



# AROUND THE RIDEAU

ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION FOR  
MUNICIPALITIES IN THE RIDEAU VALLEY

January • February 2003

## SHOW ME THE MONEY

An information meeting is planned to help farmers and rural landowners find out about what grants are available for work related to water quality protection. Eligible work includes septic system repair, nutrient management planning, management of runoff from farm fields and barnyards, fencing livestock away from streambanks and creeks, alternate watering methods, and fuel storage improvements. Saturday, January 25, 12:30–3:30 p.m., Lombardy Agricultural Hall, Lombardy Fairgrounds (Highway 15, 12 km south of Smiths Falls). More information from the **LandOwner Resource Centre**, 692-2390 or 1-800-387-5304 or [info@lrconline.com](mailto:info@lrconline.com).

## WHEN NATURE CALLS

Nature hikes, boat launches, picnic spots, forest trails, and fishing (ice and otherwise)? The whole family can enjoy the benefits of outdoor activities all year long with the 2003 RVCA Conservation Area Pass now available for \$40. The Pass gives you unlimited access to seven developed Conservation Areas in the valley including Baxter, Foley Mountain, Rideau Ferry Yacht Club and the brand new Chapman Mills Conservation Area in Ottawa. All 2003 buyers receive a free copy of *Your Guide to Conservation Areas in Ontario* showing over 245 parks in the province on a detailed road map including features, facilities and contact information. Call **JOAN** at ext 100 or drop by the Manotick office (V and MC accepted).

## LOWER RIDEAU WATERSHED STRATEGY

This issue priority and methodology harmonization exercise is proceeding under the watchful eye of the consultant team, led by Robinson Consultants, as a series of ten workshops with the staff from all government organizations involved in river management. We know that there is already a vast body of knowledge about river conditions and issues in the hands and heads of the various government bodies who each have partial responsibility for river health. The second and third workshops coming up are *Goals and Objectives* on January 30 and *Levels of Enhancement, Indicators and Targets* on February 27. The Watershed Community Focus Group will be briefed and invited to provide community feedback after Workshops #4, 7 and 9. More details from **BRUCE** at ext 103 or [bareid@rideauvalley.on.ca](mailto:bareid@rideauvalley.on.ca).

## MUNICIPAL PRESENTATIONS

General Manager Dell Hallett is attending municipal council meetings with a presentation on the new RVCA Three-Year Workplan and Budget. This document was developed at the request of the Board of Directors as a result of a growing dissatisfaction with year-to-year work planning, the Walkerton tragedy, the need to strengthen CA ability in the area of source protection and the need to know more detailed information about how our watershed functions (quantity and quality of all parts of the water cycle). The Workplan is a staged strategy towards cost-effective, intermunicipal environmental protection for surface water,

groundwater and related resources in the Rideau Valley jurisdiction. **DELL** has more at ext 114 or [dellhallett@rideauvalley.on.ca](mailto:dellhallett@rideauvalley.on.ca).

## NEW HOMEOWNER'S GUIDE TO SEPTIC SYSTEMS

A simple guide to the do's and don'ts of your very own septic system. This handy little book will give new homeowners a crash course in your family's personal sewage treatment plant. How it works, inspections and approvals required, daily operation and regular maintenance, and a troubleshooting checklist. Produced by the Ontario New Home Warranty Program available free from the **LandOwner Resource Centre** (LRC), 5524 Dickinson Street in Manotick, 692- 2390 or 1-800-387-5304. Tons of other landowner resources too.



## FLOOD RISK MAPPING: LONG REACH

Revised flood risk mapping of the Rideau between Kars Bridge and Burritts Rapids is now complete. Further calibration of the model using observed water levels resulted in a reduction of the 1:100 year water elevations from those in an earlier draft. The final version of the mapping shows the flood levels higher than the original 1976 mapping by 33 cm in Kars and 9 cm at the mouth of Kemptville Creek. The new mapping has implications for land use planning and development in the Township of North Grenville and the City of Ottawa. Eventually, this updated mapping will be used to support a new local regulation in conformity with a forthcoming generic provincial regulation. Call **BRUCE** for all the details at ext 103.



“About once a year, the septic tank should be inspected ... for sludge accumulation, proper function and leaks. Since this is not a pleasant task, most homeowners hire a licensed septic tank contractor.”

