



Around the Rideau

Environmental Information For Municipalities In The Rideau Valley

May | June 2008

Source Protection Regions Draft Terms of Reference — Comments Wanted!

Municipalities and the public are invited to review and comment on the draft Terms of Reference for the **Mississippi Valley Source Protection Area** and the **Rideau Valley Source Protection Area**. There are several ways you can do this:

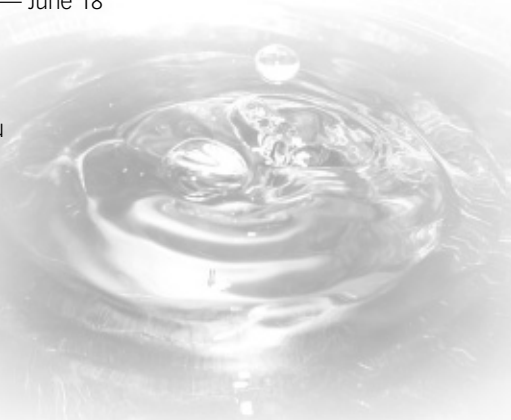
- **Online** — www.mrsourcewater.ca/tor/index.html, download the documents above and submit your comments
- **Hard Copies** — hard copies are available at our offices (8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.) or by calling 613-692-3571 or 1-800-267-3504 ext. 1147
 - Mississippi Valley Conservation — 4175 Highway 511, Lanark
 - Rideau Valley Conservation Authority — 3889 Rideau Valley Drive, Manotick
- **Public Meetings** — attend one of 10 public meetings in early June, times are from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. with a formal presentation at 6:30 p.m.
 - Almonte — Old Town Hall, 14 Bridge St., Almonte — June 3
 - Perth Town Hall — 80 Gore St. E, Perth — June 4
 - Carp Fairgrounds — 3790 Carp Road, Carp — June 9
 - Smiths Falls Legion — 7 Main St. E, Smiths Falls — June 10
 - Michele Heights Community Centre — 2955 Michele Drive, Ottawa (urban) — June 11
 - Merrickville Community Centre — 106 Read St., Merrickville — June 12
 - Richmond Fairgrounds — Dining Hall, 6107 Perth St., Richmond — June 16
 - Carleton Place Town Hall — 175 Bridge St., Carleton Place — June 17
 - North Grenville Municipal Centre — County Rd 44, Kemptville — June 18
 - Westport Senior's Hall — 30 Bedford St., Westport — June 19

Our open houses will also highlight:

- where your drinking water comes from
- what the new Clean Water Act is and what it means to you
- how to access funding for stewardship projects

Submit your Comments to:

Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Committee
c/o Sommer Casgrain-Robertson, Communications Specialist
3889 Rideau Valley Drive, PO Box 599, Manotick, Ontario, K4M 1A5
Telephone: 613-692-3571 or 1-800-267-3504 ext. 1147
Fax: 613-692-0831 Email: sommer.robertson@mrsourcewater.ca



Doors Open Ottawa

This annual peek into special buildings around Ottawa is going green in 2008! This year's event will showcase the growing number of new and retrofit green, sustainable buildings including the amazing Rideau Valley Conservation Centre, the Great Canadian Theatre Company, Mountain Equipment Coop and the Britannia Water Purification Plant on June 7 and 8. Check the website for details and the complete list of participating buildings at www.ottawa.ca/doorsopen.

Stream Watchers Trained!

The City Stream Watch program held two successful "Stream Watch" training sessions on May 10 and 24 at Sawmill Creek in the City of Ottawa. Volunteers were trained in easy and basic techniques of stream assessment and learned about other projects planned for the season. It was a great opportunity to learn about and help care for local streams and also meet other dedicated stream stewards. The City Stream Watch program is a community-based partnership, which includes the City of Ottawa, Heron Park Community Association, the National Defence Fish & Game Club, the Ottawa Flyfishers Society, the Rideau Roundtable, and Rideau Valley Conservation Authority with the generous support of the Monterey Inn Resort & Conference Centre. Call JULIA ext. 1180 or julia.sutton@rvca.ca.



Wash/Wake Survey

Parks Canada wants to know what you think of wash/wake issues caused by boaters on the Rideau. The survey asks two questions:

1. Have you had a negative experience on, or along, the Rideau Canal as a result of wash/wake caused by boaters?
2. Have you personally witnessed damage to the natural environment, as a result of wash/wake caused by boaters?



