



# AROUND THE RIDEAU

ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION FOR  
MUNICIPALITIES IN THE RIDEAU VALLEY

November • December 2003

## GROUNDWATER STUDY

The Regional Groundwater Study results have now been presented to participating municipal councils, staff and CA members. They have priority-ranked the ten main recommendations in preparation for a roll-up-your-sleeves workshop in February 2004 to hash out the details of the implementation process. The study covers Renfrew County and the watersheds of the Mississippi and Rideau rivers. An estimated 200,000 people in the area rely on good groundwater for drinking. Report summary on project website at [www.mvc.on.ca/rmrgroundwaterstudy](http://www.mvc.on.ca/rmrgroundwaterstudy) or **DELL HALLETT** for more information at ext 1114 or [dellhallett@rideauvalley.on.ca](mailto:dellhallett@rideauvalley.on.ca).

## STEWARDSHIP DIRECTORY

As a public service on behalf of the 13 participating groups, the LandOwner Resource Centre (LRC) has just produced the "Shoreline Stewardship Directory 2003" as an information and contact summary of people working in the areas of river and lake shoreline management. Gives municipalities, community associations and the general public a bit of a handle on the growing number of groups offering programs on shorelines and wetlands in the valley. For an electronic copy, please contact **SOMMER** at the LRC at ext 1128 or [srobertson@lrconline.com](mailto:srobertson@lrconline.com).

## LAND ENDOWMENT FUND

Finally... an endowment fund to help offset the growing cost of maintaining environmental lands donated to the public through the Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation. The land may be a gift, but it takes money to keep it safe, open and available for public use over the long term. The Foundation currently holds title to seven donated properties totaling over 400 acres of flood plain, wetland and forest from the headwaters in Central Frontenac Township to Sawmill Creek in downtown Ottawa. Gifts to the Conservation Land Endowment Fund keep on working forever since only the annual interest is used for conservation purposes. The principal remains invested and grows with new donations for next year's work. More information about donations to preserve greenspace in the Rideau Valley from **CHARLES** at ext 1116 or [cbillington@rideauvalley.on.ca](mailto:cbillington@rideauvalley.on.ca).

## NEW WELLS NEEDED

The City of Ottawa's Well Inspection Pilot Program is still looking for new homeowners who are planning to drill new wells this fall and winter. The free inspection program provides peace of mind that your well is constructed up to provincial and local standards. Participants receive well inspections during construction, a major chemical analysis of their well water, and a well report documenting the findings. This program is working the bugs out for a potential province-wide program in the future. More from **ROBERT** at ext 1106 or [rpassmore@rideauvalley.on.ca](mailto:rpassmore@rideauvalley.on.ca).

## MUD CREEK & LOWER RIDEAU

The partners involved in the Lower Rideau Watershed Strategy and the Mud Creek Subwatershed Plan are inviting all interested landowners to an Open House on Tuesday, December 9, 6 – 8:30 pm in the library of St. Leonard School, 5344 Long Island Road in Manotick. Presentations on the two watershed studies at 7 pm. Everyone welcome. Call **CHARLES** for information at ext 1116 or [cbillington@rideauvalley.on.ca](mailto:cbillington@rideauvalley.on.ca).

## ASIAN LONGHORNED BEETLE

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is tracking the north-Toronto infestation of this damaging insect (kills deciduous trees including sugar maple). Maps of the infested area, pictures and more information on how to identify signs of the insect and infested trees is available on the CFIA website at [www.inspection.gc.ca](http://www.inspection.gc.ca). For printed copies or if you believe you've seen the beetle or its signs in our area, please call **CFIA** at 1-800-442-2342.

## ROYAL BANK INTEREST

RBC Financial Group, Ducks Unlimited Canada, Ottawa-Carleton Catholic School Board, Ottawa-Carleton District School Board and Rideau Valley Conservation Authority have just launched the Adopt-A-Class

Wetland Education program at Baxter Conservation Area. Grade four classes from the Ottawa boards go to Baxter for lessons on marsh fauna, flora and ecology thanks to the financial support of the Royal Bank. Details from **ALEX WATERS** at 1-800-402-4444 ext 223 or [a\\_waters@ducks.ca](mailto:a_waters@ducks.ca).

## CLEAN WATER PROGRAM SUMMARY

The RVCA Rural Clean Water Program has received 71 project applications of which 40 have been approved, 25 are in progress, and only six were either withdrawn or denied. The applications are almost equally split between the lake country (Tay Valley, Rideau Lakes, Drummond/North Elmsley, South Frontenac) and the middle watershed area (North Grenville, Merrickville-Wolford, Augusta, Kitley-Elizabethtown, Beckwith, Montague and North Dundas). The top three types of projects are livestock restriction/alternate watering systems, septic system repairs and safer fuel storage sites. The program has helped create \$315,500 worth of solid on-the-ground conservation work. Call or write **MARTHA** at ext 1136 or [mbradburn@rideauvalley.on.ca](mailto:mbradburn@rideauvalley.on.ca) to get your project in line for the grant money.



*Tim Kenny-Ducks Unlimited, Kirk Dudtschak-RBC Financial, John Mathews-teacher-Blossom Park School, Cliff Craig-Rideau Valley Conservation Authority, Jamie Fortune-Ducks Unlimited and two students from Blossom Park School*



“Most of the aquifers within the Study Area are capable of providing good quality water with adequate supply. The majority (93%) of the wells tap bedrock aquifers...”

