



# Around the Rideau

Environmental Information For Municipalities In The Rideau Valley

May | June 2010

## Green Acres Celebrates Planting of One Millionth Tree

The City of Ottawa and its three local conservation authorities (Mississippi, Rideau and South Nation) celebrated the City's investment into green infrastructure at a recent ceremonial tree planting. Two of the City's tree planting programs were celebrating significant milestones. The Green Acres program, a rural Ottawa reforestation project managed and delivered by the three local Conservation Authorities planted its 1,000,000<sup>th</sup> tree this spring. The Green Acres program started back in 2000. The partnership between the City of Ottawa, Mississippi Valley Conservation, Rideau Valley Conservation Authority, South Nation Conservation, Ottawa Stewardship Council, and rural land owners is impressive — planting one million trees, reforesting over 1,150 acres and serving 1,087 land owners. And even more impressive is that these trees will reach free-to-grow status because the city and its partners go that extra step to provide monitoring and maintenance of the Green Acres plantings.

Green Acres is not the City's only successful tree planting initiative. The City's Trees Reforestation and Environmental Enhancement (TREE) program celebrated the planting of its 100,000<sup>th</sup> tree in Ottawa since the inception of the program in 2007. Congratulations to the TREE program and Green Acres — together planting over one million, one hundred thousand trees. Thank you to the City of Ottawa for supporting the Green Acres program. Contact DAN at ext. 1124 or dan.cooper@rvca.ca for more.



Green Acres Partners surround the ceremonial tree planted at Ottawa City Hall on May 11, 2010.  
L to R: Phil Sweetnam, MVC; Joffre Côté, Ottawa Stewardship Council, Dennis O'Grady, SNC; Brian Anderson, MVC; Steven Hardaker, MVC, Alan Arbuckle, RVCA; Ed Kupczyk, SNC; Dell Hallett, RVCA and Dan Cooper, RVCA.

## Baxter's Outstanding Summer Day Camps

Baxter Conservation Area is once again offering its famous summer day camp programs. Throughout July and August, children from six to 13-years-old can participate in fun-filled outdoor exploration, swims at Baxter beach, creative crafts and more. For the older camper (10 to 13 years), two one-week canoe camps are available where campers will experience tandem paddling and camping, navigation skills, trip cooking, introductory first aid, trip planning and preparation.

July and August dates are quickly being filled with hearty campers but there are still a few spaces left. For more details and dates, visit our website at [www.rvca.ca/careas/baxter](http://www.rvca.ca/careas/baxter) or call 613-489-3592. Ask about special "family" pricing!

## Help Stop the Emerald Ash Borer — Don't Move Firewood!

The destructive and invasive emerald ash borer is in Ottawa and munching its way through ash trees. The good news is that the emerald ash borer does not spread quickly on its own. It is most commonly spread through the movement of infested ash products and firewood. On April 27, 2009, the Minister of Agriculture and Food signed a Ministerial Order prohibiting the transport of all ash products out of the cities of Ottawa and Gatineau. Please do not move firewood from Ottawa/Gatineau to areas outside the cities. To learn more, visit [www.inspection.gc.ca](http://www.inspection.gc.ca) or [www.ottawa.ca](http://www.ottawa.ca). To report an infested tree, please call the Canadian Food Inspection Agency at 1-866-463-6017.



## Naturalize Your Shores! Help and Money Available

Are you 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 naturalize your shoreline. Waterfront owners, lake associations, river groups and other not-for-profit groups can all take advantage of this program which provides up to 75 per cent funding (to a maximum of \$1,000) for the planning, purchasing and planting of approved projects. To learn more, contact ANDREA at ext. 1173 or [andrea.klymko@rvca.ca](mailto:andrea.klymko@rvca.ca).

## Thank you to our Tree and Shrub Planting Volunteers and Landowners!

Every spring, volunteers step forward to plant trees and shrubs throughout the watershed. These seemingly small projects pursued through Scouting groups, local schools, stewardship programs (City Stream Watch, Butternut Recovery and Shoreline Naturalization) and other stewardship groups, add up to BIG results. In spring 2010, these efforts amounted to over 18,425 plantings. "It is great to see how volunteerism can be both educational and practical while promoting community involvement," said Dan Cooper, RVCA Private Land Forestry Program Manager. Thanks to all our volunteers and partners.

