



# Around the Rideau

Environmental Information For Municipalities In The Rideau Valley

July | August 2009

## Unsung Environmental Heros

There are tons of people who go quietly about their daily business while at the same time reducing their impact on the environment . . . water conservation, reducing energy consumption, planting trees, carbon neutral conferences, companies who retrofit offices with the environment in mind, Scouts and Guides who recycle everything, teachers who demonstrate environmental leadership, and on and on it goes. The Tri-Valley Conservation Awards want to shine a little recognition on these community leaders at a Conservation Gala to be held in Almonte Old Town Hall on October 21. Nomination forms from any website: Mississippi ([www.mvc.on.ca](http://www.mvc.on.ca)), Rideau ([www.rvca.ca](http://www.rvca.ca)) or South Nation ([www.nation.on.ca](http://www.nation.on.ca)). Contact Charles for details at [charles.billington@rvca.ca](mailto:charles.billington@rvca.ca) or ext 1116. Nominations close September 11.

## Nearby Conservation Areas

Looking for a little grass, sand or forest trail for a picnic, a tan or some good old-fashioned peace and quiet? Look no farther than the local Conservation Areas scattered around the Rideau Valley from Crow Lake to Westport to Rideau Ferry to Baxter to Chapman Mills in Ottawa. RVCA has many nearby wilderness and developed properties to visit, to wander and to enjoy with your family. There is a Day Use fee of \$5 per vehicle at many of the properties or, to really enjoy your local areas, a \$40 Annual Pass which gives you unlimited access to all areas and boat launches for a full year. Check out the brochure and much more information on the RVCA website at [www.rvca.ca](http://www.rvca.ca). Explore and enjoy!

## Regatta Returns to Rideau Ferry

Join the Rideau Ferry Yacht Club on August 15 and 16 as the historical Rideau Ferry Regatta returns to the Big Rideau. The RVCA's Rideau Ferry Conservation Area becomes the spot to see historic Vintage Grand Prix hydroplanes plus many other exciting inboard and outboard race boats as they race. To learn more, contact Scott Cameron at [rffc@sympatico.ca](mailto:rffc@sympatico.ca) or 613-283-9107. For regular Conservation Area users, annual passes will not be valid that day as an event fee is being charged.

## TEAM DEPOT Struts Their Stuff at Chapman Mills Conservation Area



A huge thank you to the volunteers from Home Depot who rolled up their sleeves, grabbed some tools and completed a few renovations at the Chapman Mills Conservation Area. The enthusiastic group rebuilt picnic tables, painted the picnic shelter, resurfaced the trails with stone dust and built a new bench at the fishing platform. The hands-on efforts of TEAM DEPOT are greatly appreciated. For details on how your business can volunteer at a local conservation area, contact Kristy at [kristy.giles@rvca.ca](mailto:kristy.giles@rvca.ca) or ext 1178.

## Regulation Maps for Public Review

Two information sessions are scheduled for the public to review and comment on the RVCA's draft regulation limits mapping.

- ▶ New regulation limits mapping has been prepared for Barnes Creek, Kemptville Creek, Kemptville Creek (North Branch) in North Grenville and Augusta Townships; this is further to the flood plain mapping information presented to the public last fall.
- ▶ Revised or extended mapping is available for Blueberry Creek (a tributary of the Tay River in Tay Valley Township immediately west of Perth) and the Rideau River (in and around the Separated Town of Smiths Falls).
- ▶ Some wetland boundaries are being adjusted in conjunction with a recent review by MNR of wetland boundaries in a number of areas (mostly in the City of Ottawa).

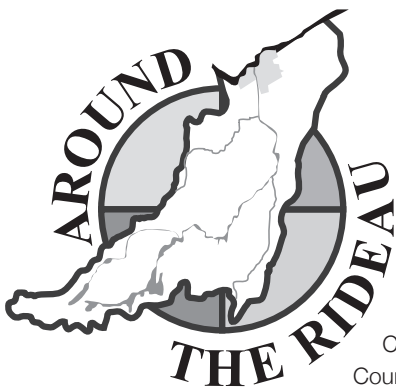
The RVCA is looking for local input and information to help finetune hazard limits and the associated regulatory limits. The first open house is Tuesday, September 29, 2009 from 3:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Smiths Falls Legion. The second is Wednesday, September 30, 2009 from 3:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Maplewood Community Hall in Oxford Mills. You can also book an appointment to view the draft maps from October 5 to 9 at the RVCA head office in Manotick by calling Kellie at 613-692-3571 extension 1128. For more information, contact Don Maciver at [don.maciver@rvca.ca](mailto:don.maciver@rvca.ca) or ext 1105.

