



# AROUND THE RIDEAU

ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION FOR MUNICIPALITIES IN THE RIDEAU VALLEY

March • April 2003

## FLOOD FORECAST

Mid-March to mid-April is the typical time for high water on the Rideau. Based on snow conditions during the first week of March, the potential for normal or higher than normal flood levels is there. When and where flooding occurs depends on rainfall, ice flow and air temperature during the snowmelt period. Please listen or view daily updates of streamflow conditions in the Rideau Valley by calling **RVCA at 692-3571 and choosing "Current Flood Conditions" or checking the RVCA website at [www.rideauvalley.on.ca](http://www.rideauvalley.on.ca)** and clicking on Streamflow Conditions.

## REFORESTATION

This year, close to half a million trees will have been planted in the rural areas of the City of Ottawa under the GREEN ACRES and previous programs since 1997! The equivalent of 83,000 tons of carbon dioxide permanently removed from the atmosphere is a major contribution to our health, our economy and our quality of life. It is a remarkable partnership between the City, the Conservation Authorities and the rural landowners pitching together to replant idle land. To get involved on your own property in 2004, call the **LandOwner Resource Centre in Manotick at 692- 2390 or 1-800-387-5304**. Oxygen, erosion protection, wildlife habitat, carbon sequestration and a really good feeling.

## COMMUNITY TREE SALES

**EcoPerth** is selling bare-root tree seedlings (white cedar, dogwood, white oak, red pine and many others) for \$1.25 each for planting by homeowners. To hold your order, they need **payment by mid-April**. Pickup day is May 3, 9 – noon at the Crystal Palace in Perth. Information from **CHERYL NASH at 267-1128**.

**Rideau River Roundtable** is having a similar **tree sale in Manotick** (pickup May 3) and Merrickville (pickup May 10). **Payment by mid-April please**. Information, ordering and planting advice through **STEW HAMILL at 269-3415** or [shamill@ca.inter.net](mailto:shamill@ca.inter.net).

## SHOW ME THE \$

The Information Meeting about programs for rural landowners wanting to do projects which help protect water quality in local streams held on Saturday January 25 in Lombardy was a **huge success**. Over 200 people came to get information on everything from fencing and alternate watering for livestock, to fuel storage, septic system repair, nutrient management plans, permits required, incentive programs, who to talk to, and advice on clearing the regulatory minefield. It's still not too late. **A brochure listing funding sources for on-farm and rural water quality protection projects is now available**. Call the **LandOwner Resource Centre at 692-2390 or 1-800-387-5304** for assistance with your family projects.

## CLEAN WATER PROGRAM

Rideau Valley Rural Clean Water Program is one of those funding programs. Over 30 landowners are in the process of receiving funds, mainly for agricultural projects such as fencing, runoff management and nutrient management.

Brochures and information will be available at the "Farm Show" and "Cottage and Country Home Show" as well as local seed shows this spring. Call the **LandOwner Resource Centre at 692-2390 or 1-800-387-5304** to start working towards a project this spring or summer.

## JOCK RIVER FLOOD MAPS

Updated flood risk maps are being produced for the Jock River corridor from the Rideau River right up to the village of Ashton (excluding the large Richmond Fen wetland). **Flood risk maps identify areas expected to be flooded during major flood events**. Planners and watershed managers rely on the maps to help steer development away from flood-prone areas. The \$100,000 project should be completed this fall. More information from **BRUCE at extension 103**.

## KIDS WATER FESTIVAL

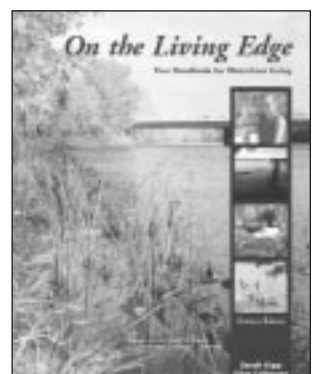
The long-anticipated Eastern Ontario Children's Water Festival is finally coming to the Baxter Conservation Area on May 6, 7 and 8 this year. **This is the only Ottawa stop for this amazing day of active learning**. This is truly a memorable day of intense and valuable water education disguised as fun and frolic. **Grade four classes from the Ottawa area** should make a reservation as soon as possible through **Robert Gratton, Coordinator, Eastern Ontario Children's Water Festival, (613) 936-6620 ext 229** or [rgratton@riverinstitute.com](mailto:rgratton@riverinstitute.com). More information is available on the website at [www.riverinstitute.com/festival](http://www.riverinstitute.com/festival).

## FISHER STUDY

Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, the Ontario Fur Managers Federation and the University of Ottawa are teaming up to study the population, movements, habitat and mortality of fishers (a 20-pound furbearing mammal) in the townships of **Augusta, Edwardsburgh, Oxford and South Gower including the Kemptville Creek area**. Fifty fishers have been trapped and fitted with radio collars. Fisher populations have increased in Eastern Ontario over the past few decades after being decimated during the 1930s. MNR wildlife biologist **Jason Ritchie** has more information at **258-8500**.

