



# Around the Rideau

Environmental Information For Municipalities In The Rideau Valley

January | February 2009

*It is the RVCA's job to make people aware of potential 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.*

## Spring Floods — It's Time To Prepare!

The RVCA is committed to providing local agencies and the public advance notice and information so they can respond to potential flooding and flood emergencies. The RVCA Flood Forecasting and Warning System operates 12 months a year. Now is the time that we check our equipment and review our plans in preparation for the 2009 spring snowmelt.

Effective flood forecasting depends on reliable and timely data. The RVCA uses several tools to forecast floods: stream gauges, snowpack measurements, weather forecasts and numerical models. Everything must be operational to do the job well.

**Stream Gauges** — water levels and flows are continuously recorded at 15 monitoring stations on the Rideau and its tributaries.

**Snowpack Measurements** — the water content of the snowpack is measured twice a month at five locations by RVCA technicians. An additional six sites are monitored by Rideau Canal, Parks Canada staff.

**Weather Forecasts** — information on expected temperatures and rainfall amounts is provided by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (OMNR) and Environment Canada. OMNR's Streamflow Monitoring Centre tracks conditions across the Province and sends alerts to local Conservation Authorities when heavy rain or snowmelt is expected.

**Numerical Models** — simple equations, charts and graphs as well as complex computer simulations are used by RVCA hydrologists to predict river flows, water levels and flood conditions to be expected in flood vulnerable communities.

**When warranted, RVCA will convey useful information to municipal emergency managers and the public. Three types of messages are used:**

**Watershed Condition Bulletins** — contain information about current conditions in the watershed that set the stage for the possibility of flooding (if the right weather patterns should develop). *"Be informed and aware."*

**Flood Advisories** — when it is perceived that flooding could result from an approaching weather system which is expected to bring heavy rain or warm air causing a rapid snowmelt. *"Be prepared to activate your flood response plans, if it becomes necessary."*

**Flood Warnings** — when it is perceived that flooding conditions definitely will be experienced. *"Activate your flood response procedures now."*

Now is the time for municipalities to review their flood emergency response plans to ensure that all employees, equipment and communications are in place — just in case. Property owners in flood vulnerable areas should have a flood response plan ready that is specific to their property and needs. Should a flood event occur, the first response is up to the individual homeowners. If the flood conditions develop to a point where homeowners or occupants require assistance, municipal Emergency Response Plans may need to be activated to help those in need.

Flood forecasting is just one of the ways that Conservation Authorities help manage property damages, public safety risks and community disruption caused by floods. The RVCA also identifies flood vulnerable areas, regulates new development and promotes prudent land use on and adjacent to local flood plains.

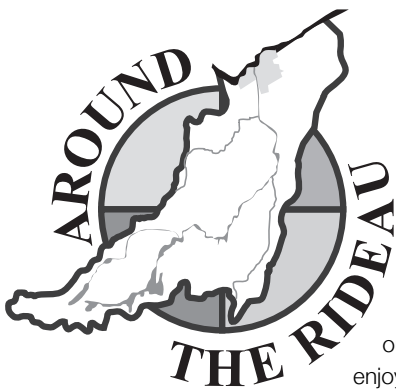
### Worried about spring flooding?

Have flood messages sent directly to your email or fax. Contact DIANE at 613-692-3571 or 1-800-267-3504 ext. 1126 or [diane.downey@rvca.ca](mailto:diane.downey@rvca.ca) to be added to our list.

**Is your home in a flood vulnerable area?** Contact a Resource Specialist at 613-692-3571 or 1-800-267-3504 — KELLIE at ext. 1128 or MEGAN at ext. 1132.

**Want to see current streamflow conditions?** Visit our website at [www.rvca.ca/flood/index.html](http://www.rvca.ca/flood/index.html)





## “How to” Clinic for Snowshoers

Head up the Mountain, Foley Mountain that is, for a snowshoeing clinic. It is a great outdoor activity, one you are more likely to enjoy when you know how to do it right! Learn the basics of walking, kick turns, side steps, the herringbone, trail breaking — and not to mention the ever popular how to fall and how to get up!!!

