



Around the Rideau

Environmental Information For Municipalities In The Rideau Valley

November | December 2009

Septic Re-Inspection Season

Both the north and south shores of Big Rideau Lake were part of the septic re-inspection program in 2009. The north shore was part of the Tay Valley Township program with 75 properties inspected and more to be inspected this fall. The south shore was completed through the Township of Rideau Lakes program totaling 31 properties inspected. The total number of inspections for the Big Rideau is now 166 properties since 2007. Early next year, a report on the general findings of the re-inspection programs will be made available by both townships online and at their respective municipal offices. More from ERIC at the Mississippi Rideau Septic Office, 613-259-2421 or eric.kohlsmith@rvca.ca.

City Stream Watch Update

The 2009 City Stream Watch was the most successful yet: four streams (Barrhaven, Bilberry, Mosquito and Stillwater creeks) were monitored from headwaters to the mouth (total of 26 km of surveying in 100-metre chunks); 227 volunteers donated 1499 hours of time for surveys, cleanups, fish sampling, riparian plantings, demonstrations and invasive species removal; partnered with seven other community groups; presented at the Canadian Heritage Rivers conference in Ottawa; sincere thanks to our fabulous sponsors (Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Monterey Inn Resort & Conference Centre, Royal Bank Blue Water Project and TD Friends of the Environment Foundation)! Talk to JULIA for more at julia.sutton@rvca.ca or 613-692-3571 ext 1180.

*"Flooding is the leading cause of public emergency in Ontario."
Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (May 2007)*



Adobe Invests in Outdoor Education

Thanks to a generous contribution from Adobe Canada, a renewable energy education program is being developed at Baxter Conservation Area for 2010. The Baxter River Cabin Energy 'Ecofit' Project will demonstrate and demystify small renewable energy technologies (wind and solar) for school kids and adults alike. When completed late in 2010, people can visit the cabin, view the green technologies in action and think about the benefits of using these technologies in their 'everyday' lives.

Adobe Canada supports projects and organizations that 'protect the natural environment and improve public spaces for the enjoyment of the community'. Baxter Conservation Area, delivering outdoor education lessons for over 35 years, welcomes 25,000 visitors annually, including over 5,000 Ottawa and area schoolchildren for conservation education programs. More from PETER at 613-489-3592 or peter.goddard@rvca.ca.

CAs Salute the Community

Thirteen community winners were announced in seven categories at the 2009 Tri Valley Conservation Awards Gala held in late October at the Almonte Old Town Hall on the banks of the lovely Mississippi River. The awards recognize outstanding environmental contributions by volunteers within the watersheds of the Mississippi, Rideau and South Nation rivers. The awards show, the hospitality, the good company was supported by several community groups including Ballygiblin's Restaurant & Pub, Lake 88.1 Radio, Mountain Equipment Coop, the Ottawa Regional Media Group, Rogers TV and TD Friends of the Environment Foundation. Next year we're looking forward to being in Finch in the newly-renovated headquarters of South Nation Conservation. To receive advance notice of these events and others, call or write CHARLES at ext 1116 or charles.billington@rvca.ca.

Top Three

... ways to love your lake by keeping it clean and healthy?

1. Keep or replant natural shorelines using native plants
2. Reduce your use of fertilizer on all lands near the lake
3. Have your septic system inspected and your tank pumped every two years.

Carry in, Carry out

RVCA is trying a "CARRY IN, CARRY OUT" litter policy at two local Conservation Areas. Most parks are equipped with the large, ugly barrel containers that spill, smell and need a lot of staff attention. At the Chapman Mills Conservation Area and the Richmond Conservation Area, new signs will tell visitors about the new campaign to please take your litter with you.

The new policy is good for everyone: it helps maintain clean parks, avoids nasty smells and messes, reduces the number of bees and wasps in picnic areas, allows for recycling of reusable refuse at home, eliminates unsightly trash barrels, and redirects staff time to other important park improvement projects.