## SHORELINE HANDBOOK

The Living By Water Project announces the arrival of the Ontario version of *On the Living Edge – Your Handbook for Waterfront Living*. This is the essential guide to healthy, low-impact waterfront living. How to protect your investment AND enjoy your waterfront naturally. Copies are \$18.70 plus GST and shipping. Bulk discounts available for lake associations, real estate professionals and community groups. More from **REBECCA at ext 122** or [shorelines@lrconline.com](mailto:shorelines@lrconline.com).





“... the question is what to do now? The answers are in the Tay River Watershed Plan and the steps it outlines to address the problems ...”

Charles Long  
Commentary on the  
Health of the Tay  
Watershed, Smiths Falls  
EMC, March 13, 2003

### SAWMILL SWEEP

An inspired group of people from the Heron Park and Greenboro communities is organizing a massive, multi-section **clean up of the shorelines of Sawmill Creek as part of the City of Ottawa's "Spring Cleaning the Capital" program.** Sawmill Creek is the last free-flowing stream in urban Ottawa and the object of an updated "watershed plan." Volunteers wanting to get out and do something this spring can get involved on this beautiful little stream by calling **Donna Silver at 228-1191** or e-mail at [dawnawe@hotmail.com](mailto:dawnawe@hotmail.com). The clean up days will be on **May weekends**. If there are people who could spare a few hours to help in the organization of the clean up now, that would be most appreciated.

### FISH SPAWN STOP WORK ORDER

Please be aware that **all in-water construction or shoreline rehabilitation work is prohibited between March 15 and July 1** each year in order to protect fish spawning. This is the law in Ontario. Fishing and the continued availability of sport fish is a multi-million dollar industry in the Rideau Valley watershed. No more fish, no more industry. Please respect the fish spawning restrictions on all watercourses. More information is available from the **LandOwner Resource Centre in Manotick, 692-2390 or 1-800-387-5304.**

### ECOLOGICAL GARDENING

The **Kanata Environmental Network** is hosting a series of **four different free seminars on healthy gardening and lawn care** for everyone. April 1, 15, 22 and 29 from 7:30 to 8:30 in Hall C at the Mlacak Centre, 2500 Campeau Drive. For more information and to register, please call 592-6370 or [info@kanataenvironmentalnetwork.com](mailto:info@kanataenvironmentalnetwork.com). The K.E.N. is a group of concerned citizens in Kanata working together to raise awareness of environmental issues and to promote sound environmental practices.

### SEPTIC COURSES

The **Ontario Rural Wastewater Centre** is offering a number of practical professional courses on septic systems in April at the Baxter Conservation Area south of Kars. April 15 is a **one-day workshop to equip real estate professionals with the know-how they need when selling rural homes** including how conventional septic systems work, the pros and cons of alternative systems, the legal issues, the Ontario Building Code rules and how to recognize faulty systems. April 17 is a course for local government officials on managing decentralized systems. April 22 is a course on septic system inspection, troubleshooting and remediation methods for professionals. **To register for a course, please call or write the LandOwner Resource Centre at 692-2390 or 1-800-387-5304 or [srobertson@lrconline.com](mailto:srobertson@lrconline.com).**

### WHAT YOU'RE DRINKING

The Environmental and Conservation Advisory Committee of the Township of Elizabethtown-Kitley and Lanark, Leeds Green Community is hosting an **information evening on groundwater quality** to be held Wednesday, April 16 at the Spring Valley Hall located on Hwy #29 north of Brockville. Speakers include Mark Green (Senior Public Health Inspector), Kim Yee (Provincial Well Inspector) and Peter Onstein (Township Councillor). Doors open at 6:30, speakers at 7. **The LandOwner Resource Centre information table** will be there. More from **DALE at 345-4893** or **SUE (evenings) at 345-6699.**



### NEED A TAX RECEIPT?

As we slide into tax season, it reminds us of the opportunity to make a **charitable contribution to a clean and healthy environment right here at home in the watershed of the Rideau River.** The **Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation (RVCF)** has been accepting gifts for environmental work for over 30 years. We use donations for tree planting, shoreline improvements, water quality monitoring, outdoor education for kids, conservation area improvements and homeowner information programs. To make a donation or to receive more information on our charitable programs, please call **CHARLES at ext 116** or e-mail [cbillington@rideauvalley.on.ca](mailto:cbillington@rideauvalley.on.ca).

### WORKING NEAR SHORELINES?

If you're planning any work near the water this year, we advise you to call the LandOwner Resource Centre in Manotick for a quick and **efficient review of your plans, the permits or applications you need, any more environmentally-friendly alternatives available and a package of background information** on fish habitat, sediment control, shoreline naturalization and other critical matters. Call the **LandOwner Resource Centre at 692-2390 or 1-800-387-5304** and talk to the shoreline specialists.

### SHOW ME THE \$ IN EMBRUN

Water quality protection grants. April 12 noon-4:00 p.m., Knights of Columbus Hall, 5 Forget Street, Embrun. Information: **Suzanne at (613) 679-0936.**

### 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.