This 1.5 hour clinic also includes some of the history of snowshoeing, how new technologies have changed equipment, how to prepare for outdoor experiences and an interpreter guided hike through Foley Mountain. It's a great time in the great outdoors.

Two clinics are available: Thursday, February 5, 2009 – 10:00 a.m. and Saturday, February 21, 2009 – 10:00 a.m. (we apologize if our publication arrives past these dates). The cost is \$4 per person or \$12 per family (up to five related people — recommended for those nine years old and up but can be altered if required to suit younger ages) and this includes a complimentary snowshoe rental. Pre-registration is required and will close three days prior to each clinic. Contact REBECCA at 613-273-3255 or [rebecca.whitman@rvca.ca](mailto:rebecca.whitman@rvca.ca).



*"I love the deep silence of the midwinter woods. It is a stillness you can rest your whole weight against ... This silence is so profound you are sure it will hold and last."*

*Florence Page Jaques  
Snowshoe Country, 1944*



## 2009 Conservation Area Passes Available

Grab your winter woolies and hit the trails at one of RVCA's seven developed Conservation Areas. The \$40 annual pass gives unlimited access — that's four seasons of fun. Now's the time to ski and snowshoe, but pond studies, picnics and beach basking are only months away. To get your annual pass, call us at 613-692-3571 or 1-800-267-3504, ext. 1100 or visit [www.rvca.ca](http://www.rvca.ca).

## Spring Water Awareness Program

Due to overwhelming popularity, the RVCA's Spring Water Awareness Program is back for it's second year this March. This safety program teaches junior school-aged children why spring water and ice are dangerous, how to stay away from waterways and what to do if water or ice-related accidents occur. It is 45 minutes that give valuable "stream-smarts" for kids. Call Peter (Baxter Conservation Area) at 613-489-3592, [peter.goddard@rvca.ca](mailto:peter.goddard@rvca.ca) or Rebecca (Foley Mountain Conservation Area) at 613-273-3255 or [rebecca.whitman@rvca.ca](mailto:rebecca.whitman@rvca.ca) to learn more.

## Onsite Wastewater Conference

The 10<sup>th</sup> annual Ontario Onsite Wastewater Conference and Exhibition will be held March 1 – 4 at the Sheraton Conference Centre in Richmond Hill, Ontario. This year's theme is "Year of the Installer" and is touted as a must attend conference for anyone in the onsite wastewater business. For more information or to download a registration form, visit [www.oowa.org](http://www.oowa.org).

## Shutter Bugs in the Jock River

Shutter Bugs — primary and secondary students armed with cameras — are invading the Jock River Watershed to participate in the Friends of the Jock River Photo Contest. The subject of the competition is "Appreciation of the Jock River." Hopefully the young competitors will become more aware of the environment and the Jock River as they try to take the perfect snap. The deadline for photos is May 19, 2009. For more details on this Friends of the Jock River project, visit [www.jockriver.org](http://www.jockriver.org).

## Website and E-mail Changes

A year ago, the RVCA changed its website from [www.rideauvalley.on.ca](http://www.rideauvalley.on.ca) to [www.rvca.ca](http://www.rvca.ca). The old site remained active, but not for much longer!!! Add [www.rvca.ca](http://www.rvca.ca) to your favorites list.

Similarly, staff e-mails are now exclusively using the [rvca.ca](http://rvca.ca) suffix (first name.last name@rvca.ca). So, if your mail to us is bouncing back it is time to update your address book! For a complete staff listing with e-mail addresses visit: [www.rvca.ca/about/staff\\_list.html](http://www.rvca.ca/about/staff_list.html).



# Around the Rideau

**Rideau Valley Conservation Authority**  
**Office de protection de la nature de la**  
**vallée de la rivière Rideau**

Box 599, 3889 Rideau Valley Drive, Manotick, ON K4M 1A5  
692-3571 or 1-800-267-3504 [www.rvca.ca](http://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

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.