



Around the Rideau

Environmental Information For Municipalities In The Rideau Valley

January | February 2008

First SPC Meeting!

On January 10 Chair Janet Stavinga welcomed all 15 committee members and a great public turn out to the first Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Committee meeting. The committee meets the first Thursday of every month in 2008. Their first order of business is to develop Terms of Reference (ToR) to guide source protection planning over the next five years. Watch for opportunities in the spring to review and comment on the draft Terms of Reference. Meeting agendas and minutes can be found at www.mrsourcewater.ca. SOMMER has more at ext. 1147 or sommer.robertson@mrsourcewater.ca

... Conservation Ontario and its member Authorities have worked with the province and other stakeholders, including municipalities and the farm community, to provide expertise in developing the best approach to source protection. Source water protection builds on past science and studies and links directly to the water management programs the Conservation Authorities and their partner municipalities have been doing for years.

Conservation Ontario Media Release, July 2007

January Flood Watch

Unseasonably warm weather and precipitation in the first part of January resulted in RVCA issuing seven Watershed Condition Bulletins to advise residents of unstable conditions on area streams and lakes as well as the potential for some nuisance flooding. Water levels reached or exceeded bankfull state on most rivers and streams and a bit of top flooding occurred. The only reported nuisance flooding was on some access roads near Kemptonville. Meltwater from snow pack and additional precipitation infiltrated relatively frost-free soil and replenished groundwater supplies. Flows peaked around January 10 with the return of more seasonable weather. January 14 marked the end of the flood watch. Staff continue to monitor river flows and watershed conditions as part of the flood forecasting and warning program. Weather forecasts are monitored and estimates of river flows and water levels are prepared on a daily basis. Messages are issued as required. PATRICK at ext. 1110 or patrick.larson@rvca.ca.

2007 City Stream Watch Report Available

Activities of the City Stream Watch program for 2007 are summarized in a 138-page report. Seven streams were watched in 2007: Nepean Creek, Cranberry Creek, Taylor Creek and major tributaries of Greens Creek, Black, Mud, Borthwick and Ramsay Creek. The report highlights macro-stream assessments, as well as fish, aquatic invertebrate sampling and stream clean-ups and rehabilitation projects on the seven streams. In 2008 the program will return to the original four streams surveyed in 2003: Sawmill Creek, Cardinal Creek, Black Rapids Creek and Mud Creek (Manotick). Sampling and training will begin in May. Six Ottawa groups partner to run the program: Heron Park Community Association, RVCA, City of Ottawa, Ottawa Flyfishers Society, Rideau River Roundtable and the National Defence Headquarters Fish and Game Club. A huge thank you to all the volunteers that make this program such a success! You can read the report online at www.rvca.ca/programs/streamwatch or call JENN at ext. 1108 or jennifer.lamoureux.rvca.ca.

RVCA Priorities for 2008

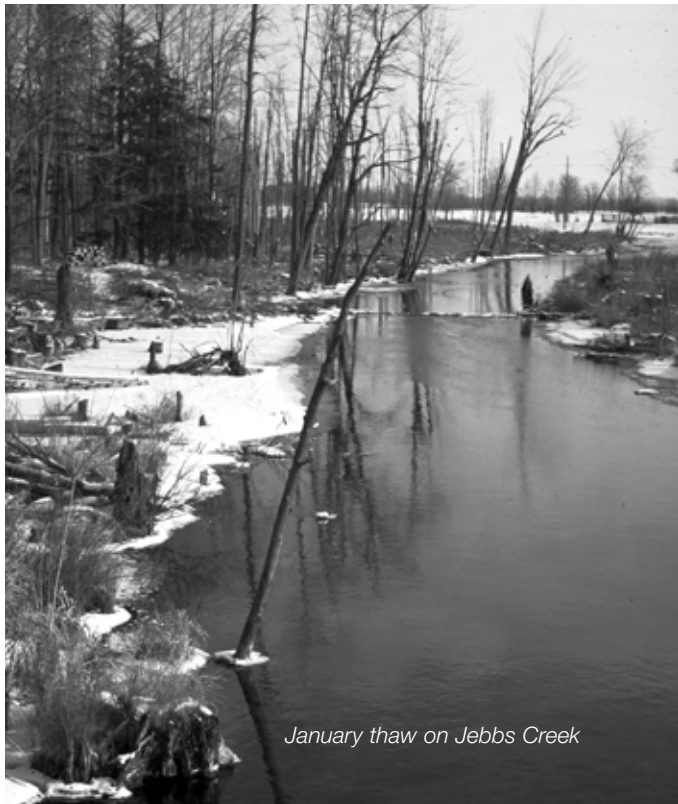
Taking Care of the Rideau Watershed, RVCA Priorities for 2008 is available for download on our website. The strategy highlights 2007 accomplishments, plans for 2008 and a look ahead to 2009 and beyond. Key deliverables focus on water protection, maintaining quality levels in baseline work while pursuing special projects and deliverables based on local needs and needs for our watershed's ever-changing environment. CHARLES ext. 1116 or charles.billington@rvca.ca.

Now Under one Roof!

The RVCA is open for business at its new headquarters located at 3889 Rideau Valley Drive just north of Manotick. All RVCA and partnership services are now merged under one roof — rather than under the previous seven. One building, one phone number, one fax — one point of contact! You'll find the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority, Ottawa Septic System Office, LandOwner Resource Centre, Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Office and the Ottawa Stewardship Council (Joffre Côté — Ministry of Natural Resources) all at one convenient address. Visit us at 3889 Rideau Valley Drive (corner of Prince of Wales and Rideau Valley Drive) or mail us at Box 599, 3889 Rideau Valley Drive, Manotick, Ontario K4M 1A5. Phone: 613-692-3571 or 1-800-267-3504, Fax: 613-692-0831, e-mail postmaster@rvca.ca.

