteering to monitor bottom dwellers in their lake in order that we can learn more about the health of the lake and hopefully encourage people to get out there and monitor! To reserve your spot call the LANDOWNER RESOURCE CENTRE at ext.1128 or 1132 soon because space is limited.

Tree Planting

This spring, more than 150,000 trees will be moved from the Ferguson Forest Centre Tree Nursery and planted around the watershed by RVCA. Many thanks to our planting partners, Friends of the Carp River, Boy Scouts of Canada, contractors and landowners. Ensuring the program is a success by their kind support are; City of Ottawa, Wetland Habitat Fund, Ottawa, Lanark, Leeds & Grenville Stewardship Councils, Eastern Ontario Model Forest, Ontario Power Generation, Hydro One Networks, Pratt and Whitney, Canada Lands Company, McGarry Family of Chapels, Monterey Inn, Mountain Equipment Co-op, and Harris Computer Services. Although the program is fully subscribed for this spring, it is now time to register for 2006. More on tree planting from RUDY at ext. 1135 rudy.dyck@rideauvalley.on.ca.

Conservation Areas Passes

Spring is in the air and it's time to get your Conservation Areas Pass for 2005. Access beaches, trails, boat launches and loads of outdoor fun for only \$40. To purchase a pass go to www.rideauvalley.on.ca and download the 2005 Registration Form.

Spring Runoff 2005

Based on snow conditions in the watershed and assuming that there will be normal precipitation levels, it is expected that there will be below normal flood levels this spring. Currently the RVCA is in its flood forecasting and warning cycle. All environmental factors are being monitored (weather, estimated river flows and water levels, etc.). Warnings will be issued as needed. The RVCA recommends that those living on water should be aware of flood risks and have a plan in place to minimize flood-related property damage. Municipal officials should review their flood response. The RVCA delivers flood response services and continues to monitor throughout a flood event to provide pertinent information to municipal and provincial emergency response teams. Ask PATRICK ext. 1110 or patrick.larson@rideauvalley.on.ca

Huge Land Gift on the Rideau

Two local conservation partners have received an absolutely visionary gift of land from a community-minded donor. Dr. Ron Curtis and his wife Laurie have donated a 37-acre parcel of undisturbed Rideau River shoreline just south of the Kars Bridge in the City of Ottawa to the Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation (RVCF) with the help of Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC). The land will be kept in its natural state for future generations to enjoy. The property includes over one km of natural shoreline and marsh, a four-acre island, and several forest and meadow areas. This magnificent piece of conservation land will be set aside for environmental protection and wildlife habitat preservation. Ask Rudy for more at ext. 1135 or rudy.dyck@rideauvalley.on.ca

Watershed Plans

A public meeting for the Rideau Lakes Watershed Plan is slated for early summer (June/July) — we'll keep you posted as details become available. Kemptville Creek Watershed Plan's update is pending. Plans are to hold a public meeting in May or June. We'll advise you of times and dates when they become available. LYNN ext. 1171 or lynn.preston@rideauvalley.on.ca.

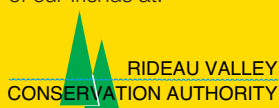


Around the Rideau

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:



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