



# Around the Rideau 40

1966-2006

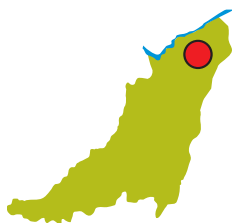
Environmental Information For Municipalities In The Rideau Valley

Sept | Oct 2006

## Enjoy Your Roots and Plant Some Trees

If you are interested in reforesting an idle field on your property now is the time to plan for the 2007 spring tree plant. If you have at least one acre of land and are willing to plant a minimum of 500 trees, the RVCA can help with incentive grants and technical help through the Green Acres Program (available in the City of Ottawa) and the Trees For Tomorrow Program (remainder of the Rideau Valley watershed). Contact the LandOwner Resource Centre (KELLIE at 1128 or JAMIE at 1132) for more information.

## Lower Rideau Watershed Strategy Update



The *Lower Rideau Watershed Strategy* is in the final stages of approval. The strategy's recommendations will be implemented starting this fall. The ten government agencies and organizations (including the City of Ottawa and the

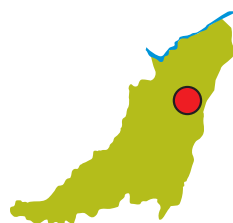
Municipality of North Grenville) involved in the development of this plan are seeking endorsement for the strategy as a framework document for their own work on the river. Endorsement is being sought at senior levels within each organization with the goal of making an explicit statement saying that they have carefully considered the report and are able to generally agree with the important issues, the goal statement, the watershed management objectives, the management actions and priorities, the strategic direction and the implementation framework as recommended in the strategy.

This hard-won document, when endorsed by all parties, will help provide the strategic guidance and direction for public and private investment in the Lower Rideau area for years to come. It takes an ecosystem approach, looks to the long term and identifies shoreline landowners as full partners in the process of maintaining a clean, healthy Rideau River into the future. For more, contact BRUCE at ext. 1103 or [bruce.reid@rideauvalley.on.ca](mailto:bruce.reid@rideauvalley.on.ca).

### Lower Rideau Watershed Strategy Partners:

City of Ottawa, Municipality of North Grenville, Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Parks Canada-Rideau Canal, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Public Works Government Services Canada, National Capital Commission, Rideau Valley Conservation Authority.

## Curtis Family Conserves Valuable Stretch of Rideau Shoreline



A pristine one kilometre stretch of natural shoreline will be protected for perpetuity thanks to Dr. Ron and Laurie Curtis. Thirty-seven acres of undisturbed Rideau River shoreline, located just south of the Kars bridge in the City of Ottawa, was donated to the RVCF in 2005. The property also includes a marsh area, a four-acre island and several forest and meadow areas. It is a magnificent piece of land that will be protected from development and allow nature to thrive.

The new Curtis Conservation Area was officially dedicated at a special celebration on September 28, 2006. Special thanks to the Curtis family for their generous ecological land donation and to Ducks Unlimited for helping with the donation. For more details on this new conservation area or on how you can make an ecological land donation, contact ANDREA at ext. 1178 or [andrea.klymko@rideauvalley.on.ca](mailto:andrea.klymko@rideauvalley.on.ca).

## Butternut Recovery Program Update



This spring, the Butternut Recovery Program went out and inspected 180 trees for the deadly butternut canker fungus. At that time, 34 trees were assessed as having no canker observed. This summer, staff went back out to reassess the 34 healthy trees (plus an additional 20). Now, only 18 trees are assessed as having no canker observed. This highly infectious fungus is clearly having a strong impact on the health of our local butternut tree population. The good news rests in the hope that some of the healthy trees may have a natural resistance to the canker. One thousand butternut seeds were collected from some of the 18 healthy trees, and will be planted and tended (along with another 4,000 nuts) at the Ferguson Forest Centre for the next year before being transplanted on property throughout Eastern Ontario. Hopefully we will be able to repopulate our forests with healthy, disease-free butternuts. RUDY has more at ext. 1135 or [rudy.dyck@rideauvalley.on.ca](mailto:rudy.dyck@rideauvalley.on.ca).



