
RVCA News Release

SAWMILL CREEK CLEANUP

MANOTICK, September 15, 2005 — Are there any volunteers who want to help clean up the banks of Sawmill Creek? City Stream Watch is holding its second organized stream cleanup of the year on sections of Sawmill Creek, the last free-flowing stream in urban Ottawa, on Saturday September 24 and Sunday September 25. Volunteers can help out during the morning or afternoon or both if they prefer.

Surveys show that there are considerable amounts of garbage and discarded material in two particular sections: from Bank Street in front of the South Keys Shopping Centre upstream to Albion Road, and from Walkley Road downstream to Billings Bridge Plaza. The South Keys upstream cleanup will be lead by the experienced volunteers from the National Defence Fish and Game Club. The Walkley Road downstream project will be spearheaded by the veteran stream experts from the Heron Park Community Association. We will be setting up crews of about six people so as not to trample the banks or stir up too much sediment.

Public volunteers and new stream recruits will work as part of a crew cleaning up the banks of the creek by removing any garbage and debris. We will bag garbage items and discard them in a dumpster. Ideally, three or four people will be actively collecting and bagging debris while one or two “runners” will be bringing the bags to the dumpster.

Home Depot (South Keys) has generously donated all the work gloves and garbage bags and will help with any other equipment we might need. Lunch is being provided by the Monterey Inn & Resort, Canada's first carbon neutral company and a national leader in environmental hospitality services. You should bring your own drinking water, hat, sunscreen and raingear. Financial assistance comes from City of Ottawa, Rideau Valley Conservation Authority, Canada Lands Company and the Evergreen Foundation. The City Stream Watch program is run by a community-based group including the City of Ottawa, Rideau Valley Conservation Authority, Heron Park Community Association, Ottawa Flyfishers Society, the National Defence Headquarters Fish and Game Club, Environment Committee of Ottawa South and the Rideau Roundtable.

Even a couple of hours working on the creek will make a big difference. If you've never tried a stream cleanup, this would make an ideal first one to try. You can have some fun and help make one of the city's most natural streams remain that way. Remember, you can help during a morning or afternoon shift at your convenience. Please e-mail your preference of dates and times and we will set up the crews. Any questions or concerns, please contact Grant Nichol, City Stream Watch Coordinator, Rideau Valley Conservation Authority, 580-2424 ext 22886 or grant.nichol@ottawa.ca.

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