



# Around the Rideau

Environmental Information For Municipalities In The Rideau Valley

November | December 2010

## 2010 Tri-Valley Conservation Awards

Eleven of our fellow citizens and business people were recognized for their outstanding voluntary contributions to the environment at the 2010 Tri-Valley Conservation Awards Gala held at the South Nation Conservation Headquarters in lovely Finch, Ontario. The finalists came together from towns and villages all across the 12,000 square kilometre area of the combined Mississippi, Rideau and South Nation river valleys. This year's winners included Cindy Saucier (Russell), Joe Slater (Crow Lake), Nature Works Learning (Almonte), Pratt and Whitney Canada (Ottawa), Nation Municipality,

Norm Tinkler (Inkerman), Christian Lafèche (St-Albert), Tagwi Secondary School (Avonmore), the National Defence Headquarters Fish & Game Club (Ottawa), the Grenville Land Stewardship Council (Prescott) and the Pleasant Corners Public School (Vankleek Hill). The environmental work of these winning projects include tree planting, outdoor education, conservation land management and shoreline stabilization.

This event is organized by the two Conservation Foundations (Mississippi Valley and Rideau Valley) and the three Conservation Authorities (Mississippi Valley, Rideau Valley and South Nation) in our area and is sponsored by the good people at AECOM, TD Friends of the Environment Foundation, Mountain Equipment Coop, Rogers TV and the Ottawa Regional Media Group.

*"It is a pleasure to shine a little light on the dedication and commitment of these fine people who quietly work away day after day to improve the communities in which we all live. The Conservation Foundations and the Conservation Authorities raise their hats to these community leaders with sincere thanks."*

*Mr. Jason Kelly, Chair of the Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation*



## Septic Re-inspection Program

The Mississippi Rideau Septic System Office continues to provide voluntary septic system reinspection services to interested municipalities. Five municipalities in the Mississippi and Rideau watersheds are participating in this program. In the Rideau watershed, the Tay Valley has 201 inspections in 2010, Central Frontenac along Eagle Lake had five, Rideau Lakes Township had 82 and Drummond/North Elmsley had 32. That's 320 site visits that would guide homeowners on how well their private septic system is working and how to provide continued care and maintenance. Learn more from Eric at 613-259-2421 or [eric.kohlsmith@rvca.ca](mailto:eric.kohlsmith@rvca.ca).

## Strong Stewardship in the Rideau

The Ottawa Rural Clean Water Program and the Rideau Valley Clean Water Program are helping landowners who do the right thing for local water quality. These grant programs continue to be very popular in 2010 with 118 projects completed — \$181,500 in grant dollars was allocated to projects valued at \$2,403,000. Since 2002, 871 clean water projects were approved watershed-wide between 2002 and 2010 — \$1,158,500 was allocated to projects valued at \$6,866,000. Hats off to our local landowners for investing in a clean and healthy Rideau River ([derek.matheson@rvca.ca](mailto:derek.matheson@rvca.ca)).



### Fish Habitat at Chapman Mills

The RVCA's Chapman Mills Conservation Area will be the site of two new "fish habitat compensation projects" to improve the quantity and quality of fish habitat along the Rideau River. These compensation projects result from the partial loss of one abandoned drain and one tributary of a municipal drain in the Jock River watershed and a former tributary of Mosquito Creek.

RVCA staff is working with developers DCR Phoenix, Tartan Homes and Claridge Homes for the Jock River tributaries compensation and the City of Ottawa for the Mosquito Creek tributary compensation. The objective is to ensure that the proposed improvements provide functional habitat and are in keeping with the conservation goals of RVCA and the site. These projects will improve water circulation, increase variable depths of water allowing for a more diverse aquatic vegetation, provide new spawning, nursery and rearing habitat for the fish community and more.

Chapman Mills is a 23-acre parcel of conservation land located on the west bank of the Rideau River on Prince of Wales Drive between Winding Way and Lodge Road. It consists mainly of natural river shoreline, wetlands and flood plain areas that are unique in the City of Ottawa (jennifer.lamoureux@rvca.ca or kristy.giles@rvca.ca ).

### Give Nature! 2011 Conservation Area Pass now available!

2011 Conservation Area Passes are now available. And what a great gift idea! Whether for yourself or a special friend, the \$45 Annual Pass opens the "out" doors to all of our conservation areas — Foley Mountain, Baxter, Mill Pond, Meisel Woods and more. To get your annual pass application, visit [www.rvca.ca/careas](http://www.rvca.ca/careas) or give us a call at 1-800-267-3504 ext. 1100.

### Making Shorelines Natural in the Lower Rideau

Environment Canada's EcoAction Community Funding Program has approved a \$75,000 grant for Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation's Making Shorelines Natural Project.

This two-year, community-based project aims to improve water quality and wildlife habitat in the watershed by increasing native vegetation along shorelines of local creeks and streams. It is hoped that up to four kilometres of shorelines will be enhanced and restored through the planting of approximately 12,000 native trees and shrubs seedlings.

RVCA is currently calling on property owners along the three targeted creeks — Black Rapids Creek, Still Water Creek and Mud Creek — to participate in the project. Eligible property owners will be provided with a site visit with a qualified RVCA staff member who will work with the landowner to develop a site-specific planting plan as well as 100 percent cost coverage for all plant material, equipment and labour needed to carry out the plan.

Questions? Contact Andrea Klymko at 613-692-3571 or 1-800-267-3504 ext. 1173 for more.

### 2011 Septic Courses

The Ontario Rural Wastewater Association, in cooperation with the Ottawa Septic System Office, offers professional courses on septic systems. The 2011 course schedule is now available at [www.uoguelph.ca/orwc](http://www.uoguelph.ca/orwc) under "Courses". Training topics range from certification to become licensed septic installers to more technical designing courses. To learn more, contact Roz at 613-692-3571 or 1-800-267-3504 ext. 113 or [rosalind.kee@rvca.ca](mailto:rosalind.kee@rvca.ca).

### Ain't that Tweet?

The RVCA is now on Twitter. Follow us to get tweets about what's happening in the valley ([diane.downey@rvca.ca](mailto:diane.downey@rvca.ca)).



**RVCA Christmas Hours**  
Closing noon on Friday,  
December 24 and reopening at  
8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, January  
4, 2011.

**Wishing you all  
Happy Holidays!**



## 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:

- The Base Mapping Co. Ltd, Nepean** (613) 723-8100  
Providing Conservation Authorities with digital topographic mapping for flood plain management.
- Bell Baker, Barristers and Solicitors** (613) 237-3444  
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