



# Around the Rideau

Environmental Information For Municipalities In The Rideau Valley

November | December 2011

## Tri-Valley Awards — Nominate Your Environmental Hero

Here's your chance to shine a little recognition on your environmental hero — the 2011 Tri-Valley Awards are now accepting nominations! If you know someone from the Mississippi, Rideau or South Nation watersheds who is doing their part to improve or maintain local water quality, then please complete a nomination form available online at our foundation website — [www.rvcf.ca](http://www.rvcf.ca).

The Tri-Valley Gala will take place Wednesday, April 18, 2012 at the Rideau Valley Conservation Centre. To learn more, contact CHARLES at [charles.billington@rvca.ca](mailto:charles.billington@rvca.ca) or ext. 1116.

## Water Festival A Great Success

Baxter was a busy, busy spot as over 200 children from three schools participated in the free, fall Water Festival! The Festival gives grades 3, 4 and 5 students hands-on learning about the water cycle, water conservation, wells, septic systems and more. REBECCA can tell you more at [rebecca.whitman@rvca.ca](mailto:rebecca.whitman@rvca.ca).

## Source Water Open Houses — Draft Policies and New Funding

Open houses are being held to share draft source protection policies with the public. These policies would place requirements or restrictions on the types of activities taking place near municipal wells and upstream of municipal surface water intakes. The goal is to keep contaminants out of drinking water sources. New funding will also be announced to help property owners in these areas implement certain risk mitigation measures. Let us know what you think about the draft policies by December 2, 2011 so we can revise policies where needed.

Open houses are 4 to 8 p.m. with a presentation at 6 p.m.  
November 14 – Richmond Fairgrounds, 6107 Perth Street  
November 16 – Almonte Old Town Hall, 14 Bridge Street  
November 21 – Carp Fairgrounds, 3790 Carp Road  
November 22 – Merrickville Community Centre, 106 Read Street  
November 24 – Perth Legion, 26 Beckwith Street  
For more information contact SOMMER at ext.1147 or [sommer.robertson@mrsourcewater.ca](mailto:sommer.robertson@mrsourcewater.ca) or [www.mrsourcewater.ca](http://www.mrsourcewater.ca).

## New Addition to Foley Mountain

Since the early 1990s, a pine log barn has sat idle at the Perth Wildlife Reserve. Thanks to special funding through the Ministry of Training Colleges and Universities, the RVCA has moved the barn to the Foley Mountain Conservation Area. The logs and rafters were dismantled, numbered and reconstructed. The 28 foot by 44 foot building will now be put to good use to store education materials for the some 3,000 students who participate in the curriculum-based environmental programs offered at Foley Mountain. KRISTY can give you the full story at [kristy.giles@rvca.ca](mailto:kristy.giles@rvca.ca) or ext. 1178.

## Memorial Trees

Planting a tree is a very special way to express sympathy for the loss of a friend or loved one. It is comforting to know that a living tribute will be planted here in the Rideau Valley where the person so enjoyed the outdoors and spent so many good years. Your tree eventually takes its place in a vibrant new forest of the future providing life-sustaining benefits like clean air and water to the community for another 80 years — that's more than comforting; that is visionary. More information at [www.rvcf.ca](http://www.rvcf.ca) or call CHARLES at ext. 1116.

## Britannia Village Flood Control

Back in 2007, Ottawa City Council gave the green light for a remedial flood control project for the Britannia Village community located in the City's west-end along the scenic shores of the Ottawa River. Engineering consultants from Delcan Corporation have presented two options to the Community Liaison Working Group (CLWG) for consideration. The design options take into account the comments and concerns of landowners whose properties would be most directly affected by the construction and maintenance of the flood control barrier. The refined designs are much more acceptable to the CLWG and landowners; however, the overall cost is expected to exceed the cost ceiling approved by the City of Ottawa Council. Members of the CLWG are considering their position and if the benefiting community would be prepared to increase its contribution towards the project's cost. The RVCA awaits further direction from the City as to whether or not it wishes to proceed with the project. BRUCE has more details at [bruce.reid@rvca.ca](mailto:bruce.reid@rvca.ca) or ext. 1103.



Britannia Village continues to explore a remedial flood control project.



## Great Gift Idea! 2012 Conservation Area Pass

The 2012 RVCA Conservation Area Annual Pass is now available. Our \$45 pass opens the “out” doors with unlimited access to all of our conservation areas. Conservation Areas offer year-round fun! To order your pass, call DIANA or GLORIA at ext. 1100 or download the paperwork at [www.rvca.ca](http://www.rvca.ca) under “What’s New.”

