



# Around the Rideau

Environmental Information For Municipalities In The Rideau Valley

September | October 2007

## Source Water Protection Update

### Chair of Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Committee Named

Ontario Environment Minister Laurel Broten announced Janet Stavinga, well-known watershed personality and well-respected former City of Ottawa Councillor, as Chair of the new Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Committee (SPC). Ms. Stavinga brings a wealth of knowledge and experience and understands the diverse challenges within watersheds, the importance of decision making based on natural systems and the need for partnerships to achieve sustainable solutions.

This fall, Ms. Stavinga and the committee will begin the long process of developing Source Protection Plans to protect municipal drinking water sources in the Mississippi and Rideau Valley areas. Call SOMMER at ext. 1147 or [sommer.robertson@mrsourcewater.ca](mailto:sommer.robertson@mrsourcewater.ca)

### Get Involved with the Source Protection Committee

With the appointment of the Chair of the Mississippi-Rideau SPC it's time to fill the other seats on the Committee. The 15-member Source Protection Committee will be made up of people representing municipalities (five seats), agriculture (two seats), industry/commercial (three seats) and all other interests (five seats). Applications are now being accepted for non-municipal seats and they are due October 8! Details and application form available at [www.mrsourcewater.ca](http://www.mrsourcewater.ca). Call Sommer at ext. 1147 or [sommer.robertson@mrsourcewater.ca](mailto:sommer.robertson@mrsourcewater.ca).

*"Janet will be a superb leader. We have worked with her on many water-related issues in the past and have great confidence in her ability and in her knowledge of our watersheds."*

Mark Burnham  
Chair, Mississippi Valley Conservation

## Trinity Supports Streams

Trinity Development Foundation donated \$12,500 to the City Stream Watch program for monitoring the health and conditions of some of Ottawa's most-neglected urban creeks. Funds supported the hiring of two summer positions to collect valuable information on the physical and biological features of these vulnerable streams. Once surveys are complete, possible rehabilitation projects will be identified. City Stream Watch encourages people to value and respect watercourses that flow through their communities. Thanks to Trinity Development Foundation for their community-minded gift. Call JENNIFER at ext. 1108 or [jennifer.lamoureux@rideauvalley.on.ca](mailto:jennifer.lamoureux@rideauvalley.on.ca).

## Topographic Surveys

RVCA staff surveyed Stream profiles on Kemptville Creek and Tay River this summer. The data will help improve the accuracy of RVCA computer models that estimate water surface elevations during droughts and floods. It will also assist in better understanding the effects of man-made structures or beaver dams, help us more accurately delineate flood hazard areas and evaluate how large water takings might affect aquatic local habitats. Call FERDOUS at ext. 1170 or [ferdous.ahmed@rideauvalley.on.ca](mailto:ferdous.ahmed@rideauvalley.on.ca).

## Green Backs for Greening!

Looking for a little financial help to plant trees on your idle land in rural Ottawa? The City of Ottawa and its conservation partners will be planting approximately 75,000 tree seedlings next spring through the Green Acres Program. Rural properties outside the city may be eligible for incentives as well. RVCA Forestry staff will visit landowners with one acre of land or more who are interested in planting a minimum of 500 trees or more. Call the LandOwner Resource Centre at 613-692-2390 or 1 800-384-5304 to participate in the spring planting season.

## Beaver Package

The Beaver Management information package has been sent out to landowners and other interested parties (lake associations, municipalities, etc). RVCA staff will track nuisance beaver calls, distribute the package to clients and landowners, as well as assist with advice on managing nuisance beavers and balancing the needs of the aquatic ecosystem. Call RUDY at ext. 1134 or [rudy.dyck@rideauvalley.on.ca](mailto:rudy.dyck@rideauvalley.on.ca).

