



Around the Rideau

Environmental Information For Municipalities In The Rideau Valley

March | April 2007

Flood Forecasting — Long Range Outlook

The Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA) is expecting below average spring flow conditions this year. The RVCA's most recent snow measurements were completed on March 1, when the snow depth was close to the long-term average, but the water equivalent of the snowpack, at 33 millimetres, was only 50 percent of the long term average.

The snow storm on March 2 added 15 to 20 centimetres of

new snow on the ground, but the increased water equivalent in the snowpack remains well below the long-term average for March 1.

Worried About Spring Flooding?

Call DIANE at 613-692-3571 ext. 1126 to have your name added to our e-mail list and have flood messages sent direct to your home! diane.downey@rideauvalley.on.ca

The RVCA is currently in the daily planning cycle of its flood forecasting and warning operations — weather forecasts are being monitored and estimates of expected river flows and water levels are being prepared on a daily basis. Flood advisory or warning messages will be issued as required based on those forecasts. For more, call PATRICK at ext. 1110 or write him at patrick.larson@rideauvalley.on.ca.

Laying Roots — Lake to Lake

Working in co-operation with Leeds County Stewardship, the RVCA is participating in the new Lake to Lake Project. One aspect of this multi-faceted project is to plant trees on private property to create a wildlife corridor connecting Belamy Pond and Irish Lake (near Toledo). Leeds County Stewardship contacted most of the landowners and the RVCA's role is to write the tree planting plans and carry out the site preparation, planting, tending and monitoring. Twelve landowners are involved resulting in 51,600 trees being planted on close to 25 hectares. More planting will happen next year as the project moves into its second and final year. Special thanks to all the Lake to Lake partners including our local landowners, Eastern Ontario Model Forest, Tree Ontario Foundation, Wetland Habitat Fund and Ontario Power Generation, Canada Lands Company, and the McGary Family. Call DAN for more at ext. 1124 or dan.cooper@rideauvalley.on.ca.

Annual Rideau Valley Watershed Checkup 2006 — Now Available

Get your *Annual Rideau Valley Watershed Checkup 2006*. This 16-page report is our first annual summary of watershed conditions. The 2006 Checkup looks at a few common indicators: water budget, water quality — biology and chemistry, forest cover and watershed planning. It is not a complete catalogue of all the data and information our staff collects, but a snap shot in a user-friendly format. Each year, we plan to highlight different indicators (such as wetland area, biodiversity, forest cover, water quality, flood damage centres, or development pressure) to report on various aspects of watershed health and RVCA activities.

Download the file at www.rideauvalley.on.ca or contact JOAN at ext. 1100 or joan.sherwood@rideauvalley.on.ca and she'll mail you a copy.

Source Protection Committee

The Ministry of the Environment is busy developing the Regulations that will explain in detail how the *Clean Water Act* will unfold. We expect the draft Source Protection Committee (SPC) Regulation out soon and the final Regulation available by June. It will contain directions on the composition of the SPC, qualifications of the Chair, how members will be chosen, the relationship with the Conservation Authority Board, and how the SPC is expected to develop the Source Protection Plans for the proposed Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Region. All things being equal, we expect to have our local Source Protection Committee up and running by about September. Talk to SOMMER for more at ext 1147 or sommer.robertson@mrsourcewater.on.ca.

Water Festival — Fun and Learning for Kids!

The fifth annual Ottawa Children's Water Festival will be held at Baxter Conservation Area on May 16, 17 and 18. The Children's Water Festival is a "hands on" experience that helps students from grades 3 to 5 understand water conservation, wells and waste water systems, the water cycle, pollution, erosion, water filtration, ecology and more! Contact PETER at 489-3592, peter.goddard@rideauvalley.on.ca or visit www.riverinstitute.com/Festival for details.





Mountain Investment Hits Peak at \$1 Million

Total investment in the Foley Mountain Conservation Area since 1998 zoomed past \$1 million in 2007 thanks to the outstanding work and commitment of the Friends of Foley Mountain (FOFM) and the RVCA. FOFM have done an outstanding job of fundraising for Foley's educational programs. They have donated almost \$100,000 of the \$1 million invested over the past ten years. Close to 100,000 youngsters, spanning two generations, have studied at Foley over the past 34 years. Foley's facilities, trails and outdoor education programs make it one of the best and most attractive conservation areas in Eastern Ontario. JIM has more at 613-489-3060 or jim.ellis@rideauvalley.on.ca.

