



# Around the Rideau

Environmental Information For Municipalities In The Rideau Valley

May | June 2005

## Excellent Tree Plant

Along with our partners, landowners and contractors, 10 to 15 thousand tree seedlings went into the ground every day from April 27 to May 9 for a grand total of 150,000 new trees planted. The season started out cold and very wet and didn't change much. The hand planters were covered with mud from head to toe, and thankfully the machine planter only got stuck once. Now is the time to contact RVCA forestry staff regarding your reforestation project for spring 2006. Call RUDY ext. 1135 or [rudy.dyck@rideauvalley.on.ca](mailto:rudy.dyck@rideauvalley.on.ca).

## Watershed Watch

The Mississippi and Rideau Valley Conservation Authorities and their partners initiated the Watershed Watch program in 2001 by studying eight lakes in the Rideau watershed. Now entering its fifth year of a five-year cycle, the program has accumulated reliable environmental data to highlight long-term trends in water quality, such as phosphorous, dissolved oxygen, temperature and water clarity. The data collected is used in a central database that identifies changes in water quality over the long term. This information assists shoreline property owners to undertake restoration projects and adopt sound shoreline stewardship practices. To date, 22 lakes have been studied with plans on examining six more for 2005, Big Rideau, Upper Rideau, Adams, Bass, Loon and Round lakes for a total of 28 lakes. Reports from 2001 to 2003 are available now and can be viewed at [www.rideauvalley.on.ca](http://www.rideauvalley.on.ca). 2004 reports will be completed and available this summer. Call PATRICK at 1110, [patrick.larson@rideauvalley.on.ca](mailto:patrick.larson@rideauvalley.on.ca).



**"Oil and gas reserves in this country are better understood than the groundwater reservoirs..."**

Karen Brown — 2004  
Assistant Deputy Minister, Environment Canada

## Our City Streams

The successful City Stream Watch Program is on the lookout for volunteers to walk along and record the basic natural characteristics of three city streams: Grahams Creek, Stevens Creek, Greens Creek and Mosquito Creek. This is an opportunity to learn more about our urban streams, view wildlife, monitor water quality and help with stream clean ups. Training sessions were held on May 14 and May 28 and more will be offered throughout the summer. There was no cost and all necessary equipment was provided. Volunteers can choose which stream or streams they wish to work on over the summer. Call GRANT at 580-2424 ext. 22886 or [grant.nichol@ottawa.ca](mailto:grant.nichol@ottawa.ca).

## Dragons Go Carbon Neutral

The Ottawa Dragon Boat Race Festival, being held June 25-26 on Mooneys Bay, is going green. Thanks to the community-minded Richcraft Group of Companies, almost 2,300 new young trees will be planted to offset the amount of carbon dioxide generated by the Festival activities. The Festival has been awarded official "carbon neutral event" status. It is the first festival in the country to achieve this designation. Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation is proud to be one of the Race Festival charities. Donations are gratefully accepted online at [www.dragonboat.net](http://www.dragonboat.net) or call CHARLES at ext. 1116 or [charles.billington@rideauvalley.on.ca](mailto:charles.billington@rideauvalley.on.ca).



## Buying Waterfront Land

With the onset of summer comes the added lure of owning waterfront property. If you are interested in purchasing property near a watercourse within the Rideau Valley watershed we recommended that you contact the RVCA before you buy. It is important that prospective purchasers know whether or not a property is in the floodplain and if so, it will be subject to Conservation Authority regulations. A quick call to the LANDOWNER RESOURCE CENTRE will provide you with this valuable information, 692-3571 ext. 1132 or 1128 or [info@lrconline.com](mailto:info@lrconline.com).

## Generic Regulations

One of the core duties of the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority is providing approvals for construction, filling and alterations to waterways under section 28 of the Conservation Authorities Act. The province has now broadened those responsibilities to include valleylands and wetlands. This new "generic" regulation will apply across Ontario. Information meetings are planned for the Rideau Valley this fall where the public can see how "generic regulations" affect their property. Details will be posted as they become available. For more, call DON at ext. 1105 or [don.maciver@rideauvalley.on.ca](mailto:don.maciver@rideauvalley.on.ca).