*A New Homeowner's Guide to Septic Systems (Ontario New Home Warranty Program)*

### TRANSCANADA PIPELINES

TransCanada PipeLines, an outstanding supporter of the Baxter Energy Education Program, has recently approved a new gift of \$12,000 for Baxter Conservation Area on the Rideau River in the southern part of the City of Ottawa. The donation is to be used to renovate the Baxter Cabin for use by camping groups and the Summer Education program and to help defray the expenses involved in mounting the new Baxter Leadership Camp which debuts this summer. “TransCanada is one of our most generous and loyal supporters and we really appreciate their confidence in our programs,” said Peter Goddard, Baxter Camp Manager. Details from **PETER** at 489-3592 or [pgoddard@rideauvalley.on.ca](mailto:pgoddard@rideauvalley.on.ca) .

### CHILDREN'S WATER FESTIVAL

The Eastern Ontario Children's Water Festival (cancelled last fall due to unforeseen circumstances) is now re-scheduled for May 6, 7 and 8 at the Baxter Conservation Area just off Highway 416 at Dilworth Road (10 km north of Kemptville). Grade four classes in the Ottawa area are invited to reserve their day at the “water discovery centres” by calling Rob Gratton, Festival Coordinator, at 613-936-6620 ext 229 or [rgratton@riverinstitute.com](mailto:rgratton@riverinstitute.com). The website with lots of water education information is [www.riverinstitute.com](http://www.riverinstitute.com). This is definitely a “must” event for local classes judging from the comments heard and received following last year's pilot festivals. The festival will be repeated twice more in 2003 at Collège d'Alfred on June 3-5 and again at Upper Canada Village from October 7-9. The Baxter Festival serves classes in the Ottawa area.

### TEN YEARS OF TREES

The Canadian Forest Service is undertaking a huge inventory of all tree planting in Ontario over the past ten years as part of the *Government of Canada Action Plan 2000 on Climate Change*. In Ontario, the main tree planting groups are the Conservation Authorities, the Ministry of Natural Resources, and municipalities. Three regional coordinators (the Eastern Region Coordinator works out of the South Nation Conservation office) are hoping to pull all the information together by spring. This work should produce some very interesting numbers. The goal is to use the information in federal projects related to carbon sequestration and the Kyoto Accord. More from **RUDY** at ext 135 or [rdyck@rideauvalley.on.ca](mailto:rdyck@rideauvalley.on.ca).

### SHORELINE SURVEY

Fieldwork for the shoreline classification project on the Rideau River wrapped up in late fall. A complete survey of both shorelines was done from Kars Bridge downstream to Hogs Back Dam. Data collected includes property reference information, photos, presence and type of shoreline structures, active erosion sites, land

use description, and condition of riparian zone vegetation. In 2003, the shoreline classification project will be extended upstream from Kars to at least the Burritts Rapids area. Sincere thanks to our partners at HURST MARINA who donated the use of their boat, motor and trailer for the shoreline team last year. More from **PATRICK** at ext 110 or [plarson@rideauvalley.on.ca](mailto:plarson@rideauvalley.on.ca).

### JOCK RIVER GAUGE

The new Jock River streamgauge at the Franktown Road crossing is installed and operational. It records water levels on an hourly basis. Once all the bugs are worked out, telephone and electric connections will be installed so that remote access from Manotick will be possible. Flow measurements were made last fall to establish the relationship between level and flow rate (discharge) at the site. Special thanks are due to the Friends of the Jock River for their fruitful fundraising of \$30,000 to get this project completed. Congratulations from the entire environmental community! **PATRICK** at ext 110 for more details.

### GIFT IN RIDEAU LAKES

A huge gift of environmental land overlooking and bordering on Upper Rideau Lake has been donated to the Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation by the Weiss family of New York state. It is their wish that the property remain in public hands in a natural state protected from development. The important gift includes about 600 feet of natural shoreline and about 124 acres of upland. Foundation Chair Mary Bryden thanked both the Weiss family and R.W.Tomlinson, Monarch Homes, the Chawkers Foundation and individual donors who help finance the transfer of these very thoughtful gifts into the public domain through the Foundation's Environmental Land Fund. More from **RUDY** at ext 135 or [rdyck@rideauvalley.on.ca](mailto:rdyck@rideauvalley.on.ca) .



### 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 2,500 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:

**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.