Protect Spawning Fish!

No in-water work is allowed between March 15 and June 30 for most areas but other dates apply on the Ottawa River and on special lake trout lakes. Restrictions for near or in-water work on our lakes, rivers and streams are put in place to make sure that fish are given an opportunity to spawn successfully and raise their young in healthy, stress-free aquatic environments. Landowners, cottagers and construction project managers are required to delay in-water work until after the restrictions are lifted.

Restrictions:

- **warm water fish communities:**
from March 15 to June 30
- **mixed fish communities:**
from October 1 to June 30
(e.g. Big Rideau Lake)
- **cold-water fish communities:**
October 1 to May 31
- **Ottawa River**
March 15 to July 15

Successful spawning will ensure a sustainable in-land fishery for the future. Why is this important? \$1.7 billion dollars are spent annually on goods and services related to the recreational fishing industry, it also employs thousands of people. Fewer fish mean fewer jobs, less revenue and degraded river health. The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources sets these restrictions based on fish communities and violators risk being charged. It is important to check before beginning work on or near water. If you're

considering shoreline work please check with the knowledgeable staff at the LANDOWNER RESOURCE CENTRE at ext. 1132 who can advise you on permit requirements or restrictions or ask HAL at ext. 1127 or hal.stimson@rideauvalley.on.ca.

New Office Construction

A small section of Beryl Gaffney Park is slowly being transformed in preparation for the new RVCA Headquarters. The first tender for site works was awarded in December. Since then, work has progressed on the foundation and site services. Masonry work has begun. Structural steel and timber are to arrive in March. Work is on schedule with a completion date of October 2007. RVCA staff hope to move into the new building in November or December. See how things are progressing at our online photo gallery by visiting www.rideauvalley.on.ca/new_building/gallery.html. CLIFF has more at ext. 1134 or cliff.craig@rideauvalley.on.ca.

Coming Soon — Beaver Package for Landowners

Beaver can sometimes be a nuisance on private land — flooding agricultural fields and forests, washing out roads and killing trees. The RVCA is well aware of these types of problems. The Kemptville Creek Beaver Dam Monitoring Pilot Project (2003 – 2006) monitored, surveyed, removed dams and trapped beavers. The goal of the monitoring project was to deal with landowner flooding concerns while balancing the needs of the aquatic ecosystem. Although the pilot project officially ended in fall 2006, the RVCA is committed to providing on-going advice and guidance to landowners. A local, beaver information package will soon be available to clients through the RVCA's LANDOWNER RESOURCE CENTRE (1-800-387-5304 ext. 1132), guiding them through their options when dealing with nuisance beavers. For more, call RUDY at ext. 1135 or rudy.dyck@rideauvalley.on.ca.

Don't Forget! You may need a permit.

If you're planning any work around a lake, river, stream or wetland, be sure to call the LANDOWNER RESOURCE CENTRE for a quick and efficient review of your plans and guidance on the permits or applications you may need. You can also visit www.rideauvalley.on.ca under "planning, regulations and permits" to see what local rules and regulations may apply to your project. Be sure! Find out first! The LRC also has environmentally-friendly information available on fish habitat, sediment control, shoreline naturalization and more. Call JAMIE at ext. 1132 or jamie.batchelor@rideauvalley.on.ca.

Tree Planting Package

For people planting their own trees, may we suggest some very helpful free how-to brochures from the LANDOWNER RESOURCE CENTRE? Ask for your five-brochure tree planting package (Planning for Tree Planting, Preparing the Site, Careful Handling of Nursery Stock, Controlling the Competition, Tree Guards) from the friendly LRC staff at ext 1132 (1-800-387-5304) or jamie.batchelor@rideauvalley.on.ca. Landowners interested in a larger reforestation project should call now to plan for spring 2008 planting.

Great Gifts from Monarch

Monarch Homes continues to be a major supporter of the Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation (RVCF). Another generous donation of \$7,500 was recently given by Monarch Homes to the RVCF to protect future stocks of conservation land for public use. Over the past five years, Monarch Homes has played a significant role in the continuing health of the Rideau River watershed by helping bring donated private lands into public ownership through the Foundations' Environmental Land Fund. The Foundations' Environmental Land Fund is used to ensure that important natural land donations are acquired quickly and efficiently for public benefit. For more information on tax deductible contributions, contact CHARLES at ext. 1116 or 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

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Around the Rideau circulation has risen to 3,200 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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