



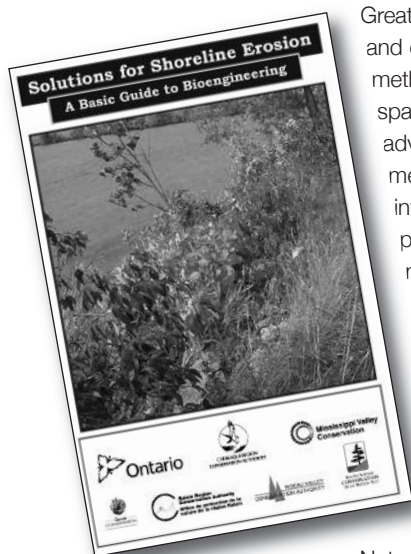
Around the Rideau

Environmental Information For Municipalities In The Rideau Valley

May | June 2011

Now Available — “Solutions for Shoreline Erosion” Bioengineering Handbook

A new handbook is available to help landowners better understand their options when doing work to protect their shorelines. The *Solutions for Shoreline Erosion* Handbook goes beyond the traditional approaches to reduce erosion (rip-rap) and highlights options that use natural materials.



Great for lakes, rivers, streams, creeks, and drains, the booklet shows different methods for different sites (slope, soil, space). The booklet also outlines the advantages and disadvantages of each method. It also includes contact information for agencies where permits and/or approvals might be necessary prior to starting your project. Calling your local conservation authority is a great way to start!

Hats off to the conservation team for pulling this handbook together: Cataraqi Conservation Authority, Mississippi Valley Conservation, Ontario Ministry of

Natural Resources (Kemptonville District),

Quinte Conservation, Raisin Region Conservation Authority, RVCA and South Nation Conservation. Contact JENNIFER at ext. 1108 or jennifer.lamoureux@rvca.ca for more.

Wanted: Volunteers to Monitor Rain and Lake Levels

The RVCA is looking for volunteers to help monitor rain and lake levels. Lake level monitoring involves attaching a staff gauge (meter long piece of metal) to a permanent structure that can be easily read. Precipitation monitoring requires an open area where a rain gauge (plastic cone about 30 cm in height) can be placed and measured daily. Want to help? Contact ANDREA at ext. 1140 or andrea.larsen@rvca.ca.

It's Here: Jock River Subwatershed Report Card

This information-loaded report summarizes the health of the Jock River Subwatershed by looking at four indicators — forest cover, wetlands, shoreline vegetation and surface water quality. Residents and municipalities in the area should be pleased with the positive results and excited about ongoing stewardship initiatives to maintain and improve the health of the subwatershed and its tributaries. To learn more, contact MARTIN ext 1163 or martin.czarski@rvca.ca.

Anglers: Have you seen an American Eel?

Anglers and outdoor enthusiast are asked to help. If you see or catch an American Eel while fishing please call the RVCA or the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources with details such as the location, bait or lure type, time of day, estimated length and general habitat.

Once an abundant fish species in the area, the American eel population has declined to the point where they are an endangered species. Learn more about American Eels at the RVCA website — www.rvca.ca/SAR.html

If you accidentally catch an American Eel, please release it immediately unharmed. Call MIKE at ext. 1176 or michael.yee@rvca.ca to report any sightings.

Let's Celebrate and Plant a Tree!

Special occasions call for special effects! The Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation (RVCF) has just launched a *Special Occasions Tree Planting Program*. Celebrate your next big festivity by having a commemorative tree planted in its honour — birthdays, anniversaries, graduations, weddings — all good reasons to give the gift of a tree. Learn more at the Foundation's website at www.rvcf.ca.

Summer “Growth Spurt”

May is the month where the RVCA has a brief, yet wonderful growth spurt. Every May, RVCA staff increases by a third with over 25 new students helping us do our watershed work until the end of August.



Outstanding Outdoor Day Camps at Baxter



Summer is just around the corner and now's the time to sign-up for Baxter's Summer Day Camps.

Salamander Campers (6 to 8 years) can enjoy a fun-filled week exploring wetland, meadow and forest habitats with different themes and activities every session.

Bullfrog Campers (9 to 12 years) participate in the above core program activities plus small group games, challenges and adventures.

Cool Canoe Camps

Two one-week introductory canoe tripping sessions for campers 10 to 13 years old. Learn about tandem paddling, canoe tripping safety and rescue, trip planning and preparation, river ecosystem exploration and shoreline clean-up.

Conservation Camp

Explore specific habitats, tackle individual and group conservation projects, enjoy species identification, complete small habitat restoration projects along

with swimming, games, and more!