## New! Shoreline Naturalization Program

Are you a waterfront property owner? Interested in naturalizing your piece of shore? The RVCA's Shoreline Naturalization Program provides simple, cost-effective advice and hands-on guidance on how-to enhance or naturalize your shoreline. You may be eligible for a one-on-one site visit. RVCA staff will help you develop a shoreline planting plan that harmonizes your land use needs with the concepts of naturalization. The program also provides financial assistance (75 per cent to a maximum \$1,000) for planning, purchasing and planting of approved projects. This isn't just for landowners! Lake associations, river groups and other not-for-profit groups are also eligible for assistance with projects including shoreline demonstration sites, shrub handouts and planting days. For more information, contact Andrea at [andrea.klymko@rvca.ca](mailto:andrea.klymko@rvca.ca) or ext 1173.

## Christie Lake Releases "State of Lake" Report

The Christie Lake community has reached an important milestone in their lake planning process with the release of the Christie Lake 'State of the Lake' Report. The information included in this report will be used as the foundation for the lake community, decision-makers and stakeholders to develop sustainable land use recommendations and stewardship actions to improve the health and protect the special character of Christie Lake. The community-developed recommendations and actions will be included in a long-term action plan, the Christie Lake Stewardship Plan, that will be implemented by the community and its partners. More information can be found on the lake association website at [www.christielakeassociation.com](http://www.christielakeassociation.com) or contact Andrea at 1173 or [andrea.klymko@rvca.ca](mailto:andrea.klymko@rvca.ca).



## Celebrating LEED Gold

Mark Hutchinson (left), National Manager of the Canada Green Building Council, unveiled the RVCA

Headquarter's LEED gold plaque in the presence of (left to right) Steve Desroches (Ottawa Councillor for Gloucester/South Nepean Ward), Ken Graham (Councillor for the Town of Smiths Falls and RVCA Vice-Chair), Alan Arbuckle (RVCA Chair), John Miller (past RVCA Chair and representative for Tay Valley Township), Glenn Brooks (Ottawa Councillor for Rideau Ward) and Merrickville-Wolford Mayor Doug Struthers.



Photo courtesy of Jean-Pierre Lafleur, Chris Simmonds Architect.

## Be Septic Smart

Did you know there are approximately one million septic systems in Ontario? Having a well maintained, properly functioning septic system is very important to rural landowners and Rideau cottagers. Systems need regular care and maintenance. Now is the perfect time to get a licensed contractor in to inspect and pump your septic system. Here are some other good septic dos and don'ts to remember:



**Ottawa Septic System Office** Bureau des systèmes septiques d'Ottawa

### DO

- familiarize yourself with the location of your system
- keep an "as built" system diagram in a safe place for reference
- divert surface water away from your leaching bed
- pump out your tank on a regular basis (check every three to five years and pump as required)
- repair leaky plumbing fixtures
- conserve water to reduce the amount of wastewater that must be treated
- replace old toilets with low-flush models
- keep lint out of your septic system by cleaning the lint filter on your washing machine
- keep accurate records of septic system maintenance and service calls

### DON'T

- don't flush chemicals, cigarette butts or sanitary products
- don't use a garbage disposal/garburator
- don't plant trees or shrubs too close to the system or leaching bed
- don't use special additives that are touted to enhance the performance of your tank or system
- don't dig without knowing the location of your septic system
- don't drive over your tank or leaching bed
- don't enter a tank — gases and lack of oxygen can be fatal
- don't connect rain gutters, storm drains or allow surface water to drain into a sewage system
- don't leave interior faucets on to protect water lines during cold spells — insulate your faucets and plumbing

To learn more about septic systems, their care and maintenance, download a copy of *Septic Smart — Understanding Your Home's Septic System* at to [www.rvca.ca/news/septic\\_smart\\_index.html](http://www.rvca.ca/news/septic_smart_index.html)

Not sure where your septic tank or bed is? If you live in Ottawa and your home was built after 1977, the Ottawa Septic System Office can search the database for your home's system. A cost of \$75 applies. Download a "Private Septic File Search Form" at [www.rvca.ca](http://www.rvca.ca). Go to "Forms and Fees" under "Quick Links" and scroll down for the Ottawa Septic System Office information.

Looking for a local onsite wastewater expert? You can get information on local installers, pumpers, haulers, consultants and designers at the Ontario Onsite Wastewater Association's website. Visit [www.oowa.org](http://www.oowa.org) and look in the index for "find an expert."



# 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:



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