## Rideau Canal: UNESCO World Heritage Site

Congratulations to Wendy Stewart (former RVCA Chair and Board Member) and team for their success in promoting the Rideau Canal as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. On June 27, 2007 John Baird, Minister of the Environment announced that UNESCO's World Heritage Committee has inscribed the Rideau Canal on the World Heritage List. The 19th-century canal covers 202 kilometres of the Rideau and Cataraqui rivers from Ottawa south to Kingston. It is the only canal dating from this period to remain operational with most of its original structures intact. Visit: [http://www.pc.gc.ca/lhn-nhs/on/rideau/plan/plan3\\_E.asp](http://www.pc.gc.ca/lhn-nhs/on/rideau/plan/plan3_E.asp).

## Water Levels on Otter Lake & Otter Creek

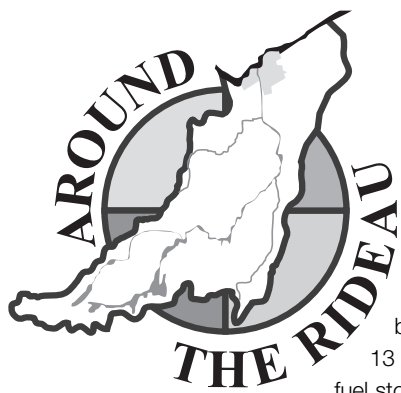
Rideau Lakes Township requested RVCA assistance due to complaints about high water levels on Otter Lake. Several roads and septic systems were at risk of flooding and damage. A survey of the creek found two beaver dams holding back water near the Otter Lake outlet. A licensed trapper removed eight beavers and took a 10-inch by three foot long portion off the top of both dams to reduce water levels and reduce flood risk.

Copies of the Otter Creek Survey Report have been sent to Rideau Lakes Township staff. RVCA will continue monitoring and keep in touch with the municipality. Call RUDY at ext. 1135 or [rudy.dyck@rideauvalley.on.ca](mailto:rudy.dyck@rideauvalley.on.ca).

## Rural Clean Water Programs

The Rideau Valley and Ottawa Rural Clean Water Program are well into the field season. The Project Review Committee has addressed 33 applications in the Rideau outside the City and 50 applications within the City of Ottawa, for a total of 83 projects.

**Ottawa RCWP** — Current grant allocations are as follows: City of Ottawa (Rideau watershed) = \$48,000 (for projects valued at \$316,000). City applications consist mainly of well work (upgrades, decommissioning and replacement of contaminated wells) — 24 projects, and septic replacements — 14 projects. The balance of the submissions has been a selection of farm projects. There have been nine farm and 41 non-farm projects addressed this year.



**Rideau Valley RCWP** — Current grant allocations: Rideau Valley (outside the City) = \$37,000 (for projects valued at \$190,500). Applications outside the city are split more evenly between well and septic projects (15 wells and 13 septic projects), along with two education, one fuel storage and two shoreline planting projects. Six of the 33 projects have been farm projects versus 27 non-farm projects. Call MARTHA at ext. 1136.

**Fall Water levels Still Low**

As we slip into autumn, streamflows continue to decline due to dry summer conditions. Most reservoir lake levels are below normal. It's important to keep up water conservation efforts. See current streamflow conditions online at [www.rideauvalley.on.ca](http://www.rideauvalley.on.ca).

**City Stormwater**

A long-term plan to guide the City of Ottawa with safe and effective stormwater management is being developed. The Stormwater Management Strategy (SWM) enters phase two of the three-stage process for completing stormwater policies. RVCA has been involved in the process as participants in the Technical Advisory Committee (TAG). Many of these policies go above and beyond the management of built infrastructure into the realm of natural stream corridor management, protection and restoration. The Stormwater Management Strategy's policies complement recommendations set out in the Lower Rideau Watershed Strategy. Call BRUCE at ext. 1103 or [bruce.reid@rideauvalley.on.ca](mailto:bruce.reid@rideauvalley.on.ca).

**Correction:**  
July/August's Around the Rideau erroneously stated that Meisel Woods Conservation Area is in South Frontenac, whereas it is actually in Central Frontenac. We apologize for the error.