## City of Ottawa Appoints two new Members to RVCA Board

The City of Ottawa has appointed Steve Curtis and Magda Kubasiewicz to the RVCA Board of Directors. These two members complete the new 22 member board with one from each of the sixteen rural municipalities plus six representatives from the City of Ottawa. January 27, 2011 was the first annual meeting of the new and improved RVCA Board of Directors that expanded from a twelve member board to include a member from each municipality. Need more info? Contact DELL at [dell.hallett@rvca.ca](mailto:dell.hallett@rvca.ca) or ext. 1114.

## Chapman Mills — Improved!

The Chapman Mills Conservation Area has gotten better with great new fish habitat! This spring, a channel was cut to connect an existing backwater bay of the Rideau to the main channel. A separate shallow bay was also created featuring a picturesque and important habitat island adjacent to the main river. These changes will improve water circulation, increase depths of water allowing for more diverse aquatic vegetation, provide new spawning, nursery and rearing habitat for the fish community and improve the function of adjacent wetland for all aquatic species. Final landscaping and cleanup was done over the summer and new interpretive signs have now been installed to explain the kinds of fish and aquatic animals people will see in the area. JENNIFER can tell you more at [jennifer.lamoureux@rvca.ca](mailto:jennifer.lamoureux@rvca.ca) or ext. 1108.

## Tay Valley Makes Septic Re-inspections Mandatory

Tay Valley Council has passed a resolution to create a by-law for mandatory septic re-inspections for seven lakes in the municipality for 2012. If your municipality is investigating re-inspections or considering the Tay approach, contact TERRY to learn how the RVCA’s septic services can help — [terry.davidson@rvca.ca](mailto:terry.davidson@rvca.ca) or ext. 1107. The current Mississippi-Rideau Septic Re-inspection Program continues in five Rideau townships (Central Frontenac, Drummond/North Elmsley, North Frontenac, Rideau Lakes and Tay Valley). The goal for 2011 is to re-inspect 535 septic systems along lake shores. ERIC can give you all the details at [eric.kohlsmith@rvca.ca](mailto:eric.kohlsmith@rvca.ca) or 1-613-259-2421 ext. 259.

## Hearts Desire Weir Update

RVCA staff continue to explore the idea of removing the Hearts Desire Weir. Located on the lower Jock River near Prince of Wales Drive and built in 1975, the need for the weir has been debated for many years. The RVCA is reviewing a decommissioning and restoration plan for the area and will be looking for public input at an upcoming open house. A final report and recommendation for the future of the Weir and enhancement of neighbouring shoreline will be brought to the Board of Directors in December. MIKE can give you details at [michael.yee@rvca.ca](mailto:michael.yee@rvca.ca) or ext. 1176.

## Now is the Time— Flood Prep!

A friendly reminder to our waterfront property owners that now is the time to prepare for spring flooding. It is the RVCA’s job to make people aware of spring flooding from our rivers, creeks and streams, but it is up to each landowner to develop a flood plan specific to their property and their needs.

Here are some tips:

- if you live along water, contact an RVCA Resource Specialist and find out if you are in the flood plain. They can help you understand how your property might be impacted by high waters (613-692-3571 ext. 1128 or 1132)
- familiarize yourself with flood warnings and what they mean (visit [www.rvca.ca/flood](http://www.rvca.ca/flood))
- join the RVCA’s flood advisory e-mail list (contact [andrea.larsen@rvca.ca](mailto:andrea.larsen@rvca.ca)) or join us on Twitter or Facebook for updates on watershed conditions
- think about what you would want to move to safety during a flood
- consider if you are willing to sandbag your property — who would do it? Where would you get bags and sand?
- prepare an emergency plan for your family (safe exits, meeting places, emergency contacts, disaster supplies, etc.)
- prepare an emergency kit of essential items (copies of home insurance documents, batteries, radio, bottled water, etc.)
- know how to turn off your gas, electricity and water supplies

For more on preparing for a flood, visit:

[www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/EmergencyManagement/2ColumnSubPage/240053.html](http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/EmergencyManagement/2ColumnSubPage/240053.html)

## Holiday Schedule

Our offices will close at 4:30 p.m. on December 23, 2011 and re-open on January 3, 2012 at 8:30 a.m.

*The RVCA wishes  
our readers a happy  
and safe holiday season.*



# 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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