



Around the Rideau

Environmental Information For Municipalities In The Rideau Valley

September | October 2008

Preventive Maintenance of the Brewer Park Flood Control System

The Brewer Park dyke (located on the north side of the Rideau River from Bronson Avenue to Osborne Street in Old Ottawa South) had some summer improvements that will help in wet springs. Initially built in 1976, the earthen berm protects flood vulnerable residential areas, office buildings and park facilities against regular spring flooding. Inspections revealed that a 60 metre long section of the berm needed some simple, yet important maintenance to ensure that it will not be overtopped during future floods of

the kind it was intended to withstand. It's height needed to be raised by as much as about 30 centimetres .

Both the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (OMNR) and RVCA are committed to maintaining flood and erosion control infrastructure. The repairs were planned and carried out by RVCA's own engineering and field operations staff, to keep costs down while providing a quality end product. OMNR provided a grant to cover 50 percent of the project's cost.



Before — Brewer Park Berm

Used frequently as a trail for park users, an informal, worn pathway of exposed soil along the top of the berm was replaced by a more durable, yet environmentally-friendly surface of interlocking pavers.

Next up for the Brewer Park flood control system — replacement of the 33 year old pumps in the stormwater pump station, which are activated whenever the river level is high, to prevent flooding of basements through the local drainage system. The City of Ottawa's Public Works and Services department is managing this work, using the services of hired engineering consultants and contractors. RVCA has secured provincial (MNR — WECL Program) funding to cover 50 percent of the cost.



After — upgraded berm with permeable walkway.

With the completion of these preventive maintenance projects, the Brewer Park Flood Control System can be relied upon to provide protection against 1:100 year flood levels in this flood vulnerable area of Old Ottawa South for years to come.

For details, contact BRUCE at ext.1103 or bruce.reid@rvca.ca.



April 10, 2008 — the berm is ready for flood activity. The Rideau River is at a 1:5 year flood stage.

Meisel Woods Opens Phase II

With many years in the making, the Meisel Woods bridge is now in place and ready for public use and the trail around the park is substantially complete. The RVCA's Meisel Woods Conservation Area, located near Crow Lake Village, Ontario, has seen a number of generous donations that allowed for trails, parking, benches and kiosks to develop over the past five years.

donor of this magnificent piece of public land now called the Meisel Woods Conservation Area. Then, in May 2003, the Sandi Slater Memorial Fund was set up to build a trail loop around the lake in memory of a vibrant woman known for her enthusiasm, bright smile and love of this wilderness area.

The 120 acre property was donated to the Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation in September 2000 by Dr. John Meisel, Professor Emeritus in Political Science at Queens University and

Special thanks to the Community Foundation of Greater Kingston, the Davies Charitable Foundation and Mr. Joe Slater and the Crow Lake Community Volunteers.

CHARLES has more at ext. 1116 or charles.billington@rvca.ca.



Awards Gala on October 22

The three Eastern Ontario conservation authorities (Mississippi, Rideau and South Nation) will hold the first ever Tri-Valley Conservation Awards Gala. Join us on October 22 at the RVCA Conservation Centre at 7 pm to

celebrate the achievements of environmental leaders in the Mississippi, Rideau and South Nation watersheds. Cost of the Gala is \$10 and includes the reception and a cash bar. All proceeds from the gala go towards tree planting in the three watersheds. For more details, contact CHARLES at ext. 1116 or charles.billington@rvca.ca.

Lake Links Workshop

Join us for the seventh annual Lake Links Workshop on October 25, 2008 at the Perth Lion's Hall, 50 Arthur Street, Perth, Ontario. This informative workshop is an opportunity for stewardship groups across the five eastern Ontario watersheds to share information and address common issues. Registration and networking starts bright and early at 9:00 am and the event should wrap-up by 3:00 pm. Cost of the workshop is \$10 per person and includes lunch and refreshments. Participants can look forward to hands-on workshops, updates and information sharing and a variety of guest speakers. To register contact the Centre for Sustainable Watersheds at info@watersheds.ca or call 613-272-5136. ANDREA has more details at ext.1173 or andrea.klymko@rvca.ca.

SepticSmart — A Homeowner's Guide to Septic Systems

Hot off the press is a great new guide for property owners with an onsite wastewater system. Get your free copy by calling KELLIE or MEGAN at 613-692-3571 ext. 1128 or 1132. This book was written and designed at the Conservation Authority in cooperation with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs and the Ontario Ministry of the Environment.

Flood Prep — Now's the Time

It's hard to think of cold, wet weather, but if you are in the floodplain **now is the time to prepare for a spring flood!** It is the RVCA's job to make people aware of flooding from our rivers, creeks and streams, but it is up to each landowner to develop a flood plan specific to their property and their needs.

Here are some tips on how to prepare for a flood and develop a flood plan:

- contact an RVCA Information Specialist and find out if you are in the floodplain, understand your property and how it will be impacted by high waters on rivers, streams and creeks (613-692-3571 ext. 1128 or 1132)
- familiarize yourself with flood warnings and what they mean (visit www.rvca.html/flood/index.html)
- join the RVCA's flood advisory email list for up-to-date flood messages (e-mail diane.downey@rvca.ca)
- learn about what your municipality will do to assist residents in times of high water
- think about what you would want to move to safety during a flood
- consider if you are willing to sandbag your property — who would do it? Where would you get bags and sand? etc.
- prepare an emergency plan for your family (safe exits, meeting places, emergency contacts, disaster supplies, etc.)
- prepare an emergency kit of essential items (copies of home insurance documents, batteries, radio, bottled water, etc.)
- know how to turn off your gas, electricity and water supplies

Blobs in Rideau River A-Okay



After over 20 years living along the river, Lajla Harlow had never seen anything quite like it. Floating along her shore were several gelatinous masses of various sizes.

Although more than a little odd, these blobs are a grouping of thousands of tiny harmless invertebrates that cluster together to form a jelly-like mass. They are called *Pectinatella magnifica* which are bryozoa or "moss animals" that thrive during warm summer months by eating algae and tiny aquatic animals.

The hermaphrodites die by the end of summer after fertilizing themselves, leaving resting spores to reboot the process next summer. And the best news is that they are a sign of good water quality as they don't tolerate poor water quality. So if you see such a blob, not to worry — it isn't part of an alien invasion, it is just mother nature doing her best to keep Lajla and the rest of us on our toes.

Pectinatella magnifica found along the shore of the Rideau River on September 4, 2008.

Photo: courtesy Lajla Harlow



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:



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