



Around the Rideau

Environmental Information For Municipalities In The Rideau Valley

November | December 2007

RVCA New Office & Move Update

After much anticipation our move to the new RVCA headquarters is finally upon us. To facilitate a quick, efficient transfer, the RVCA will be closed on Friday, December 7 and again on Monday December 10. Doors will reopen on Tuesday but services may not be up to full capacity as staff get settled in. We're striving for a seamless transfer into the new headquarters and look forward to offering quality service to clients in person or by phone Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Call DIANE ext. 1126 or diane.downey@rideauvalley.on.ca.

Silver LEED Building

Fundraising efforts led by the Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation have been very successful raising close to \$250,000 (cash and in-kind donations) to help ensure Silver LEED Certification of our new office building. LEED, (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) is considered to be the worldwide standard in measuring building environmental sustainability. "Building to LEED standards costs more money at first, but the payback comes very quickly in energy savings alone. Our member municipalities felt it was important that the Conservation Authority show leadership in environmental matters starting with the construction of our new office space," commented RVCA Chair Alan Arbuckle. CLIFF ext. 1134 or cliff.craig@rideauvalley.on.ca.

LEED-ing Edge Construction Recognized

Construction Comment, the official publication of the Ottawa Construction Association, highlighted RVCA's new headquarters and LEED designation in their October edition — www.o.ca.ca/constructioncomment/archive/10_07.pdf.



Ron Williamson, COEO member, congratulates Peter Goddard recipient of the Dorothy Walker Award.

Award Winning Baxter Interpreter!

Baxter Conservation Area's Peter Goddard is the proud recipient of the Dorothy Walker Award for outstanding commitment to the development of leadership qualities in Ontario youth through outdoor education. Peter has been involved in youth leadership development throughout his 20+ years of professional involvement in outdoor education. "I truly cannot think of a more worthy recipient for this prestigious Award," said Ron Williamson, teacher at John McCrae Secondary School and member of the Council of Outdoor Educators of Ontario (COEO). Peter has worked for RVCA for seven years and has developed the Baxter Conservation Area Outdoor Education program into one of the busiest and most successful in Eastern Ontario. Almost 5,000 school age children and organized youth groups pass through Peter's programs each year. Congratulations Peter! CHARLES has more at ext. 1116 or charles.billington@rideauvalley.on.ca.

Fall Goat Run Comes to Perth Wildlife Reserve Conservation Area

Runners flocked to Perth Wildlife Reserve this past Thanksgiving weekend to participate in the first Fall Goat Run. There were 77 participants in the race which included all ages and levels of runners. The racers ran the hiking trail at Perth Wildlife Reserve, some up to seven times for half marathon distance. Other competitors formed relay teams to complete the seven laps. Terry Stewart, Race Coordinator, explained that he had always thought Perth Wildlife Reserve would be a great location for an event. And the runners agreed! Hopes are that the race becomes an annual event and part of a series of races organized by Terry Stewart and his running store in Perth, The Running Goat. Rideau Valley Conservation Authority thanks Terry Stewart, his organizing committee and all of the competitors who made this day such a success! Call KRISTY ext. 1178 or kristy.giles@rideauvalley.on.ca.

Final Heritage Building On Dickinson Square

The Ayers Building on historic Dickinson Square in the heart of old Manotick is seeking the same level of heritage protection that the Mill, the Dickinson House, the Carriage Shed and the Weaver House already enjoy. RVCA has agreed to apply for heritage status through the Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee in the City of Ottawa. Dickinson Square Heritage Management Inc (DSHMI) will undertake the application process with the City which could take about 8 to 12 weeks. Heritage status will protect the exterior historic look and integrity of the old building and allow interior renovation to accommodate modern uses. Call CLIFF ext. 1134 or cliff.craig@rideauvalley.on.ca.



Ayers Building



A few of the successful participants of the Fall Goat Run race event held Thanksgiving weekend.



Britannia Village Flood Control

On September 26 Ottawa City Council gave the green light to a remedial flood control project for the Britannia Village community, located in the City's west end on the scenic shores of the Ottawa River's Lac Deschênes. Spring flood levels on the Ottawa River sometimes affect low-lying properties in the Village. Community-based efforts to "flood-proof" were made after the last serious flood in May '79. Subsequent studies revealed that the protection works were only partially

completed and they could be overtopped by the 1:100 year flood. A 1992 RVCA study suggested that the flood protection system could be upgraded economically (cost of flood protection would be less than the value of future flood damages). After dialogue within the community, led by Ward Councillor Alex Cullen and the Britannia Village Community Association, a decision was reached to proceed with the project. It will be managed by RVCA and cost-

shared between the City of Ottawa and the property owners that will benefit from the improvements. RVCA will seek funding from OMNR's "Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure Program" for approximately \$400,000.

