



# Around the Rideau

Environmental Information For Municipalities In The Rideau Valley

May | June 2007

## City Stream Watch Continues

The popular and successful City Stream Watch is moving into its fifth year. City Stream Watch collects, records and manages information on creeks and streams in the City of Ottawa. What is unique about the program is that it relies on community volunteers to conduct macro stream assessments, participate in fish sampling and help with stream clean-ups and stream rehabilitation projects. Since its inception, volunteer numbers have grown at an impressive rate from 26 to well over 100. In 2006 alone, community volunteers worked over 550 hours on a number of different projects on city streams.

This year, City Stream Watch is looking for enthusiastic volunteers to help out on Cranberry Creek (Rideau), Nepean Creek (Nepean) and tributaries of Green's Creek (Gloucester) — Ramsey, Mud, Borthwick and Black Creeks. If you are interested, give GRANT a call at 613-580-2424 ext. 22886 or at [grant.nichol@ottawa.ca](mailto:grant.nichol@ottawa.ca).

## Updated Kemptville Creek Watershed Plan Now Available

The Rideau Valley Conservation Authority, in cooperation with the watershed community, has completed the first review and update of the *Kemptville Creek Watershed Plan* (KCWP). Originally completed in 1999, the KCWP addressed a number of ongoing water and land management issues within the drainage area of Kemptville Creek. The updated report looks at what recommendations were successfully put in place from the original report and re-evaluates watershed

health seven years later. The updated report also identifies new goals, objectives and actions that address today's Kemptville Creek area. To get your copy, contact LYNN at 692-3571 ext. 1171 or [lynn.preston@rideauvalley.on.ca](mailto:lynn.preston@rideauvalley.on.ca). You can also download a copy at [www.rideauvalley.on.ca](http://www.rideauvalley.on.ca) under "What's New."

## Spring Peak 2007

This year's peak was measured at the flow monitoring station along the Rideau at Carleton University on April 18 at 6 a.m. with a flow of 262 cubic metres per second. This is another low flow year at 66 percent of our average peak which is 400 cubic metres per second. PATRICK has details at ext. 1110 or [patrick.larson@rideauvalley.on.ca](mailto:patrick.larson@rideauvalley.on.ca).

## RVCA Takes the "LEED" in Environmental Construction

The RVCA is committed to achieving Silver LEED certification at its new corporate office. LEED buildings — awarded for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design — are recognized globally as environmentally-friendly design and construction that reduce the negative construction impacts and improve occupant health and well-being. There are four LEED levels — Certified, Silver, Gold and Platinum and the RVCA is aiming for Silver Certification. Which level you earn depends on the number of credits accrued in five green design categories: sustainable site, water efficiency, energy and atmosphere, materials and resources, and indoor environmental quality.

A LEED building would also be a model for future public buildings and a demonstration site for the energy savings to be found by using LEED construction. CLIFF can tell you more at ext. 1134 or [cliff.craig@rideauvalley.on.ca](mailto:cliff.craig@rideauvalley.on.ca).

*"In Ontario, the majority believe the quality of water is acceptable — particularly in the Northern and Eastern Regions."*

*Conservation Ontario Audience Research Project  
Decima Research  
March 2007*

## Be Septic Smart

Did you know there are approximately one million septic systems in Ontario? Having a well maintained, properly functioning septic system is very important to rural landowners and Rideau cottagers. Systems need regular care and maintenance and should be pumped every three to five years. Spring is a perfect time to get a licensed contractor in to inspect and pump your septic system. Here are some other good septic dos and don'ts to remember:

### DO

- ▶ familiarize yourself with the location of your system
- ▶ keep an "as built" system diagram in a safe place for reference
- ▶ divert surface water away from your leaching bed
- ▶ pump out your tank on a regular basis (three to five years)
- ▶ repair leaky plumbing fixtures
- ▶ conserve water to reduce the amount of wastewater that must be treated
- ▶ replace old toilets with low-flush models
- ▶ keep lint out of your septic system by cleaning the lint filter on your washing machine
- ▶ keep accurate records of septic system maintenance and service calls

### DON'T

- ▶ don't flush chemicals, cigarette butts or sanitary products
- ▶ don't use a garbage disposal/garburator
- ▶ don't plant trees or shrubs too close to the system or leaching bed
- ▶ don't use special additives that are touted to enhance the performance of your tank or system
- ▶ don't dig without knowing the location of your septic system
- ▶ don't drive over your tank or leaching bed
- ▶ don't enter a tank — gases and lack of oxygen can be fatal
- ▶ don't connect rain gutters, storm drains or allow surface water to drain into a sewage system
- ▶ don't leave interior faucets on to protect water lines during cold spells — insulate your faucets and plumbing



