



Around the Rideau

Environmental Information For Municipalities In The Rideau Valley

September | October 2005

Generic Regs

Revisions to the Conservation Authorities Act by the Province of Ontario have resulted in adoption of *Ontario Regulation 97/04 — a Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses Regulation* commonly called the “Generic Regulation.” This amendment replaces existing CA regulations. The local CAs are hosting a series of public information meetings to present the new regulation and mapping. Development within areas that are adjacent or close to watercourses, valleys, wetlands, or shorelines may be affected. Call DON at ext. 1105, or don.maciver@rideauvalley.on.ca.

October 18, 5 – 9 pm — MVC/RVCA: Hall D, Nepean Sportsplex, 1701 Woodroffe Ave. at West Hunt Club, **Ottawa**

October 19, 3 – 9 pm — MVC/RVCA: Perth & District Community Centre (Arena), 2 Beckwith Street East, **Perth**

October 25, 3–9 pm — RVCA: Suite 2, North Grenville Municipal Centre, 285 County Road 44, **Kemptville**

October 27, 3–9 pm — MVC: West Carleton Client Services Centre, Kinburn, 5670 Carp Road, **Kinburn**

Trillium Trees

The Ferguson Forest Centre in Kemptville and Rideau Valley Conservation Authority have been awarded \$75,000 from the Ontario Trillium Foundation for a two-part, two-year forestry program. *Trees for Tomorrow* is a reforestation program that will plant 60,000 trees per year for 2006 and 2007. The *Butternut Recovery Program* will select and produce healthy, disease-free butternuts for future repopulation of eastern Ontario forests. Butternuts have become an endangered species due to butternut canker disease. The program will identify and map seed sources, locate healthy butternuts and research methods of producing disease-free seedlings that will be planted throughout eastern Ontario. Huge thanks to Trillium for their community-minded work. Call RUDY ext. 1135 or rudy.dyck@rideauvalley.on.ca.

Watershed Watch

You're already aware of the successful Watershed Watch Program which gathers critical baseline data on the water quality in 35 Rideau Valley lakes. A new partnership with the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters lets us watch out for invasive aliens such as zebra mussels, spiny water flea and fishhook water flea. Dedicated volunteers tested seven new lakes over the summer for invasive species. Unfortunately, zebra mussels have been found in Round Lake, Mill Pond, Long Lake East, Burridge Lake and Bob's Lake. So far spiny water flea and fishhook water flea have not been detected in our watershed. For more information call MARINA ext. 1109 or marina.petrovic@rideauvalley.on.ca.

Sawmill Clean Up

The City Stream Watch Program held its second organized stream clean up of the year on sections of Sawmill Creek. There were considerable amounts of garbage from Bank Street (South Keys) upstream (South) to Lester Road, and from Walkley downstream to where it enters the Rideau River (near Billings Bridge Plaza). The National Defence Headquarters Fish and Game Club and Heron Park Community Association led volunteer clean up crews on the two sections of the Creek. **Home Depot** (South Keys) generously donated work gloves and garbage bags for the clean up. The **Monterey Inn & Resort**, Canada's first Carbon Neutral Company, kindly provided lunch. More from GRANT NICHOL, City Stream Watch Coordinator at 580-2424, ext. 22889 or grant.nichol@ottawa.ca.

OMYA

OMYA (Canada) Inc. made a recent generous gift of \$25,000 to our Rural Clean Water Program. The funds help protect water quality and quantity by fencing livestock away from the river, sealing abandoned wells, planting shoreline buffer strips, providing safe chemical storage on farms, repairing or replacing faulty septic systems and naturalizing local shorelines. The program has helped keep more than one ton of phosphorous out of the river over the past three years. Hats off to OMYA for this major gift. Call Charles ext. 1116 or charles.billington@rideauvalley.on.ca.

Silver Salamander

The Canadian Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Network presented the *Silver Salamander Award* jointly to the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority and the Canadian Museum of Nature at their annual meeting held in Ottawa from September 16 to 19, 2005. The RVCA and CMN received the award for work done in the three-year *Rideau River Biodiversity Project*, which contributed to amphibian and reptile conservation in Canada. You can visit the Network's website at www.carcnet.ca/english/carcnethome.html or the Rideau River Biodiversity Project at www.nature.ca/rideau/g/g1-e.html. CHARLES at ext. 1116 or charles.billington@rideauvalley.on.ca.

Septic Demonstration Tour

The Ottawa Septic System Office will be conducting Septic System 101 tours for property owners who are currently building a new home, moving off city water and municipal sewer systems onto a private septic system or considering replacing an aging or failing system. The very informative tours are scheduled for Friday, October 21 and October 28 at 9 am at the Ontario Rural Wastewater Centre's demonstration facility at Baxter Conservation Area. The tour lasts an hour and a half. If interested, please contact the OTTAWA SEPTIC SYSTEM OFFICE at ext. 1123.

