



Around the Rideau 40

1966-2006

Environmental Information For Municipalities In The Rideau Valley

January | February 2006

Our 40th Year

We are pleased to finally light the fireworks under the big four-oh sign in 2006! Celebrations and activities are planned throughout the year in honour of forty years of conservation service to our member municipalities. Watch for special events, press releases, website stuff, citizen recognition, free guided walks at the Conservation Areas and more. CHARLES has the details at ext 1116 or charles.billington@rideauvalley.on.ca.

It's Official

Environment Minister Laurel Broten introduced the Walkerton-inspired Source Water Protection legislation known as the *Clean Water Act* into the Ontario legislature on December 5. The Act spells out a lot of the work that will go into development of local Source Water Protection plans including water budgets for each watershed, funding from the province to get the plans prepared, and a local Steering Committee made up of landowners, government representatives and various water experts. This is one of the most important events in drinking water protection in Ontario in many years. Details from BRIAN at ext 1141 or brian.stratton@rideauvalley.on.ca.

RVCA is Moving

After years of discussion, RVCA will be moving from Dickinson Square in the historic core of old Manotick to a single, modern, centralized building to be constructed in Beryl Gaffney Park at the corner of Jockvale and Prince of Wales Drive. Detailed arrangements of the new building and arrangements concerning the future use of properties on Dickinson Square will be finalized within the next few months. The move is scheduled for Spring/Summer of 2007. More from CLIFF at ext 1134 or cliff.craig@rideauvalley.on.ca

Ottawa Children's Water Festival

The popular Ottawa Children's Water Festival at the Baxter Conservation Area, now in its fourth year, is a hands-on/roll up your sleeves kind of experience for about 1,000 grade 4 children each spring. The fun comes first and the learning comes naturally as the kids splash their way through 30 "Water Discovery Centres" such as low-flow toilets, erosion on different slopes, third world water problems, tap-running tooth-brushing, and how a well works. This is a no charge event for schools in May 2006, so book your space early! Thanks to the City of Ottawa for continuing support. Call PETER for information and reservations at 489-3592 or peter.goddard@rideauvalley.on.ca.

Our Readers Rock

We want to offer a New Year wave of appreciation to the thousands of people who regularly read and help distribute *Around the Rideau*. We know of and very much appreciate its electronic re-distribution to lake associations, "Friends of" groups, community groups and environmental clubs within the watershed. Thank you one and all for helping get this

information into the hands of people who tell us they like it. If you want your own copy (by e-mail or snail), just drop us a line at postmaster@rideauvalley.on.ca and it's yours.

Kemptville Beavers

The Kemptville Creek Beaver Dam Monitoring Pilot Project has been helping landowners with their concerns about beaver dams and flooding since 2003. Many dams were surveyed and aquatic habitat and fish communities examined. A database was created to log landowner concerns. As well, problem beavers were trapped; dams that caused flooding were removed and monitored. A report summarizing Kemptville Creek and the North Branch Beaver Dam Pilot Project will be on our website in January. Call MARK ext. 1138 or mark.scott@rideauvalley.on.ca.

Otty Lake is #1

Otty Lake Association is the first to produce a lake management plan using the resources provided by the Lake Management Planning (LMP) Program. Because of increased development pressure around the lake, the Association felt a lake plan was a must. The Association gathered historical information and built sound relations with all stakeholders who care about the health of their lake. The technical and professional expertise provided by the LMP program will guide volunteers and help the Otty Lake's plan move ahead with confidence. Call SHEANNA at ext. 1173 or sheanna.tinlin@rideauvalley.on.ca

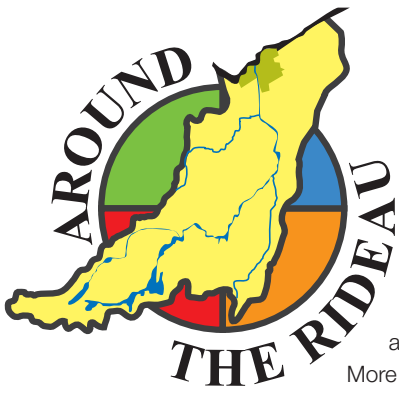
Butternut Recovery

The RVCA and Ferguson Forestry Centre have partnered in the Butternut Recovery Program, made possible by funds donated by the Ontario Trillium Foundation. Butternut is now an endangered species due to a devastating fungal disease. 2,000 disease-free butternut seedlings will be out-planted and healthy butternut seed sources will be identified and mapped. Research methods to produce disease-free seedlings will be investigated. Local landowners have volunteered to plant and tend the seedlings. Call RUDY ext. 1135 or rudy.dyck@rideauvalley.on.ca.



Bookmark This!

The RVCA website is growing to be a major source of information on watershed topics. In 2005, an average of 7,400 users per month took advantage of this ready-to-click information at www.rideauvalley.on.ca. The Watershed Information System (WIS), RVCA's gateway to the most complete and current collection of technical information on the watershed, continued to be a popular source of watershed information. CALL Charles ext. 1116 or charles.billington@rideauvalley.on.ca.



