



Around the Rideau

Environmental Information For Municipalities In The Rideau Valley

January | February 2011

It is the RVCA's job to notify municipalities and residents of potential flooding from our rivers, creeks and streams, but it is up to each individual to develop a flood plan specific to their property and their needs.

Now is the Time to Prepare for Spring Flooding

Spring seems so far away and yet the RVCA is busy preparing for its arrival and what it brings with it. Springtime brings the potential for flooding and the RVCA is committed to providing local municipalities, agencies and public advance notice and information so they can respond to flooding and flood emergencies.

To keep everyone well informed and up-to-date, effective flood forecasting depends on reliable and timely data. The RVCA uses several tools to forecast floods:

- **Stream Gauges** — water levels and flows are continuously recorded at 15 monitoring stations on the Rideau and its tributaries (e.g., Jock River, Tay River, Kemptville Creek).
- **Snowpack Measurements** — the water content of the snowpack is measured twice a month at five locations by RVCA technicians. An additional six sites are monitored by Rideau Canal, Parks Canada staff.
- **Weather Forecasts** — information on expected temperatures and rainfall amounts is provided by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (OMNR) and Environment Canada. OMNR's Streamflow Monitoring Centre tracks conditions across the Province and sends alerts to local Conservation Authorities when heavy rain or snowmelt is expected.
- **Numerical Models** — simple equations, charts and graphs as well as complex computer simulations are used by RVCA hydrologists to predict river flows, water levels and flood conditions to be expected in flood vulnerable communities.

When necessary, the RVCA will issue one of three flood forecasting and warning messages:

- **Watershed Condition Bulletins** — contain information about current conditions in the watershed that set the stage for the possibility of flooding (if the right weather patterns should develop). "Be informed and aware."
- **Flood Advisories** — when it is perceived that flooding could result from an approaching weather system which is expected to bring heavy rain or warm air causing a rapid snowmelt. "Be prepared to activate your flood response plans, if it becomes necessary."
- **Flood Warnings** — when it is perceived that flooding conditions definitely will be experienced. "Activate your flood response procedures now."

Now is the time when municipalities should review their flood emergency response plans, ensuring that all employees, equipment and communications are in place — just in case. Property owners should do the same.

Flood forecasting is just one of the ways that Conservation Authorities help manage property damages, public safety risks and community disruption caused by floods. The RVCA also identifies flood vulnerable areas, regulates new development and promotes prudent land use on or adjacent to local flood plains.

Are you in a flood vulnerable area?

Contact an RVCA Resource Specialist at 613-692-3571 or 1-800-267-3504

— KELLIE at ext. 1128 or MEGAN at ext. 1132.

Want flood messages sent directly to your email account?

Contact ANDREA at andrea.larsen@rvca.ca or join us on Twitter!





Landowner Workshop: Planting Trees Can Save You Money and Reduce Your Taxes

Trees Ontario is hosting a free workshop this winter in partnership with the Ministry of Natural Resources, the Ontario Forestry Association, Leeds-Grenville Stewardship Council, Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority and Rideau Valley Conservation Authority. Participants will learn about the Ontario Government's 50 Million Tree Program, the Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program, tree planting techniques and other subsidy programs. To register for the workshop, please call 1.877.646.1193 or visit www.treesontario.ca/landownerworkshops.

- Date: Tuesday, February 22, 2011
- Time: 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
- Location: Brockville Rowing Club — 1 Ferry Street, Brockville, Ontario

New Flood Plain Mapping for Tay River

New flood plain mapping is now available for the Tay River from the Christie Lake outlet downstream for over 15 kilometres to Glen Tay Road and five kilometres on Scotts Snye. The maps show the areas along the river that are subject to flooding and where new development will need to consider the identified flood hazard in land use planning decisions. RVCA water resources engineering and geomatic staff produced the maps using high quality topographical information and modern hydrologic and hydraulic analyses. The series of new maps are at a 1:5,000 scale for easy viewing and more accurate identification of structures, properties and landforms. For more information, email FERDOUS (ferdous.ahmed@rvca.ca).

Jock River Subwatershed Report

The second publication in a series of annual watershed reports is due out this spring. Watch for the Jock River Subwatershed Report 2010 this April. The report will contain information about the forest cover, wetlands, water quality and riparian cover in and along this drainage area of 551 square kilometres. This report will also be your gateway to subcatchment data sheets and all the RVCA monitoring data recorded for the Jock River area. MARTIN has more at ext 1163 or martin.czarski@rvca.ca.

2011 Conservation Area Passes Available

It's a winter wonderland at all seven developed conservation areas. The \$45 annual pass gives unlimited access — winter, spring, summer and fall. Now might be the time for snowshoeing and skiing, but pond studies, picnics and beach basking are only months away. Call us at 1-800-267-3504 or 613-692-3571 ext. 1100 to get your pass.

Do I need a Permit?

If you are planning work around a lake, river, stream or wetland, be sure to call an RVCA Resource Specialist for a quick and free review of your plans. They can let you know if any permits are required and if there are any grants available to help you pay for your project. Call KELLIE at ext. 1128 or MEGAN at ext. 1132 for help.

Snowshoeing Clinics at Foley Mountain Conservation Area

Looking for a chance to try out this fun and active winter sport? Join RVCA staff to find out some of the finer points of snowshoeing and enjoy a guided tour through Foley Mountain Conservation Area.

- Date: February 4, 10 and 26 at 10:00 a.m.
- Cost: is \$6 per person or \$20 per family (includes up to five related people) and includes a complimentary snowshoe rental.
- Pre-registration: Please! Space is limited.
- Contact: REBECCA WHITMAN at 613-273-3255 or rebecca.whitman@rvca.ca.

Spring Water Awareness Program

Warming spring weather is just around the corner — which harkens the return of the RVCA Spring Water Awareness Program. Children are quick to explore rushing streams and thawing ponds, but these areas can be extremely dangerous. The Spring Water Awareness Program (SWAP) is a free safety program offered by the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority to teach students about staying safe around dangerous spring water. The program is offered free of charge to schools in the Rideau River watershed from March 7 to 11 and March 21 to April 1, 2011. For more information, contact PETER at 613-489-3592 (peter.goddard@rvca.ca) or REBECCA at 613-273-3255 (rebecca.whitman@rvca.ca).

RVCA Cruises into New Planting Project with MTO

RVCA is embarking on a pilot project this spring with the Ontario Ministry of Transportation. The RVCA will plant over 20,000 trees along provincial highways (Highway 417 and 416 interchanges including Dilworth, Bankfield and Hunt Club) in our watershed. MTO is looking to control snow drifting with trees while enhancing wildlife habitat and biodiversity. RVCA is pleased to assist them with our skills and resources. For more information, contact DAN (dan.cooper@rvca.ca).

ATR by E-mail?

If you would prefer to get *Around the Rideau* by e-mail rather than mail, contact DIANA at diana.pratt@rvca.ca or at 1-800-267-3504 or 613-692-3571 ext. 1100 to make the switch.



Around the Rideau

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Office de protection de la nature de la
vallée de la rivière Rideau

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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:



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