Major milestones towards completion of the project are:

- Final design – following the process set out in the Class Environmental Assessment for remedial Flood and Erosion Control Projects
- Easement acquisition on part of the project that will be located on private land
- Tendering
- Construction
- Ongoing Operation and Maintenance

Construction on site could begin as early as late summer of 2008 if all steps progress smoothly and without delay. RVCA will endeavour to keep City officials and the community well informed throughout the process. BRUCE ext. 1103 or bruce.reid@rideauvalley.on.ca.

Flows Still Below Normal Despite October's Increased Rains

After two months of precipitation that was well below normal, October brought a bit more rain than normal. However, it isn't enough to restore the soil moisture deficit and increase stream flows. At all measurement locations, flows continue to be below normal for the time of year. Lake levels, however, hover around normal targets — some slightly above, some slightly below. With the rain, Upper Rideau levels have gotten above the Lower Conservation threshold. It is still important to use water conservatively. PATRICK at ext. 1110 or patrick.larson@rideauvalley.on.ca

Watershed Planning Update

Middle Rideau Watershed Plan — Staff continue to collect background information and data on all aspects of the Middle Rideau Watershed (includes the geographic area from Poonamalie to Burritts Rapids). Data collection is expected to be completed soon as work on the plan moves forward. LYNN ext. 1171 or lynn.preston@rideauvalley.on.ca.

Rideau Lakes Watershed Plan — Work on the Rideau Lakes Watershed Plan is well underway. At this point, the vision and mission statement, goals, objectives, and actions for the plan have all been developed. Currently, the indicators and targets of the plan are being developed. Next steps in the process will identify the management strategies that will be used by the watershed's stakeholders to carry out the recommendations. The final plan should be completed by fall 2008. LYNN ext. 1171 or lynn.preston@rideauvalley.on.ca.

Ottawa Creeks — Squeaky Clean

On September 23 Sawmill Creek was cleaned as part of the TD Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup. Volunteers focused on a three-kilometre stretch that includes five polluted sites from the Bank & Lester Road area to the Rideau River and a section of the Lester Road wetland area. Long-time project supporter, Monterey Inn Resort and Conference Centre, provided a delicious lunch to the workers. Our volunteers joined over 40,000 other Canadians as part of the nation-wide "Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup Day" cleaning up streams, lakes, oceans and beaches across the country.

In October two Boy Scout troops, Fallingbrook 4th Orleans and the 19th Nepean-Briargreen troops came out on two separate cleanups. Fallingbrook 4th gave Taylor Creek some TLC spanning St. Joseph Blvd. to Princess Louise Falls. This heavily polluted stretch was long overdue for some attention. 19th Nepean-Briargreen concentrated on cleaning Graham Creek in the west end from Richmond Road to Baseline Road in the Nanaimo Park area. Thanks to the hard work of these dedicated Scout troops two of Ottawa's streams are that much cleaner! For more information contact Grant Nichol at 613-580-2424 ext. 22886 or grant.nichol@ottawa.ca.

SPC Appointed at Joint SPA Meeting

For the first time our two Source Protection Authorities (Mississippi Valley and Rideau Valley) met jointly and they appointed the Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Committee. Appointed to the committee are:

- Scott Bryce (Westport), Alex Cullen and Christine Leadman (City of Ottawa), Paul Knowles (Carleton Place) and Eleanor Renaud (Elizabethtown-Kitley) representing all watershed municipalities.
- Richard Fraser and Peter McLaren (agriculture), Domenic Idone (aggregates), Beverly Millar (small business) and Jim Riopelle (golf courses) representing economic sectors.

- George Braithwaite (rural general public), Carol Dillon (Friends of the Tay), Patricia Larkin (non-governmental organizations) and Mary Trudeau (Ottawa Riverkeeper) representing other interests. There is one final member to be appointed shortly.

For more info call SOMMER at ext. 1147 or sommer.robertson@mrsourcewater.ca.



Around the Rideau

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Around the Rideau circulation has risen to 3,800 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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