



# Around the Rideau

Environmental Information For Municipalities In The Rideau Valley

July | August 2010

## Fish Habitat Compensation

Fisheries & Oceans Canada (FOC) may allow, under strict conditions, the creation of new fish habitat to compensate for habitat lost during the land development process. Two FOC-approved fish habitat compensation projects will be built at the Chapman Mills Conservation Area. Embayments of marsh vegetation will be created as spawning and nursery areas for fish although many kinds of aquatic creatures will benefit. People using the area will find new viewing opportunities. We all benefit from no net loss of aquatic habitat in the watershed. More information from Jennifer at ext 1108 or [jennifer.lamoureux@rvca.ca](mailto:jennifer.lamoureux@rvca.ca).

## Foundation Celebrates Four-Oh!

The normally cautious and camera-shy Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation is rolling out the red carpet for its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary get-together on September 27. The Foundation has been raising money and in-kind gifts for conservation projects across the watershed since 1970. Chair Jason Kelly invites all present and past donors, members and supporters to book a couple of hours of conservation foundation networking, gourmet snacking and entertainment from 4:30 to 7 pm on Monday September 27 in the new Rideau Valley Conservation Centre in Manotick (corner of Prince of Wales Drive and Rideau Valley Drive). More from Charles at ext 1116 or [charles.billington@rvca.ca](mailto:charles.billington@rvca.ca).

## Tree Numbers are In

Thanks to our growing number of funding, planting and land provision partners in 2010, RVCA was able to plant a grand total of 172,660 new trees in the watershed this past spring providing a value of close to \$300,000 in environmental services to our municipal partners. Municipalities with the most plantings include West Carleton, North Gower,

Elizabethtown/Kitley, Drummond/North Elmsley and North Grenville. Hats off to everyone who takes part in Rideau Valley tree planting ... if you can do only one thing for the environment, plant a tree. Details from Dan at ext 1124 or [dan.cooper@rvca.ca](mailto:dan.cooper@rvca.ca).

## Beaver Management on the Tay

The quality and quantity of Tay River water in the area of Perth's drinking water intake was of concern to the municipality in early June. Below normal spring rains were exacerbated by the presence of several upstream beaver dams. Two RVCA crews surveyed the river and prepared maps of the 14 beaver dams. Biology and stewardship staff worked with a trapper to determine a course of action. Five beaver were removed and four dams holding back large quantities of water breached. By June 22, in combination with some welcome rain, Perth water was back to normal. More from Jenn at ext 1108 or [jennifer.lamoureux@rvca.ca](mailto:jennifer.lamoureux@rvca.ca).



## Early July Heat Wave

An average of 147% of the normal rainfall amount was recorded through June at the five weather stations we use in and around the Rideau watershed. This rain caused watershed streams to rebound from the unusually low May flows to above average flows in June. The heat and lack of rain in early July caused water levels to start to decline again but rain is in the forecast. We continue to monitor conditions and issue messages as needed. You can visit [www.rvca.ca/low\\_water](http://www.rvca.ca/low_water) for more details.

## Low Water Response Team

Our local Low Water Response Team (LWRT) is made up of various municipal and government agencies who manage water within the Rideau watershed. RVCA helps coordinate the LWRT and provides current watershed information such as precipitation, stream flow and water levels. Depending on the severity of the low water conditions, the LWRT can send public messages and advise municipalities on appropriate actions to manage and reduce local water use. Low water has widespread effects on drinking water sources, wells, agriculture, boating, firefighting and environmental communities. Contact Patrick at ext. 1110 or [patrick.larson@rvca.ca](mailto:patrick.larson@rvca.ca) or visit [www.rvca.ca/low\\_water](http://www.rvca.ca/low_water) to get the latest news on Rideau water levels.



## New Cold Storage Facility

In support of our growing tree planting and shoreline naturalization programs, a dedicated cold storage facility is needed to hold the trees during the four-week planting period. Forestry staff have a brand new facility under construction at the Baxter Workshop site on Dilworth Road. The \$180,000 structure is paid for from non-municipal funds (mainly fundraising and landowner contributions). The main use is to store trees but it will double as equipment storage and repair shop. With the new facility, we are stretching the program towards 200,000 trees per year. Information from Dan at ext 1124 or dan.cooper@rvca.ca.

## Benthic Invertebrates

Typically, these spineless animals include aquatic insects, crustaceans, mollusks and leeches that inhabit the bottom of aquatic environments (sediments, snags and aquatic plants). RVCA samples this interesting fauna at 36 streams twice a year and 15 lake sites in the spring to determine water and habitat quality. A standard method called the Ontario Benthic Biomonitoring Network (OBBN) Protocol is used to collect and identify the animals. Several mathematical models are then "run" to assess water quality and overall aquatic habitat health. The most recent OBBN information for 2009 is now available on the RVCA website for your reading pleasure. Jenn knows more at jennifer.lamoureux@rvca.ca or ext 1108.

## Pike Lake Milestone

The Pike Lake community has released its *Report on the State of Pike Lake and its Watershed*. The "snapshot" report will be used to develop sustainable land use recommendations and stewardship actions to protect the health and special character of beautiful Pike Lake. Partners include Township of Rideau Lakes, Tay Valley Township, RVCA, Friends of the Tay Watershed, Community Stewardship Council of Lanark County, MNR, MOE, DFO and the Ontario Healthy Communities Coalition. More information on the Pike Lake Community Association's website at <http://www.pikelake.ca/PikeLake/Home.html> or from Andrea at ext 1173 or andrea.klymko@rvca.ca.

## Tri-Valley Conservation Awards

Know someone who takes care of their river, stream or lake and doesn't tell anyone about it? Neighbours, family members, a school class, a fishing club? We would love to know their stories, give them the community recognition they deserve and perhaps even a prize to put on their wall! Painless entry forms are on the RVCA website ([www.rvca.ca](http://www.rvca.ca)) as well as those of the

Mississippi Valley and South Nation Conservation Authorities. Deadline for applications is September 8 @ 4:30 pm. The Tri-Valley Conservation Gala takes place in Finch in the lovely South Nation watershed on Wed October 20. More from Gord Shaver, at 1-877-984-2984 ext 296 or gshaver@nation.on.ca.

## Bytowne Cinema & Conservation

Ottawa's nice old cinema, the Bytowne on Rideau Street east of King Edward, has chosen the Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation as its recipient local charity for the month of August. No better place to beat the August heat than the dark, cool, popcorny insides of the Bytowne. Cinema with a social conscience. Charles at ext 1116 or charles.billington@rvca.ca.

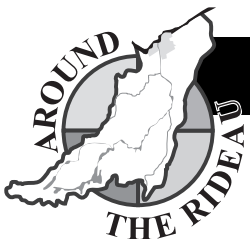
## Save your Lake! Save your Money!

Natural shorelines are better for you and your lake or river! And we can help...RVCA's Shoreline Naturalization Program provides simple advice, hands-on guidance and money for you to naturalize your shoreline by planting native trees and shrubs. The program includes site visits by qualified staff who will help you plan, order the plants you need and provide extra muscle for the planting.

Waterfront owners, lake associations and river groups can use this program which pays 75% of the costs (up to \$1,000) for approved projects. To learn more, or to set up a site visit, contact Andrea at andrea.klymko@rvca.ca or ext 1173.



Pike Lake



# Around the Rideau

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

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 692-3571 or 1-800-267-3504 [www.rvca.ca](http://www.rvca.ca)

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