

WATERSHED WATCH Response Card

Yes. We would like to donate to the **WATERSHED WATCH** program.



Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation

Name
Address
Postal Code City/Town Province
Phone Fax E-mail

Lake Association Affiliation

Amount of your gift \$ Method of Payment Cheque Visa Mastercard card no. expiry

Thank you very much!

Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation is a Registered Environmental Charity with Canada Custom and Revenue Agency
Registered Business Number: 11911 9501 RR0001

WAYS TO HELP

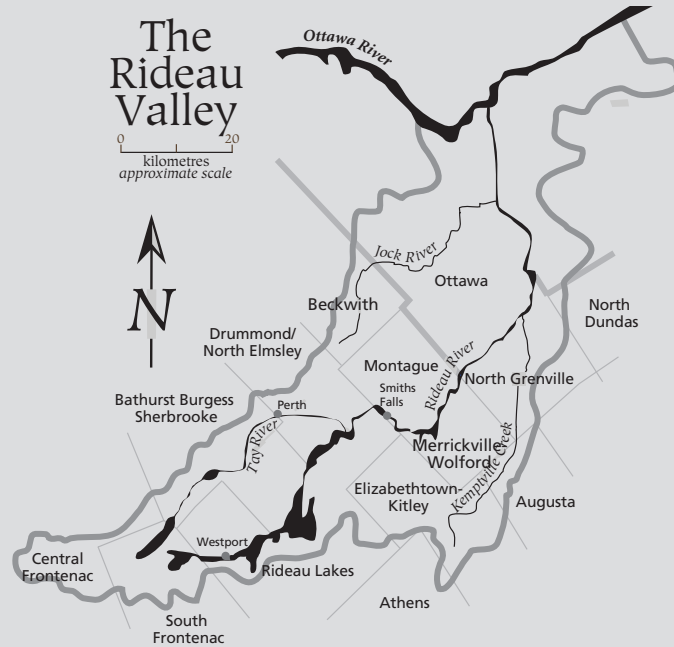
We invite everyone to get involved with **WATERSHED WATCH** as an investment in the long term health of our valley. Every contribution is important to our goal and every contribution of \$10 or more is eligible for a charitable receipt for tax purposes. Here's an example of how you and your family can help:

- ▶ \$15 will help pay for up to three chemical analyses of water samples from the lakes
- ▶ \$25 helps mail out shoreline naturalization tips to 50 key lakeside residents

- ▶ \$50 buys a half-day inventory of macro-invertebrates on one lake
- ▶ \$100 pays for a student to take two days of water samples.

Please, consider a gift to **WATERSHED WATCH** in the Rideau Valley. It really means a gift of healthy lakes and rivers for your own children and grandchildren.

Thanks for your consideration. We can accept cheques by mail or in person. VISA and Mastercard payments can be made by phone at (613) 692-3571 ext 100 or 1-800-267-3504 ext 100.



Farren Lake Property Owners Association gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the Ontario Trillium Foundation, an agency of the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Recreation, which receives annually \$100 million in government funding generated throughout Ontario's charity casino initiative.

Rideau Valley's WATERSHED WATCH

community monitoring of key lakes in the headwaters of the Rideau Valley



Farren Lake Property Owners Association,
Alliance of Rideau Lakes Associations,
Township of Bathurst Burgess Sherbrooke
and Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation

With special thanks to

FENDOCK



THE ONTARIO TRILLIUM FOUNDATION
LA FONDATION TRILLIUM DE L'ONTARIO

RIDEAU VALLEY
CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

June 2001

Lake Health

The Rideau lakes have been a magnet for recreation, business and summer cottaging for over a century. In the early days, water quality was not a problem mainly because there were still relatively few people around. Our great-grandparents and grandparents lived in scattered rural villages and isolated farms having little impact on the streams and lakes. In the last 50 years however, the human population of the Rideau lakes area has skyrocketed with no adequate increase in care, concern and protection for the water quality which we came to take for granted.

Boat traffic has increased, vacant land and open space along the water has disappeared. City lawns have replaced natural shoreline vegetation and general “hardening” of the shore is widespread.

Water quality in many of our lakes may be declining. The key culprit is the cumulative effect of many small activities occurring on private property such as nutrient-rich runoff from cottage lots,

malfunctioning of old cottage septic systems and inappropriate shoreline management and use, just to name a few.

The continuing health of our lakes is vital to the environmental, economic and social value of our

communities. The small villages and lake country economy depend heavily on the health of fishing, boating and cottaging to make a decent living. Healthy lakes are why people have cottages.

Good News

The good news is that many of the emerging problems that change lake water quality, can be fixed. The Alliance of Rideau Lakes Associations (ARLA) is well aware of the problem and is prepared to be part of the solution. The Farren Lake Property Owners Association, in partnership with ARLA and the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority, is starting the **WATERSHED WATCH** program in the upper Rideau Valley area.

Watershed Watch Program

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Canada Customs and Revenue Agency
Business Number:
11911 9501 RR0001



Watershed Watch

WATERSHED WATCH is an intensive monitoring program on the 35 key lakes in our valley. The result will be a reliable and accurate set of baseline data to act as an early warning system to identify trends or problems in water quality. The five water quality indicators to be tested are

- ▶ bacteria (*E.coli*)
- ▶ total phosphorus
- ▶ nitrogen
- ▶ suspended solids
- ▶ dissolved oxygen and temperature profiles.

The program also includes biological testing and land use tracking through

- ▶ a frog watch program
- ▶ a macro-invertebrate inventory
- ▶ local-level knowledge collection
- ▶ air photo sequence past to present.

One of the main goals is to work with and build capacity and confidence amongst volunteers at the local lake level in monitoring of water quality and other environmental

features of their lakes. The program will be based out of the Bathurst Burgess Sherbrooke township offices and works garage in Glen Tay, thanks to the generous participation of the BBS Council and staff.

The **WATERSHED WATCH** program will gather good water quality and environmental data on seven lakes per year. All 35 key lakes in the watershed will be intensively monitored on a regular, five year, repeatable cycle. The accumulated data will be housed at the Conservation Authority office for use by anyone for restoration, stewardship or educational purposes.

The **WATERSHED WATCH** program will be an ongoing program for many years, so that trends and changes in lake status can be observed. Lake monitoring will be integrated into existing and future watershed monitoring programs in order to create, over time, a comprehensive, community-based, effective and accessible water quality archive for the entire watershed.