All answers are important and be sure to include details (where, when, what, by whom). E-mail your input to rideau.comments@pc.gc.ca, or fax to 613-283-0677 or mail to Parks Canada, Rideau Canal Office, 34 Beckwith Street South, Smiths Falls, ON K7A 2A8. Plans are to collect and analyze information, create a working group, work with stakeholders and with regulatory agencies, produce a report on boating practices and coordinate remedial action and/or regulatory action where needed. For more information visit the Friends of the Rideau website at www.rideaufriends.com/wake-survey.html.



Now Available Online!

- *RVCA Annual Report* — This eight-page report highlights RVCA's accomplishments in 2007— from the move to our new headquarters to working with our many watershed partners to ensure environmental quality in the Rideau watershed. www.rvca.ca.
- *Annual Rideau Valley Watershed Checkup 2007* — This 12-page booklet outlines watershed information on reforestation, wetlands, municipal drains and flood risk mapping in an easy-to-read, colourful format. www.rvca.ca.

CONSERVATION ONTARIO and its 36 member Conservation Authorities, along with their industry and non-profit partners, work hard every day to monitor our environment, conduct research, influence public policy and, most important, deliver programs and services that guard Ontario's water today for a better, healthier tomorrow.

Special Information Supplement, Globe and Mail, June 27, 2007

Hurst Marina Goes Green!

Congratulations to Hurst Marina who was recently awarded five green leaf anchors as part of an environmental assessment through the Green Marine Program.

Forests Help Prevent Floods

Trees have many benefits: they lock carbon away and help manage global warming, provide stress relief, raise property value, reduce energy costs, reduce erosion and they help prevent flooding. In the spring, trees slow snow melt allowing water to be slowly absorbed into the ground instead of quickly running off to our rivers, creeks and streams. The faster water runs off, the higher risk is for flooding. Trees absorb water from the soil, allowing it to store more rain and melt water. The roots hold soil in place, reducing erosion. Rainwater stays on the leaves and can evaporate directly into the air. Nice little multi-taskers. DAN for more at ext. 1124 or dan.cooper@rvca.ca.

Rideau Canal Water Levels

Water levels on the Rideau Canal were scheduled to be raised below Black Rapids lock station, including Dow's Lake, on April 28. The reaches between Burritt's Rapids and Black Rapids lock stations were raised on May 5, 2008. The Canal officially opens on May 16, 2008. For information contact Marcel Bélanger at Parks Canada 613-692-2581.

Can Outdoor Lighting Harm The Environment By Robert Dick, 613-283-7815

My grandfather purchased our family property on Rideau Lake in the 1920s. In the 1960s, the stars reflected off the water as we fell asleep. By the 1980s, this had all changed. The lake had evolved into a virtual urban subdivision with fast boats, outdoor sound systems and lighting systems that were left on after residents had gone to bed. The stars were gone. But we can bring them back?

The waterway is an important ecosystem that supports wildlife both in the water and on adjacent lands. There are development setbacks in place to protect this land. But few consider how outdoor lights impact the nighttime environment.

Dark is just as important as daylight to wildlife. And, our ubiquitous outdoor light damages the river and lake environments in two ways.

From the human point of view, bright lights along the shoreline make it difficult to navigate because the glare prevents us from seeing navigation markers and channel

hazards. The second impact is on plants and animals. Fish are attracted to the light and away from their natural feeding depths. Artificial lights distort fish and plant ability to perceive hours of daylight and confuses the cues for seasonal change — plants flower too late (and some cases too early) for proper pollination.

But what about security lights? Although outdoor lighting makes some people feel safe — the light actually puts their property on display. Thieves and vandals don't even need a flashlight to see what they are doing — the homeowner provides all the light they need. Besides, most people leave outdoors lights on when they go to bed. The lights are on, but no one is actually monitoring the property! Security must be monitored to be effective.

Here are some tips to protect the nighttime environment, enhance safety and improve security.

1. Keep lights back from the shoreline and shield them so they don't shine onto or across the water.
2. Replace or shield outdoor lights so they don't shine on your neighbour's property or into their home (especially their bedrooms). Reduce bulb wattage.
3. Turn outdoor lights off when you are indoors.
4. Use motion detector switches to trigger lights — they will signal someone's presence.

All this will help save electricity and bring back the stars!



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.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:

The Base Mapping Co. Ltd, Nepean 613-723-8100

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