Renfrew County –  
Mississippi – Rideau  
Groundwater Study  
Final Report,  
September 2003

## NOW INCLUDES WELL PROTECTION

The RVCA Rural Clean Water Program has expanded to include well head protection/upgrades and plugging or decommissioning of unused wells. This program is for existing private wells outside the City of Ottawa. Eligible activities include installation of a pitless adaptor, grading and seeding well head areas, extension of well casing above ground, water testing and the proper plugging of unused wells by a licensed well contractor. For information on how to get involved, talk to **SOMMER** or **JOELLE** at the LandOwner Resource Centre at 692-3571 ext 1128 or 1132 or 1-800-387-5304.

## LANDOWNER QUESTIONNAIRE

We are currently experiencing a greater-than-normal return volume for the Shoreline Landowner Questionnaire sent in October to 2,400 property owners along the Rideau River from Rideau Falls to Burritts Rapids. More than 600 people have taken the time to tell us their perceptions of problems, how they use the shoreline, and what their biggest beefs are about our old friend, the Rideau. Complete results in upcoming issues and on RVCA website when available at [www.rideauvalley.on.ca](http://www.rideauvalley.on.ca). The results will help shape the Lower Rideau Watershed Strategy now under construction by stakeholders along the river. See related story MUD CREEK & LOWER RIDEAU.

## SNOW TIME

Before long, you can take the whole family out to local Conservation Areas for cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, nature walking and winter picnics. Baxter and Foley Mountain Conservation Areas are very popular but there are six other parks you might want to explore. Get your Conservation Areas brochure (free) and your Conservation Area Annual Pass (\$40 per vehicle per year) for unlimited access to the winter wonderlands close by. Call **JOAN** at ext 1100 to have them mailed to your door. Makes a great gift for friends!

## VALLEY STREAMFLOW?

Interested in water levels and flow? No problem... just click on the RVCA website at <http://www.rideauvalley.on.ca/programs/index.html> to see hourly and daily mean flows and water levels on the Rideau, Jock and Tay Rivers, Kemptville Creek, as well as Upper Rideau, Big Rideau, Wolfe and Bobs Lakes. For help in understanding what it means, call **PATRICK** at ext 1110 or [plarson@rideauvalley.on.ca](mailto:plarson@rideauvalley.on.ca).

## SEPTIC COURSE FOR PROS

A four-day septic certification course for installers and inspectors is offered January 12 – 15, 9 – 4:30 each day with the Ontario Certification Exam written on January 16. Course covers Part 8 of the *Ontario Building Code* in preparation for the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing licencing exam. To register, call **SOMMER** at the LRC at 692-3571 ext 1128.

## AROUND THE RIDEAU

Rideau Valley Conservation Authority  
Office de protection de la nature de la vallée de la rivière Rideau  
Box 599  
Manotick, Ontario K4M 1A5  
692-3571 or 1-800-267-3504  
[www.rideauvalley.on.ca](http://www.rideauvalley.on.ca)

*Around the Rideau* circulation has risen to 2,800 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 friends at:



## CITY STREAM WATCH

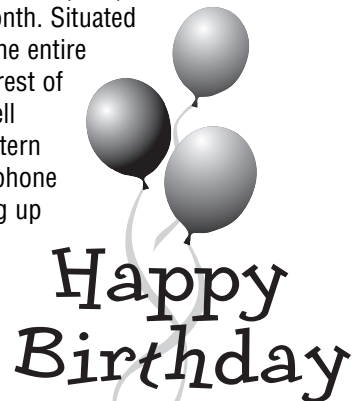
City Stream Watch is an amazing urban stream monitoring program sponsored by a partnership of community groups and government agencies and powered by volunteers and the Ontario Trillium Foundation. The team generated enormous amounts of valuable data on stream conditions found on 20 kilometres of Sawmill, Black Rapids, Mud (Manotick) and Cardinal Creeks. The data is being entered into the RVCA Watershed Information Management System (WIMS) for use by researchers, planners, environmentalists and communities in the future. Huge thanks to our community of volunteer scientists who walked and recorded over 20,000 metres of local streams! More from **BRIAN** at 580-2424 ext 33550 or [Brian.Bezaire@ottawa.ca](mailto:Brian.Bezaire@ottawa.ca).

## ONTARIO RE-TREES

According to a recent report based primarily on Southern Ontario and prepared for the Canadian Forest Service, Ontario's Conservation Authorities collectively planted 29.3 million (72%) of the 40 million trees planted on federal, municipal, county, CA and private lands (ie all lands other than provincial Crown land) in Ontario from 1990 – 2002! The Ministry of Natural Resources took care of another 10.8 million trees (27%) while Stewardship Councils planted and sold the remaining .5 million (1%). CAs are proud of their reforestation record and keen to help landowners get idle land into productive forest and wildlife habitat again. Call **RUDY** or **DAN** at ext 1135 or 1124 for more information on spring tree planting on your back forty in the Rideau Valley.

## LRC IS TEN!

Hard to believe that our own LandOwner Resource Centre (LRC) is ten years old this month. Situated in Manotick, it serves the entire City of Ottawa and the rest of the Rideau Valley as well as a major piece of Eastern Ontario with its 1-800 phone number proudly serving up current and objective environmental information and advice on forestry, river/lake issues, shorelines, docks, floodplains and permits, wildlife, stewardship services, septic and wells to the landowners of our area. LRC officially opened its door on November 19, 1993. Your one-stop shop for environmental information is at your service at 692-3571 ext 1128 or 1132 or 1-800-387-5304.



## 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

Effectively providing quality legal services in Eastern Ontario for over 40 years.

## CH2MHILL CANADA Limited, Ottawa (613) 723-8700

Providing excellence in environmental engineering, planning and science across Canada.

## Robinson Consultants Inc., Kanata (613) 592-6060

Able to assist you in optimizing your municipal works and related operations in an environmentally-friendly, cost-effective way.