**MAPLE Moving!**

MAPLE is moving its nursery and has to clear its remaining inventory of plants. They include six-inch pots of shrubby willow, red osier dogwood, Virginia creeper, nannyberry, and meadowsweet. The nursery is about two kilometres from the intersection of the North Shore Road with the Christie Lake Road (County Road 6) just east of the bridge over the Tay River. Stop by and pick up any plants you can use. The nursery isn't manned so plant pickup is relying on the honour system; please send a \$1 donation per pot and mail them to MAPLE, Inc., c/o AUSTIN SWEEZEY at 36 Mohawk Crescent, Nepean, ON K2H 7G6.

**Conservation Areas Update**

**New Trail at Meisel Woods!**

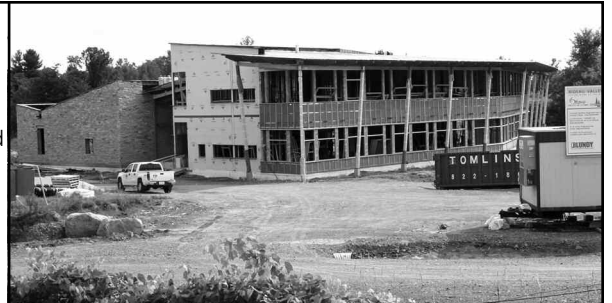
Hiking will be even better this fall at Meisel Woods Conservation Area. The Sandi Slater Memorial Walk will be sporting a brand new trail that will join two existing trails. The trail, along with the new bridge built this summer, will make the Meisel experience that much better. The Community Foundation of Greater Kingston and the Davies Charitable Foundation made this possible with their kind donation of \$5,000. Call CHARLES at ext. 1116 or [charles.billington@rideauvalley.on.ca](mailto:charles.billington@rideauvalley.on.ca).

**More Boardwalks for Baxter**

There'll be 40 more metres of boardwalk at Baxter this coming fall thanks to the HVA Environmental Fund. Construction of the new boardwalk is complete and it will be installed this fall. Come visit the Rideau River, wetlands, mixed forest, alder thickets, nut grove and more. Call CHARLES at ext. 1116 or [charles.billington@rideauvalley.on.ca](mailto:charles.billington@rideauvalley.on.ca).

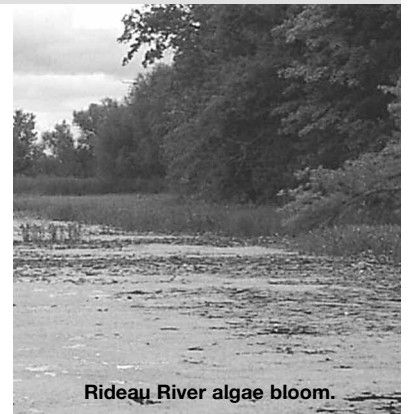
**Building Brief — RVCA Headquarters**

Progress continues on RVCA's new headquarters. Construction tenders are in for landscaping and septic. Completion is scheduled for late October. Work on the interior continues. Furniture will be delivered and installed in November. The move to the new office is still scheduled for the week of December 10. For more call CLIFF at ext. 1134 or [cliff.craig@rideauvalley.on.ca](mailto:cliff.craig@rideauvalley.on.ca).



**Algae — Too Much of a Good Thing?**

Algae are important. They are tiny aquatic plants that form the base of the food chain in lakes and rivers. They convert nutrients to organic matter and help to oxygenate the water. But too much of a good thing can be very bad! During warm weather, populations of algae can increase quickly to form large masses called "blooms." Blooms commonly occur in the late summer and early fall. Too much phosphorus in the water triggers these blooms. Phosphorus is food for algae and more food means more plants, more plants means more dead organic matter and decomposition which causes oxygen depletion degrading the entire aquatic ecosystem. It's a vicious cycle and phosphorus is the key. Reducing the amount of phosphorus entering the water is the most effective way to combat excessive algae growth. To reduce phosphorus, you can plant a shoreline buffer, reduce ornamental lawns, control overland runoff, stop using fertilizers and have your septic system inspected and pumped regularly. All these are excellent ways to reduce excessive algae. Call ANDREA at ext. 1173 or [andrea.klymko@rideauvalley.on.ca](mailto:andrea.klymko@rideauvalley.on.ca).



Rideau River algae bloom.



**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)

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