“... the Richmond Conservation Area is so important, not only as a significant bird watching location in the region but also for its potential as a visitor attraction that will have an impact on the Village of Richmond... business community”

Editorial, *Stittsville News*, Sept 27 2005



3 Million Trees

RVCA and our conservation partners are on track to plant the three millionth tree in the Rideau watershed next spring. Tree planting is fast becoming one of the key tools in taking care of our watershed and everyone can get involved.

Forestry staff will help landowners develop a planting plan and acquire any available incentive funding for their tree planting projects. Landowners with at least one acre of land can participate in the tree planting program. Special thanks to our community-minded funding partners like the Ontario Trillium Foundation and the Home Depot Foundation; it is through their generous support that the Rideau watershed keeps getting greener! If you want to participate in the tree planting program, or for more information, call the LANDOWNER RESOURCE CENTRE at ext. 1132 or ext. 1128 or info@lrconline.com.

Drought

From late August through most of September the entire Rideau watershed was in a Level I drought, based on August and September precipitation levels and the conditions of local streams, wetlands and reservoir lakes. The middle and upper portions of the watershed have experienced even more severe conditions. There have been reports of private wells failing and reduced crop yields. In some cases, where pasture failed, additional costs were incurred to maintain livestock on water and feed. Recent precipitation has helped and its effect on water reserves is being monitored. RVCA has posted low water information on its website at www.rideauvalley.on.ca. The Water Response Team consists of representatives from the municipal, provincial and federal levels who have regulatory or operational responsibility in the management of water and water supply systems in the Rideau watershed. Those who are experiencing unusual problems, hardships or expenses due to low water/drought are encouraged to contact the Water Response Team through the LANDOWNER RESOURCE CENTRE at ext. 1132 or ext. 1128 or info@lrconline.com.

Tay Trillium Grant

The Ontario Trillium Foundation has granted a five-organization collaborative, led by the Friends of the Tay Watershed Association, a grant for \$96,000 for lake management planning in 2006 and 2007. The group consists of Friends of the Tay Watershed Association, Otty Lake Association, Rideau Valley Conservation Authority, Tay Valley Township and the Community Stewardship Council of Lanark County. The grant is to develop a cooperative approach for lake associations to undertake lake management plans, as well as provide training and guidance to volunteers developing lake management plans. For more information, contact SHEANNA at ext. 1173, or sheanna.tinlin@rideauvalley.on.ca.



Phytoremediation

As if you needed another reason to plant more trees ... it turns out that trees absorb huge amounts of carbon and minerals from the soil thanks to a vast network of fungi on the tree's roots. The trees then give off fresh, clean oxygen and water. Scientists are now using trees in a process called *phytoremediation* to clean up ground pollutants. Thanks to Dorothy Dobbie and *Canadian Trees* magazine for rooting this out.

Xeriscaping

Xeriscaping (from the Greek word for dry and pronounced zerascaping) is an approach to landscaping that reduces water consumption dramatically (up to 70 percent). By following xeriscape landscape principles you can reduce the amount of water required and even eliminate pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers that conventional turf lawns require. Xeriscaping also saves time – less fertilizing and watering, and it saves money by reducing your water bill and maintenance costs. Here are a number of water-wise steps to follow:

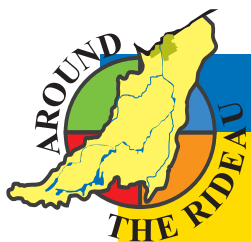
- Limit turf area.
- Select water efficient ground cover.
- Use plants, trees and shrubs suited to local site conditions.
- Use mulches to reduce water evaporation and prevent weed growth.
- Improve soil by adding sand or other aggregates, peat and compost.
- Limit paved areas.
- Capture rain and snow runoff (rainbarrel).
- Redirect storm water onto porous absorbent ground.

Lake Links

The fourth meeting of Lake Links has been set for Saturday, October 22 in Perth District Collegiate. The meeting of lake-care agencies and associations will focus on tools to help lake associations protect their lakes. Information from SARA H at (613) 272-5136.

MAPLE Day

Volunteers are needed to help prepare cuttings for next spring's planting. People who want to see this amazing process in action are invited to join us at the Christie Lake Camp for Boys and Girls on Saturday November 5, 9 am - 1 pm for the *Annual Fall Cutting Day*. All instruction and equipment provided (as well as coffee, donuts and a barbeque lunch). See the MAPLE website for details at www.rideauvalley.on.ca/maple. MAPLE is the volunteer group that cuts, grows, and distributes thousands of shoreline shrubs such as willows, red osier dogwood and Virginia creeper to lake associations each year. Christie Lake is the nerve centre of this fabulous annual shoreline rehabilitation process. Please call AUSTIN for details and to give him a head count for lunch at (613) 829-1323.



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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