

News Release

MIDDLE RIDEAU SUBWATERSHED REPORT — NOW AVAILABLE

RIDEAU VALLEY, June 3, 2010 — Live in the Middle Rideau area? Interested in its environmental health? The Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA) is pleased to present the Middle Rideau Subwatershed Report 2009. This information-loaded report is the first in a new series to be prepared on a regular basis, for each of the six subwatersheds (Middle Rideau River, Jock River, Tay River, Lower Rideau, Kemptville Creek, and Rideau Lakes) in the Rideau Valley Watershed.

The report summarizes the health of the Middle Rideau by looking at four indicators - forest cover, wetlands, shoreline vegetation and surface water quality. Residents and municipalities in the Middle Rideau should be pleased with the positive results outlined in the report.

The good health of the subwatershed is largely due to the good stewardship activities taking place on the land. Landowners are doing their part to improve, protect and restore the watershed's natural features. These can be simple things like keeping shorelines natural to more complicated projects like municipal planning and infrastructure development decisions. Regardless, the cumulative efforts are having positive results.

The Middle Rideau drains 822 square kilometres and, as its name suggests, is nestled 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 that includes communities such as Lombardy, Motts Mills, Smiths Falls, Jasper, Merrickville and Burritts Rapids. Water flows on from the Middle Rideau to the Lower Rideau at Burritts Rapids.

One of the key services of the RVCA is to collect science-based information on how the watershed works. This information is used for decision-making at all levels (individual, family, municipal, county, provincial). These monitoring efforts help us better understand watershed trends and help focus resource management actions where they are needed the most.

This project is part of the RVCA's watershed management mission that recognizes the connections between local awareness, local concern and local action as we work for environmental protection, preservation and enhancement. The Middle Rideau River Subwatershed Report 2009 is a summary of our findings, but more detailed information is available online through the catchment data sheets.

For your copy of this report or to view the catchment data sheets, visit www.rvca.ca and look under "What's New" or contact Megan Watters at 613-6592-3571 ext 1132.

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For more information:

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