## Living Memorials

The McGarry family of Hulse, Playfair and McGarry Funeral Homes allows us to plant more trees in the valley. The recent donation from the McGarry family will ensure that a tree is planted in memory of each person whose funeral is in their care. Approximately 1500 of these "living memorials" will be planted each year throughout the watershed from the city of Ottawa right down to the Rideau Lakes as part of the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority's reforestation program. The types of trees planted are native Canadian species such as eastern white pine, white spruce, white cedar, white ash and red oak. The McGarry family and RVCA are pleased that their joint efforts will see more conservation land under trees while providing comfort to those who have lost a loved one. For more information or if you'd like to plant additional trees, call CHARLES at ext. 1116 or [charles.billington@rideauvalley.on.ca](mailto:charles.billington@rideauvalley.on.ca).



### Lake Associations to Meet!

On Saturday, June 18 there will be a meeting of the lake associations in the Rideau Lakes Watershed at the Portland Community Centre, 24 Water St. Portland at 10:00 a.m. And there will be a public meeting on Saturday July 16 at 10 a.m. at the Seniors Centre in the Wesport Village Office for all members of the public having an interest in the Rideau Lakes. The purpose of these meetings will be to hear people's views on the issues affecting their watershed and the vision they have for the future. Help shape the future of your watershed! LYNN at ext. 1171, lynn.preston@rideauvalley.on.ca.

### Watershed Plans

- The **Rideau Lakes Watershed Plan** is up and running. The RVCA is hosting two summer meetings to get the necessary background information to complete this plan.
- The first **Kemptville Creek Watershed Plan** review and update is near completion (fall 2005). The major issue on the South Branch (Kemptville Creek) is water level management. Beavers, dam operations, high outcrops in the streambody are all parts of the bigger water level management issue. Call LYNN at ext. 1171, lynn.preston@rideauvalley.on.ca.

### Lower Rideau Watershed Strategy

The Lower Rideau Watershed Strategy has identified many issues in the study area (Burritts Rapids to Rideau Falls). Some of the major issues are the negative effects of increased weed growth, boat traffic — speed and negative effects of wakes, lack of communication and coordination between agencies (which leads to inconsistencies in water management and regulatory approvals), and to improve agency/public relations. As well, keeping nutrients and bacteria out of the river, revitalizing stream corridors and public education/ community outreach are key issues. The strategy has developed over 70 "water management actions" to address the issues identified. The final draft of the Strategy was released in late May. In June, the Technical Advisory Committee will take one final look at the document. Strategy will go to the Steering Committee in late June for a "motion of support." The document will then be submitted to the City of Ottawa, RVCA Board and provincial Ministries to be endorsed. Once endorsed, the first implementation cycle can begin. Working groups will be set to tackle the issues and water management actions set out in the Strategy. For more, contact BRUCE at 1103 or bruce.reid@rideauvalley.on.ca

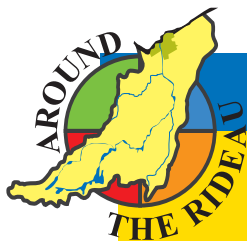
*RVCA's reforestation program in action — hand planting, spring 2005*

### Now Available

- *Kemptville Creek Aquatic Habitat & Beaver Damn Monitoring — 2003-2004*, final report is now available summarizing the monitoring activities on our website at [www.rideauvalley.on.ca](http://www.rideauvalley.on.ca).
- *Tay River Water Watershed Macro Stream Assessment Summary Report 2004*, is now available summarizing activities on the Tay River and Jebbs Creek for summer of 2004. From JENNIFER at ext. 1108 or [jennifer.lamoureux@rideauvalley.on.ca](mailto:jennifer.lamoureux@rideauvalley.on.ca)

### FENDOCK at Baxter

FENDOCK of Fendor Glass and Aluminum Inc. has donated a 16-foot dock extension that will add to the existing 16-foot dock and 8-foot ramp at Baxter Conservation Area. These docks are environmentally friendly and leave a minimal "footprint" on the riverbed. The new dock will provide a valuable launching and docking area for Baxter's successful summer camp programs. During the summer Baxter's camps offer outdoor canoeing, leadership and environmental stewardship programs for children in Ottawa and surrounding municipalities. Baxter Conservation Area staff, campers and park users thank FENDOCK for their generous donation. Call CHARLES ext. 1116 or [charles.billington@rideauvalley.on.ca](mailto:charles.billington@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](http://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.