Optional Overnight Program

Thursday night of each session campers can experience nature at night; stargazing, night hikes, campfires, singing and stories.

For a more detailed information and registration form, visit www.rvca.ca/careas/baxter or call Andrea at 613-489-3592.



Urban Well Decommissioning Eligible for Funding

With the launch of the new Ottawa Rural Clean Water Grants Program comes news that funding will now be provided for urban well decommissioning. The City of Ottawa has committed an additional \$50,000 to the current annual program budget, which is dedicated to addressing these projects. This change will provide a greater opportunity for the residents of Ottawa to participate in the program, and to help protect local water quality. For more information visit ottawa.ca/cleanwater, or to register, contact the LANDOWNER RESOURCE CENTRE at 613-692-3571 or 1-800-267-3504 ext 1128 or 1132 or info@lrconline.com.

Bad Weather Causes Shoreline Damage

Recent windstorms have caused erosion damage and damage to shoreline structures, particularly in the upper reaches (cottage country) of the Rideau Valley Watershed. Some of the remedies for this damage may need more than just a minor "tweak". This is a reminder to all landowners to check with your local Conservation Authority to see if a permit is required prior to doing any "clean-up" work along your shoreline (e.g., shoreline stabilization or repair to shore works, erosion control, dock construction). There are also restrictions to when you can undertake in-water work, such as crib repair. The best thing to do is contact your local Conservation Authority to see if there are any restrictions or approval requirements. Call the LANDOWNER RESOURCE CENTRE at 613-692-3571 or 1-800-267-3504 ext. 1128 and 1132. They may also be able to guide you towards funding for shoreline stewardship activities.

LiVE 88.5 Goes Carbon Neutral — Your Business Can Do It Too!

Congratulations to LiVE 88.5 FM "Ottawa's Alternative Rock" for going carbon neutral and becoming Canada's first carbon neutral radio station ever! The Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation (RVCF) planted 5,700 vigorous, young, locally-grown trees in the southern Ottawa area to offset the carbon dioxide produced annually through normal station operation. The RVCF uses a formula to estimate the number of trees needed to absorb or "offset" the carbon dioxide generated by the business through lighting, heating, cooling, travel, etc. Interested in making your business carbon neutral? Learn more at www.rvcf.ca or call CHARLES at ext. 1116 or charles.billington@rvca.ca.

Participant



Around the Rideau

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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

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 our generous sponsors:



Bug Sampling Helps Monitor Health of Local Watercourses

Bugs are great barometers of pollution. Some can tolerate pollution while others are very sensitive to instream pollution. By sampling stream-bottom invertebrates (caddisflies, mayflies, crayfish, snails, beetles, aquatic worms, etc.) the RVCA can determine, over time, changes in stream water conditions and levels of pollution. The RVCA has been sampling stream-bottom invertebrates since 2003. This biological method complements the RVCA's water chemistry sampling programs.

Sampling is done once in May and once in October using a standard "kick and sweep method" with a D-net. Three samples are taken at each sample site. They are preserved and brought back to the lab for identification.

The data from 2003 to 2010, along with previous summary reports, will be on the RVCA's website by the end of May. JENNIFER can tell you more at ext. 1108 or jennifer.lamoureux@rvca.ca.

Save the Day To Paddle the Tay

Want to take an interesting paddle and guided tour down the Tay River? Mark Saturday, June 25, 2011 on the calendar now! For more information, contact Lanark County Stewardship Council (613-267-4200) and The Friends of the Tay Watershed Association (613-264-0094).

ATR by E-mail?

If you would prefer to get *Around the Rideau* by e-mail rather than mail, contact GLORIA at gloria.toffolo@rvca.ca or at 1-800-267-3504 or 613-692-3571 ext. 1100. You can also follow us on Facebook or get our tweets via Twitter (RideauValleyCA!)

Macro Stream Assessment

This summer, aquatic habitat staff will be surveying Kemptville Creek, North Branch and Barnes Creek. The Macro Stream Assessment program collects information on the physical and biological attributes of surveyed streams. Each assessment involves staff surveying 100 metre sections of the stream from the top of the watercourse to the bottom. The information collected includes adjacent land use patterns, riparian conditions, bank stability, bank vegetation, instream vegetation and structure, fish and wildlife, invasive species presence, garbage and pollution. Restoration and habitat enhancement opportunities are also identified. The fish community structure and stream temperatures will be assessed at various locations on each system. The information collected will support the catchment data sheets and the subwatershed reports that are produced. To learn more, contact JENNIFER at ext. 1108 or jennifer.lamoureux@rvca.ca.

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