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# RVCA News Release

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## RIDEAU LAKES MEETING ON JULY 16

MANOTICK, July 8, 2005 The Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA) is starting a “Rideau Lakes Watershed Plan” and we need your help. A public meeting is planned to ask people how the ecological health of the area can be improved. The meeting is on Saturday, July 16 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Westport Senior’s Centre, Westport Municipal Office, Bedford Street, Westport. Please join us for all or part of this important community meeting.

“Watershed Plans” are really road maps that show us all the things we have to do to maintain or improve the health of the Rideau Lakes and all surrounding land. The plan is a strategy, put together by government agencies, landowners, interest groups, members of the public, municipalities, and others to improve water quality, water levels, forest cover, fish habitat, and other issues of concern identified by the people in the area. Watershed plans try to balance the needs of people with that of the environment.

The purpose of the July 16 meeting is to gather the watershed community’s views on the present and future state of health of the Rideau Lakes and the surrounding communities (including Westport, Newboro and Portland). What are the issues and challenges presently facing the environment in this area? How can the needs of people and the economy balance the needs of the environment? What is your vision of the area for the future? What are the priority issues and actions?

Through this public process we can begin to understand how people, through their everyday actions, impact the natural ecosystem. The plan can then show us the things we need to do to help protect our lakes for future generations.

This meeting is your opportunity to shape the future of the Rideau Lakes area — its ecological health, its economy, its industry. Please join us. Everyone’s welcome.

For more information on the public meeting and on the Watershed Plan, contact Lynn Preston, Watershed Planning Coordinator at 1-800-267-3504 Ext 1171 or [lynn.preston@rideauvalley.on.ca](mailto:lynn.preston@rideauvalley.on.ca). Or visit the RVCA website at [www.rideauvalley.on.ca](http://www.rideauvalley.on.ca).

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