Thanks to Enbridge Gas Distribution for supporting the production of the new signs. KRISTY has all the details at ext 1178 or kristy.giles@rvca.ca.



NANBO is Born

Conservation Ontario, RVCA, South Nation Conservation along with colleague watershed groups from Quebec, New York and Mexico are founding members of the new North American Network of Basin Organizations (NANBO) which held its inaugural meeting in Quebec City in mid-October. This umbrella alliance will bring together watershed managers from Canada, the US, Mexico and the Caribbean to promote the science and practice of integrated watershed management across the continent. Benefits of the new alliance will include sharing experiences, recycling useful ideas and fast-tracking solutions that have been developed and paid for elsewhere in the network. CHARLES has details at ext 1116 or charles.billington@rvca.ca.

Pandemic Precautions

RVCA's Health and Safety Committee has set up a program of reasonable response to the flu pandemic expected to hit Eastern Ontario anytime now. How would we function with diminished number of staff? How can staff avoid infection in the workplace? What are the essential business functions we need to protect? We reviewed many business plans and came up with a hybrid which we feel suits the expectations of our clients, our staff and our colleagues. JIM has details at 613-489-3060 or jim.ellis@rvca.ca.

MONARCH Invests in Environmental Land


Monarch Corporation has once again demonstrated its commitment to help protect key pieces of environmental land in the Rideau valley with a large gift to the Conservation Foundation's Environmental Land Fund. The money is used to pay legal, surveying and appraisal costs related to lands donated to the Foundation by watershed families. Over the past eight years, Monarch's gifts have been crucial in the public acquisition of nine valuable ecological properties in areas such as the Richmond Fen, Upper Rideau Lake and Rideau River shoreline within the City of Ottawa. CHARLES at ext 1116 or charles.billington@rvca.ca.

Ontario Council of Folk Festivals

We are very proud to be associated with the Ontario Council of Folk Festivals which held its annual four-day conference in Ottawa in mid-October and made a huge step towards carbon neutrality. The Council is an umbrella group providing advice, education and advocacy to 32 Ontario festivals, approximately 60 organizations and about 450 individuals, mostly performers. Under RVCA's new Carbon Neutral tree planting service, the Council will be planting 750 young, vigorous, native Canadian trees in the watershed of the Rideau River next spring and thereby offsetting most of the carbon emissions attributable to travel, accommodation and energy consumption at the Conference. Hats off to the Council for this community-minded gesture! More from DAN at ext 1124 or dan.cooper@rvca.ca.

20 Years Ago

Most of you will be too young to remember the overnight electrical fire that destroyed the original Interpretive Centre at the Baxter Conservation Area . . . it was more like a chalet built of round logs with a large living/classroom, big picture windows, comfortable furniture, big fireplace and kitchen . . . the new one on the same footprint is very functional but the old one was totally charming . . .



TRI-VALLEY CONSERVATION AWARDS
PRIX D'EXCELLENCE EN CONSERVATION DES TROIS VALLÉES

GALA

2009 WINNERS

Primary School Category:

1. Maggie LeMay, Featherston Drive Public School, Ottawa
2. St. John Catholic School, Perth

Intermediate/High School Category:

1. GeoVenture Program, Perth & District CI
2. PEAK Program, St. Thomas Aquinas, Russell

Agriculture Category:

1. Stanlee Farms, Jim & Nancy Wert, Avonmore
2. Oak Valley Pioneer Park Volunteers, Mountain

Community Group Category:

1. McDonald's Corner ReUsers
2. Rideau Valley Field Naturalists, Perth

Individual Category:

1. Tom Van Dusen, Russell
2. Lindley McPhail, Russell

Business Category:

1. Pinegrove Productions, Lanark
2. Laffèche Environmental, Moose Creek

Municipal Category:

1. Spring & Fall Cleaning the Capital, City of Ottawa

RVCA Christmas Hours

Closing at noon on Thursday, December 24 and reopening bright-eyed and bushy-tailed at 8:30 on Monday, January 4, 2010. Happy holidays to you all!



Around the Rideau

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

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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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