



# Around the Rideau

Environmental Information For Municipalities In The Rideau Valley

September | October 2009



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

## GALA

### Tri-Valley Awards

Who are the unsung environmental heroes in your world? Please take 15 minutes and give us a brief resume of your local hero at the lake, at school or on the job. A painless nomination form is on our website at [www.rvca.ca](http://www.rvca.ca) but please hurry ... deadline is mid-September for candidates in the Mississippi, Rideau and South Nation River valleys. Awards Gala on October 21 in Almonte's beautiful Old Town Hall. Suzanne at 613-259-5307 ext 225 or [smcfarlane@mvc.on.ca](mailto:smcfarlane@mvc.on.ca) has all the details.

### Economic Value of The Rideau Lakes

How much are clean lakes and healthy rivers in our area really worth? What would the economic impact be to communities and watershed families if water quality or quantity started to decline? Are we investing enough to protect the lakes? There is US research on this topic but little in Canada and particularly Ontario. Does anyone know of any good sources of information on the economic value of Ontario lakes? CHARLES at ext 1116 or [charles.billington@rvca.ca](mailto:charles.billington@rvca.ca) would welcome your suggestions.

### Tay Flood Maps

New draft Tay River Flood Risk Maps from Christie Lake to Glen Tay are available for viewing on Tuesday, Oct. 6 from 3:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Royal Canadian Legion, 26 Beckwith Street East in Perth. We hope that local residents may be able to bring information or experience to bear that will make the draft maps as accurate as possible. Once approved, further work will be done to enable these maps to be used for regulatory purposes sometime in 2010 (depending on the Provincial approval process). Everyone welcome. DON has the details at ext 1105 or [don.maciver@rvca.ca](mailto:don.maciver@rvca.ca).

### Choose To Be Phosphorus-Free

Most lake experts agree: the number one problem is too much phosphorus which tends to cause algal blooms and even toxic bacterial blooms in our lakes. Luckily, there are three very simple things everyone can do to reduce their personal contribution to phosphorus pollution:

1. choose to pump your septic system every two to three years
2. choose phosphate-free dishwashing and laundry detergents
3. choose phosphorus-free lawn fertilizers (or none at all); phosphorus is the middle number of the string of three on fertilizer bags (make sure it's zero)

### Shoreline Buffers

Under the Shoreline Naturalization Program, staff completed 13 projects in April and May in partnership with lake associations, municipalities and private individuals. By the numbers: two km of shoreline naturalized with 3,250 bare-root native shrubs by 46 volunteers contributing 314 hours of time. A waiting list of seven more projects and three lake association partnerships are on line for 2010 with room for more. Information or the new brochure from ANDREA at ext 1173 or [andrea.klymko@rvca.ca](mailto:andrea.klymko@rvca.ca).

### Butternut Recovery

Sincere thanks to the federal and provincial governments for funding the 2009/2010 Butternut Recovery Program. Both the grafting of the butternut material and the outplanting of healthy butternut seedlings is going well. The planting program continues to be very popular...the seedlings are fully allocated for the 2010 season. The search continues for healthy butternuts on public or private lands in Eastern Ontario. A database of 450 healthy trees has been developed. ROSE has the details at [rose.fleguel@rvca.ca](mailto:rose.fleguel@rvca.ca)



### Children's Water Festivals

Teachers of grade 4 are welcome to call and book a place for their class at one of the three famous Eastern Ontario Children's Water Festivals scheduled for this fall:

- Sep 22 Baxter Conservation Area, Kars (PETER; 489-3592; [peter.goddard@rvca.ca](mailto:peter.goddard@rvca.ca))
- Sep 24 Foley Mtn Conservation Area, Westport (REBECCA; 273-3255; [Rebecca.whitman@rvca.ca](mailto:Rebecca.whitman@rvca.ca))
- Oct 7 & 8 Mill of Kintail Conservation Area, Almonte (SARAH; 256-3610 ext 1; [sogrady@mvc.on.ca](mailto:sogrady@mvc.on.ca))

Kids remember 10 percent of what they hear, 25 percent of what they see and 80 percent of what they do. Memorable, interactive and fun learning about the irreplaceable role of fresh water.

### Clean Water Programs

Over the past three months, a total of 121 applications have been addressed by the Ottawa (66) and Rideau Valley (55) Clean Water Programs. All 2009 funds have been allocated and waiting lists have been started for 2010. In general, both programs continue to see many grant applications for well and septic improvements or repair. We anticipate improvements in the delivery of the Ottawa Clean Water Program for 2010. CA and City staff will bring a proposal to committee and Council this fall.