## Back to School at Baxter

Baxter Conservation Area is gearing up for another busy fall season as schools return for outdoor education.

For the last four years, Baxter has been involved in Ducks Unlimited's special Project Webfoot that teaches students about the tremendous value of wetland habitats. Project Webfoot, thanks to its many sponsors, covers all the costs for the over 15 Grade Four classes that will be coming out to Baxter this fall. This special program is in addition to the numerous regular classes making the trip to Baxter. For more, call PETER at 613-489-3592 or peter.goddard@rideauvalley.on.ca.

## Pesky Weeds

Aquatic plants are a natural part of the Rideau's ecosystem they provide valuable habitat for fish to feed, breed and seek shelter. These plants also maintain and improve water quality by stabilizing sediments and absorbing many pollutants. But sometimes aquatic plants can be a little too much for shoreline residents. Excessive plant growth can interfere with boating, swimming and recreational activities. Removing plants may be necessary.

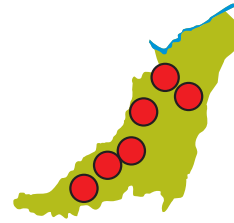
If you want to remove aquatic plants from the bed of the Rideau River, you will need prior approval from Parks Canada. For details on the permit process, contact Parks Canada Rideau Canal Office at 1-888-773-8888 or rideaucanal-info@pc.gc.ca. To remove aquatic plants from tributaries (Jock River, Kemptville Creek, etc.), contact the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources in Kemptville at 613-258-8204 or in Kingston at 613-531-5700.

Everyone can do their part to reduce excessive weed growth:

- ¥ Keep your shoreline natural a minimum three metre buffer of cattails, tall grasses and shrubs will absorb the bad nutrients and hold soil in place on the shore.
- ¥ Minimize or eliminate use of lawn and garden fertilizers.
- ¥ Maintain your septic system with regular pumping.
- ¥ Keep cattle out of the water and practice rural best management practices to reduce runoff and keep nutrients on farm fields and out of the drains.
- ¥ Support investments in municipal drainage and sewage works to reduce nutrient loading to watercourses.

If you do harvest aquatic plants, be a good neighbour and remove the vegetation from the water and place it well above the high water mark. We don't want it floating downstream to become a neighbour's problem. For more, contact the LandOwner Resource Centre at ext. 1128 or 1132.

## Rainfall Volunteers



This year, nine volunteers have been monitoring rainfall in the Rideau Valley. Volunteers on Pike Lake, Otty Lake, Bobs Lake and in the Villages of Ashton, Richmond and North Gower provide regular information on precipitation.

It may be a simple task, but it requires commitment from our volunteers to check their rain gauge on a daily basis and fax or email the information to the RVCA. This information adds greatly to our knowledge of how much water has fallen locally within the watershed, supplementing the information from formal climate monitoring stations operated by public agencies. The data can be used in many ways to improve our understanding of the hydrology of the watershed and are of tremendous value in our flood and drought forecasting efforts. We are always looking for more volunteers. If you are interested in monitoring precipitation and can commit yourself to reading the gauge and sending in the data, please contact ADAM at ext.1140 or adam.mccreath@rideauvalley.on.ca.

## Replacing or Installing your SEPTIC SYSTEM?

- Sign up now to view all the latest septic systems available
- Friday Sept 29 & Oct 27
- First come, first served
- \$20 per person
- Call 692-0160 ex. 1129 to register



Ottawa Septic System Office Bureau des systèmes septiques d'Ottawa

Between earth and earth's atmosphere, the amount of water remains constant; there is never a drop more, never a drop less. This is a story of circular infinity, of a planet birthing itself.

Poet and Novelist LINDA HOGAN, *Northern Lights*, Autumn 1990



# 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 3,400 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:

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