Website and E-mail Changes

The informative and ever-useful RVCA website will migrate from www.rideauvalley.on.ca to www.rvca.ca. The old address will remain active as we move to www.rvca.ca. Staff e-mail addresses will also change from @rideauvalley.on.ca to @rvca.ca. As in the website, the old addresses will remain active but it's a good time to update your address book.



January thaw on Jebbs Creek



2nd Annual Watershed Checkup Coming!

The Rideau Valley Annual Watershed Checkup 2007 is our second publication highlighting RVCA's data about the features and functions of our valley's environment. This attractive 12-page document is a tool for sharing the information we have and use to do our environmental work. This year we are looking at four items — reforestation, wetlands, municipal drains and flood risk mapping. The RVCA continues to build knowledge and understanding of the watershed and how it is changing. Monitoring programs will help us better understand our problem areas, develop solutions, make sound management decisions and track our progress over time. The document will be available on our website soon. DIANE at ext. 1126 or diane.downey@rvca.ca has more.

Christie Lake Secures Support!

Christie Lake Association has been selected as the third lake to receive assistance under the Lake Management Planning Program (LMPP). The program provides customized guidance and technical expertise to lake groups developing lake management plans throughout the region. Based on lake community feedback, lake plans recommend stewardship actions that address issues such as water quality and land use regulation. The overall goal of a lake plan is to protect the health and character of a lake through building valuable partnerships with municipal authorities and other government and non-government organizations and encouraging resident involvement in protecting the lake. Throughout the summer and fall of 2007, the Christie Lake Association established a LMP Committee and approved a budget to develop their lake plan. One prime goal of the committee is to improve communication with property owners and lake users to build support for the plan. The Committee surveyed lake residents to give them the opportunity to express their views on issues

and challenges facing the lake, the survey received an impressive 40 percent return. You can keep up to date with the plan visit www.christielakeassociation.com. Call ANDREA at ext. 1173 or andrea.klymko@rvca.ca.

Trees Ontario Landowner Workshop

Planting trees reduces your "environmental footprint" and fights climate change. Learn how you can get financial assistance to plant trees and how you can reduce your property taxes by up to 75 percent on forested properties greater than 10 acres. This free workshop focuses on incentive programs for tree planting, planting techniques and the Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program (MFTIP). The workshop will be held on Wednesday, March 5, 2008 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Trees Ontario, through RVCA and the Ferguson Forest Centre, will host this workshop to be held at the Ferguson Forest Centre, 275 County Road 44, RR #4, Kemptville. DAN ext. 1124 or dan.cooper@rvca.ca.

Spring Water Awareness Program

As warmer spring weather approaches, snow and ice begin to melt and waterways fill up with cold, fast moving water. These areas can be unsafe and it's important to make kids aware of their dangers. RVCA is offering a free-of-charge, in-school Spring Water Awareness Program (SWAP) to junior divisions of schools in the Rideau River watershed from March 17 through April 4, 2008. This safety program teaches why spring water and ice are dangerous, how to stay away from waterways, especially in the spring, and what to do if water or ice-related accidents occur. The program is 45 minutes in length. Call PETER (Baxter Conservation Area) 613-489-3592 or peter.goddard@rvca.ca. or REBECCA (Foley Mountain Conservation Area) 613-273-3255 or rebecca.whitman@rvca.ca.

Groundwater Brief

Nearly three million people in Ontario use and depend on groundwater every day. It supplies us with drinking water and water for domestic, agricultural and industrial uses. In the Rideau watershed we are fortunate to have large quantities of groundwater stored in underground aquifers. And it is very important to conserve and protect this resource. Contamination can occur from industrial discharges, septic systems, wells and underground oil and gas storage tanks. Urban and rural runoff contains pollutants such as road salt, fertilizers or pesticides that can also pollute groundwater. Municipal drinking water systems can treat some of these pollutants but not all. The cost of cleanup from an environmental and health standpoint can be huge. Keeping groundwater clean is the best and most economical solution. How do we do this? The Ontario Government has made protection a priority with the passing of the *Clean Water Act*, designed to protect our local

sources of drinking water from both contamination and depletion. There are also a number of things that you can do to protect groundwater. Here are a few useful suggestions:

- Use nontoxic, biodegradable soaps and household cleansers, or try environmentally-friendly alternatives
- Recycle, as the less we put into the landfill the less leachate is created that could potentially contaminate our groundwater sources
- Reduce or eliminate fertilizers and pesticides from your lawn care regimen as these chemicals leach into the soil and into our groundwater
- Maintain your septic system

To learn more about local groundwater protection efforts, visit the Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Region at www.mrsourcewater.ca or call SOMMER ext. 1147 or sommer.robertson@mrsourcewater.ca.



Correction

The November/December *Around the Rideau* identified Ron Williamson, COEO member, congratulating Peter Goddard on receiving the Dorothy Walker Award. It turns out that this is Grant Linney, Vice President of Council of Outdoor Educators (COEO). Our apologies to Mr. Linney and Mr. Williamson for the error.



Around the Rideau

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Office de protection de la nature de la
vallée de la rivière Rideau

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 692-3571 or 1-800-267-3504 www.rvca.ca

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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