## Fish Habitat @ Baxter

RVCA Board endorsed a proposal to create new fish habitat at Baxter Conservation Area in compensation for habitat lost in other areas of the valley notably new developments in Barrhaven South. The federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans will approve this sort of habitat compensation to achieve a net gain in productive fish habitat. The proposed new site is on the Rideau east of the beach area. The proposal calls for a fully-functional facility that will be monitored for three years and have interpretive signage explaining the concept to Baxter visitors. MIKE has more at ext 1176 or michael.yee@rvca.ca.

## Flood Plain Mapping In Richmond

New RVCA "draft final" Flood Plain mapping on the Van Gaal Drain in Richmond was presented to landowners on Sept 10. The new mapping, by J.F. Sabourin & Associates, shows the flood-prone land on the western edge of the town in an area being proposed for development. The new maps augment existing mapping in the rest of the village. The goal of the meeting was to seek landowners' advice and experience on the "reasonableness" of the proposed flood lines based on their years of working on the land. The "draft" maps were also at the City's Open House in Richmond on Sep 12. Anyone who missed the meetings can still view the "draft" maps by calling Ferdous Ahmed (692-3571 ext 1170) and making an appointment. The drafts will be modified based on community input and final maps are scheduled for late 2009. FERDOUS at ext 1170 or ferdous.ahmed@rvca.ca.

## Source Water Protection Update

Draft "wellhead protection area" maps for Kemptville, Merrickville, Munster, Richmond and Westport were presented at summer Open Houses. New member Drew Lampman has filled one of the vacant "Industrial" seats on the Source Protection Committee. The Province has drafted a "Source Protection Plan Discussion Paper" outlining the hows and whys of the ultimate Source Protection Plan for municipal drinking water. MOE is requesting comments by Sep 23. Details from SOMMER at ext 1147 or sommer.robertson@mrsourcewater.ca.

## Top Three

Here's a new little feature that will give you the top three bits of conservation trivia in the Rideau Valley (a little ammunition for those awkward pauses at cocktail parties) ... Top three popular Conservation Areas?

- Baxter (on the Rideau in Ottawa)
- Foley Mountain (Upper Rideau Lake at Westport)
- Rideau Ferry Yacht Club (Lower Rideau Lake at Rideau Ferry) – who knew?

## Trees Please

And how! The tree numbers are in for the 2009 plant in Ottawa and the rest of the watershed. They show the continuing voracious appetite for reforestation in western Ottawa (West Carleton and March), Rideau Lakes, Drummond/North Elmsley, Elizabethtown/Kitley and Merrickville-Wolford. These six municipalities accounted for over 60 percent of the 151,420 brand new trees planted last spring. With all of the environmental and social benefits that trees bring, we're hoping to interest other parts of the watershed in accepting more trees in the future. Call DAN for details at ext 1124 or dan.cooper@rvca.ca.



## Perth Wildlife Reserve

Volunteers at the Perth Butterfly Garden at PWR no longer have to haul water. A recent generous grant from the Perth and District Community Foundation has allowed the Rideau Valley Field Naturalists to purchase a solar-powered water pump. Watering the garden is now a breeze thanks to this new piece of equipment. The pump will be on demonstration at the upcoming Children's Water Festivals. More from Kristy at ext 1178 or kristy.giles@rvca.ca.

## Mapping Updates

New "regulatory limits" maps for Barnes Creek, Kemptville Creek and Kemptville Creek (North Branch) are ready for viewing. These maps are the final product following a Public Information Meeting held in Oxford Mills last November. Revised regulatory limits mapping has also been prepared for the Blueberry Creek outlet to the Tay River in Perth and for the Rideau River around Smiths Falls. These maps show the regulation limit for the expected "dominant hazard" such as flooding or steep or unstable slopes including buffer areas around the hazards on a site-specific basis. RVCA engineers have updated the hazard maps using the most recent available flow data and modern industry-standard engineering methods. You can view the maps at three public Open Houses:

- Tuesday, Sep 29, 3:30 to 8:30 pm, Smiths Falls Legion, 7 Main Street East
- Wednesday, Sep 30, 3:30 to 8:30 pm, Maplewood Community Centre, Oxford Mills
- Monday, October 5, 3:30 to 8:30 pm, Rideau Valley Conservation Centre, Manotick.

More information from Don at ext 1105 or don.maciver@rvca.ca.



# Around the Rideau

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

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