Planning Act Reviews

2005 was a very busy year for staff providing technical reviews for Planning Act development applications. More than 1,200 development applications were processed across the valley.

More than 75% were in the City of Ottawa. And 2006 looks like it is shaping up about the same. Development in the watershed is brisk and planning staff will continue to provide expert advice on the many challenging development issues as the New Year unfolds. Call DON ext. 1105 or don.maciver@rideauvalley.on.ca.

Less Red Tape

On December 8, Conservation Ontario received RVCA's *Submission to the Peer Review Committee* to bring our regulations into conformity with Ontario Regulation 97/04 (Generic Regulation). The amended regulation gives CAs greater potential to protect wetlands, valley lands and vulnerable shorelines against inappropriate development. The submission, once approved by Conservation Ontario, will be sent to Minister of Natural Resources for final approval. The Generic Regulation comes into effect May 1, 2006 all across Ontario. Call DON ext. 1105 or don.maciver@rideauvalley.on.ca.

"Today, I will introduce the Clean Water Act – unprecedented legislation that would set above all else the concept of prevention as the first principle in the safeguarding of our province's drinking water."

The Honourable Laurel Broten, Minister of the Environment,
December 5, 2005

Community Conservation Events

This new feature on the RVCA website is a free space to announce environmental activities and public events going on in communities around the valley. Just find COMMUNITY CONSERVATION in the white area on the welcome page (www.rideauvalley.on.ca <<http://www.rideauvalley.on.ca/>>) and click on the special button to send a direct e-mail to us with your event details. The important items are date, time, place, event name, contact name and e-mail (or phone number) for more information. It's your valley...

PAC's Plan

The Public Advisory Committee (PAC) for the Rideau Lakes Watershed Plan had its first meeting on November 14. The committee, made up of interested citizens in the Rideau lakes area, want to develop a plan to improve and protect the local environment and economy. PAC members will help the public get more involved and will be available to discuss local watershed issues or to provide information on the watershed planning process. The next meeting will be early in the New Year. For more information call LYNN ext 1171 or lynn.preston@rideauvalley.on.ca.

Tree-mendous

The final tally is in: 150,350 hardy, native Canadian trees were planted throughout the Rideau watershed (114,700 by RVCA and 35,650 by landowners and hard-working volunteers). A huge thanks to our funding partners, including our participating landowners, who collectively contributed \$227,000 to keep the valley green. They are: 68 private landowners, The Home Depot Foundation, the Ontario Trillium Foundation, the City of Ottawa, the Ottawa Dragon Boat Festival, Tree Canada Foundation, Richcraft Homes, Eastern Ontario Model Forest, Harris Computer Services, Hulse Playfair and McGarry Funeral Homes, the Leeds, Grenville, Ottawa and Lanark Stewardship Councils, Mountain Equipment Co-op, Pratt and Whitney Canada, Canada Lands Company, Ferguson Forest Centre, OMNR - Kemptonville District, Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation, and the Wetland Habitat Fund. Call RUDY ext. 1135 or rudy.dyck@rideauvalley.on.ca.

New Improved GIS

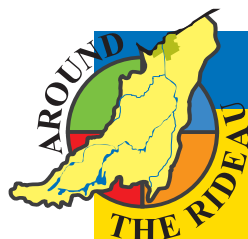
RVCA's Geographical Information System (GIS) just got better! We recently installed a new and more powerful GIS server, to house updated geospatial data that will enhance our existing system. Geospatial data are the features you see on maps such as locations, land characteristics and boundaries. This enhanced GIS enables faster and better staff decision-making and planning. The updated data will soon be available to the public through our Watershed Information System (WIS) at www.rideauvalley.on.ca/watershed/index.html. Call EWAN ext. 1130 or ewan.hardie@rideauvalley.on.ca.

Bug Bio-indicators!

The RVCA, through the Ontario Benthos Bio-monitoring Network (OBBN), continues sampling streams, lakes, and wetlands in the Rideau Watershed. Sampling bottom dwelling bugs (benthic invertebrates) helps indicate water quality and aquatic habitat health. Sampling is done in May and in October and the bugs collected are brought back to the RVCA lab for identification. The 2005 Final Report will be posted on the website in early 2006 at www.rideauvalley.on.ca/watershed/surface_water_quality/benthic_overview.html. Or just talk to MARK at ext.1138 or mark.scott@rideauvalley.on.ca.

LRC and You

The LandOwner Resource Centre offers (reasonably) fast, helpful information to all landowners about to make decisions for their wooded or shoreline property. In 2005, over 1,600 people visited the centre and another 3,000 called. The LRC attended many environmental shows and fairs with their new display. Flood plain regulations? Development requirements? Building a dock? Constructing a wetland? The LRC has it all! Call the LANDOWNER RESOURCE CENTRE at ext. 1132 or 1128 or e-mail them at info@lrconline.com.



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 3,400 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

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