### Thank you to our Planting Partners:

- Baxter Conservation Area
- Broadview Public School
- Christie Lake Association
- Churchill Alternative School
- City of Ottawa
- Friends of Foley Mountain
- Friends of the Jock River
- Hopewell Public School
- Kemptville Scouts
- Lanark Highland Scouts
- Little Silver and Rainbow Lakes Property Owners Association
- MNR Stewardship Coordinators
- Montague Public School
- National Capital Commission
- Otty Lake Association
- Perth and District Collegiate Institute
- Rideau Mac Resort Association
- Rural Clean Water Programs
- Scouts Canada – Nepean
- Upper Rideau Lake Association
- Woodlot Owners Association
- and many, many, many private landowners

## Live in the Middle Rideau? Report Now Available

The Middle Rideau Subwatershed, as its name suggests, is nicely nested in the middle of the Rideau system. Water flows from the higher, rocky lake country of the Rideau Lakes Subwatershed into the flatter farmland of the Middle Rideau. If you live in this area, you may be interested in the RVCA's newest report — *Middle Rideau Subwatershed Report 2009* — which gives quick and easy information on the current forest cover, wetlands, riparian cover and water quality in the area around Lombardy, Toledo, Smiths Falls and Merrickville. You can find the report online at [www.rvca.ca](http://www.rvca.ca) under "What's New?" or contact MEGAN at [megan.watters@rvca.ca](mailto:megan.watters@rvca.ca) or ext. 1132 for a hard copy.

## Wanted: Volunteers to Monitor Precipitation and Lake Levels

The RVCA is looking for volunteers to help monitor precipitation and lake levels. To learn more, contact ANDREA at ext. 1140 or [andrea.larsen@rvca.ca](mailto:andrea.larsen@rvca.ca).

## Time to Submit Nominations for the 2010 Conservation Awards

The Tri-Valley Conservation Awards Gala is still several months away, but now is the time to submit nominees. Nominations are now being accepted in eight categories: Primary School, Intermediate/High School, College/University, Agriculture, Community Groups, Individuals, Businesses, and Municipalities. Forms can be downloaded at [www.rvca.ca](http://www.rvca.ca) under "What's New." Deadline for applications is Sept. 8, at 4:30 pm. The Tri-Valley area includes the Mississippi, Rideau and South Nation Watersheds which adds up to more than 12,000 square-kilometres. This year's gala is being hosted by South Nation Conservation on October 20 — so save-the-date! For more, contact CHARLES at [charles.billington@rvca.ca](mailto:charles.billington@rvca.ca) or ext. 1116.

## 2010 Freshet in Review

This year's peak on the Rideau River was 235 cubic metres per second (cms) recorded at the Carleton University gauge on March 18. This is the sixth lowest peak flow in 36 years of record. These six low freshet peaks have all occurred since 2000. Flows as such cause no significant flooding and no property damage was reported this year. That's two good years in a row but each winter has the potential to cause big problems for riverside residents. Residents continue to join our flood forecasting and warning email list to stay informed (to join the list, contact Diane at [diane.downey@rvca.ca](mailto:diane.downey@rvca.ca)).

Peak Spring Flows	In 2010	Ever on Record
Ottawa River	1,955 cms	5,060 cms (1979)
Rideau River	235 cms	597 cms (1976)
Jock River	52 cms	148 cms (1978)
Kemptville Creek	32 cms	82 cms (1972)
Tay River	23 cms	53 cms (1998)

**cms = cubic metres per second:**  
a rate of the flow, in streams and rivers, for example. It is equal to a volume of water one metre high and one metre wide flowing a distance of one metre in one second. One "cms" is equal to 270 gallons of water flowing each second.

The RVCA monitors streamflow conditions year round — not just in the spring. As a member of the local Low Water Response Team (LWRT), the RVCA also keeps an eye on low water issues in the summer months. With changing weather patterns, low water levels may become more common. The RVCA and LWRT partners measure precipitation, stream flow and water levels to respond to drought conditions in our area. For more information on flood forecasting, contact PATRICK at ext. 1110 or [patrick.larson@rvca.ca](mailto:patrick.larson@rvca.ca). For information on low water conditions, contact FERDOUS at ext. 1170 or [ferdous.ahmed@rvca.ca](mailto:ferdous.ahmed@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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692-3571 or 1-800-267-3504 [www.rvca.ca](http://www.rvca.ca)

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