Ottawa Septic System Office Bureau des systèmes septiques d'Ottawa



## Another Successful Spring Tree Plant

This year, another 135,000 trees took root in the Rideau watershed. Over 90,000 were hand planted in a mere six days! Another 21,000 were machine planted. The remaining amount was planted with a little TLC by Scouts, schools and other special interest

groups. The popular Green Acres and Trees for Tomorrow programs continue to see local residents taking action and becoming stewards of the Rideau landscape. DAN has the details at ext. 1124 or dan.cooper@rideauvalley.on.ca.

## Wanted!!!

- ▶ **Healthy Butternut Trees** — got one? Contact Rose Fleguel, Butternut Recovery Technician at 613-258-3678 or at rose.fleguel@rideauvalley.on.ca
- ▶ Nominees for the **Annual Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation Conservation** — get your nomination form at [www.rideauvalley.on.ca/foundation](http://www.rideauvalley.on.ca/foundation)
- ▶ **Boaters** — to enjoy the new community dock at W.A. Taylor Conservation Area! Special thanks to FENDOCK and the Osgoode Township Fish, Game and Conservation Club for making the dock possible!
- ▶ Labour, tools, seeds, plants and shrubs for the new **Butterfly Garden at the Perth Wildlife Reserve**. Contact Andrea at [andrea.klymko@rideauvalley.on.ca](mailto:andrea.klymko@rideauvalley.on.ca).
- ▶ Paddlers — celebrate **Canadian Rivers Day** on June 10! Ottawa Riverkeeper and Canadian Heritage Rivers System are celebrating with a guided paddle on the Ottawa River from Victoria Island to Petrie Island. Visit [www.ottawariverkeeper.ca](http://www.ottawariverkeeper.ca) for details.



Celebrating the new W.A. Taylor Community Dock — May 10, 2007. Members of the Blanchfield Family, Councillor Doug Thompson and Paul Mussell of the Osgoode Township Fish, Game and Conservation Club gather for the event that also honoured the memory of Osgoode resident and outdoor enthusiast, Dick Blanchfield.



## Havin' a Blast at BAXTER

### Outstanding Outdoor Day Camps

July and August 2007



**Salamanders:** 6 to 8 years old  
Join us for a fun filled week exploring wetland, meadow and forest habitats with different themes and activities every session. \$150 per week.



**Bullfrogs:** 9 to 12 years  
Designed specifically for older campers, this program will include core program activities as well as small group games, challenges and adventures. \$150 per week.

### Cool Canoe Camps



Two one-week introductory canoe tripping sessions for campers 10 to 13 years. Campers will experience tandem paddling and camping, navigation skills, trip cooking, introductory first aid, trip planning and preparation. \$200 per week.

For more details on the Baxter Summer Camp Program, visit [www.rideauvalley.on.ca/areas/baxter](http://www.rideauvalley.on.ca/areas/baxter) or call the INTERPRETIVE CENTRE at 613-489-3592. Ask about our special "family" pricing.



## Wet and Wild at the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Children's Water Festival

The fifth annual Ottawa Children's Water Festival returned to Baxter from May 16 to Friday May 18. Over 650 children, from 13 schools and 27 classes from grades three to five enjoyed a great spring day learning all they need to know about H<sub>2</sub>O — important stuff like water conservation, ground water movement, water habitat ecology, well workings and more! Thanks to the generous support of the City of Ottawa and the Mississippi-Rideau Source Water Protection Region, this hands-on, curriculum-based science program is a no-charge event!



## 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 3,200 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:



- The Base Mapping Co. Ltd, Nepean** (613) 723-8100  
Providing Conservation Authorities with digital topographic mapping for flood plain management.
- Bell Baker, Barristers and Solicitors** (613) 237-3444  
Effectively providing quality legal services in Eastern Ontario for over 40 years.
- CH2MHill Canada Limited, Ottawa** (613) 723-8700  
Providing excellence in environmental engineering, planning and science across Canada.
- Robinson Consultants Inc., Kanata** (613) 592-6060  
Able to assist you in optimizing your municipal works and related operations in an environmentally-friendly, cost-effective way.