



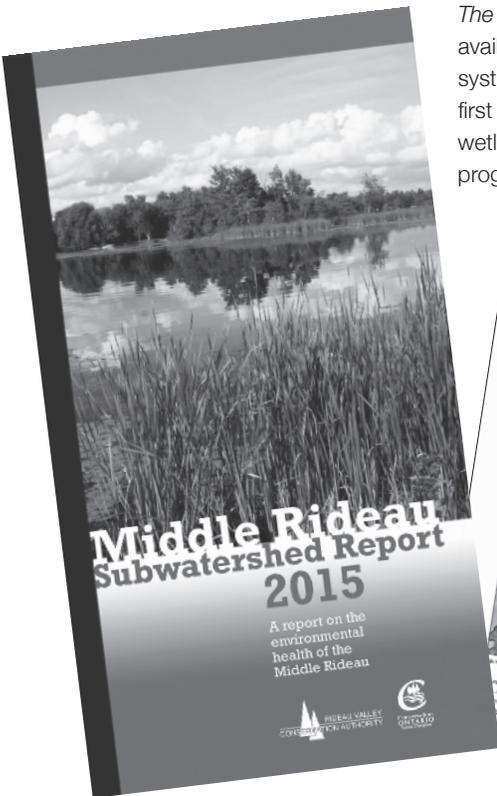
# Around the Rideau

Environmental Information For Municipalities In The Rideau Valley

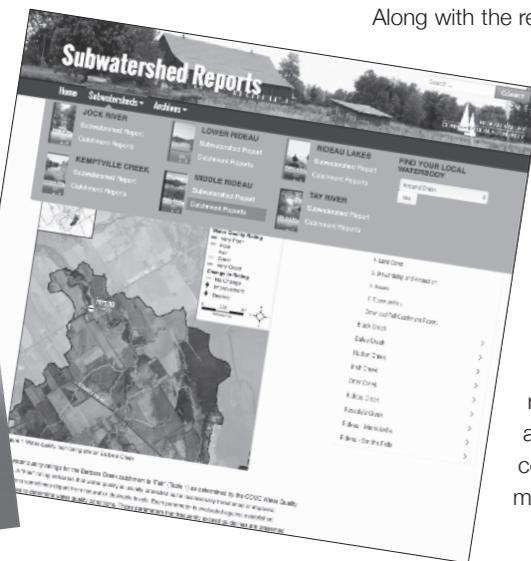
**FIFTY YEARS OF CONSERVATION IN THE RIDEAU VALLEY**

May/June 2016

## Middle Rideau Subwatershed & Catchment Reports Available!



The Middle Rideau Subwatershed Report 2015 and its accompanying catchment sheets are now available. Each year RVCA publishes a report covering a different subwatershed in the Rideau system, six in total over a six year cycle. The Middle Rideau is the first one to repeat its cycle; the first one was published in 2009. The report highlights key indicators such as forests, shorelines, wetlands and water quality. RVCA's baseline water quality, land classification and watershed watch program provided the data.



Along with the report there are catchment sheets for the 10 catchments in the Middle Rideau Subwatershed. These technical reports contain much more detailed information on each catchment. They can be viewed online at the new Subwatershed Reporting webpage — [watersheds.rvca.ca](http://watersheds.rvca.ca). The catchment reports are instrumental in targeting stewardship projects and guide land-use planning and development decision-making, as well as assisting water resource management decisions on policy and programs. For more information contact MARTIN at ext. 1163 or [martin.czarski@rvca.ca](mailto:martin.czarski@rvca.ca)

## paybyphone

RVCA's new PayByPhone service is going to make visits to local conservation areas easier. Cash payment is no longer required — as long as you have a phone or computer, you are covered. By using this PayByPhone service, visitors can pay online through their phone or from their home computer, making it exceptionally convenient and reliable. The service will be available at all user pay conservation areas, which include Baxter, Foley Mountain, Rideau Ferry, W.A. Taylor and Perth Wildlife Reserve. Visitors can sign up for a free account at [www.paybyphone.com](http://www.paybyphone.com). To learn more about how the system works visit [www.rvca.ca/careas/paybyphone](http://www.rvca.ca/careas/paybyphone) or contact MEGAN at ext. 1179 or [megan.dunster@rvca.ca](mailto:megan.dunster@rvca.ca).

## Update: Otty Lake Fish Habitat Monitoring

RVCA staff surveyed the installed spawning beds and brush bundles this spring. In 2016, 55 percent of the installed spawning nests were considered active as they were guarded by a male smallmouth bass, compared to 43 percent in 2015 and 41 percent in 2014. Several species of fish were observed around the installed brush bundles including largemouth bass, yellow perch, pumpkinseed, bluegill, rock bass and various minnows. The brush bundles appear to be providing excellent feeding habitat and cover habitat for a wide variety of fish. Contact JENNIFER for more information at ext. 1108 or [jennifer.lamoureux@rvca.ca](mailto:jennifer.lamoureux@rvca.ca).



## High Flow 2016 Freshet in Review

2016's very early freshet peak on the Rideau River was 280 cubic metres per second (cms) recorded at Carleton University on March 15. In 2015 RVCA recorded the seventh lowest peak since 1937! Water levels continue to follow this trend from last year and have been low. There was no flooding or property damage.

## Low Flow Low Water Response Team

RVCA is part of the Rideau Valley Low Water Response Team (LWRT), along with other key members including: Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change, Parks Canada Rideau Canal, City of Ottawa and the townships of Athens, Augusta, Beckwith, Central Frontenac, Clarence-Rockland, Drummond/North Elmsley, Elizabethtown-Kitley, Merrickville-Wolford, Montague, North Dundas, North Grenville, Perth, Rideau Lakes, Smiths Falls, South Frontenac, Tay Valley and Westport. RVCA monitors conditions and reports low water issues when they occur. RVCA collects precipitation, stream flow and water level data to estimate the severity of drought conditions in our area.

To learn more about streamflow conditions, visit [www.rvca.ca](http://www.rvca.ca) or contact PATRICK at ext. 1210 or [patrick.larson@rvca.ca](mailto:patrick.larson@rvca.ca).

## Focus on Foundation — and our amazing partners!

### Carbon Neutral Program

Spring has been a busy time for the Carbon Neutral Program with many partners renewing their carbon neutral pledge for another year and new partners joining in. The program enables businesses, events and individuals to offset their carbon footprint from day-to-day operations by planting healthy, vigorous native trees in the Rideau Valley. Here's this spring's honour roll:

- **Belvedere Vodka** — A hard working group from Belvedere Vodka came out on May 25 to plant trees to make the *Belvedere Vodka Relearn Natural Program* launch in Canada Carbon Neutral.
- **Little Ray's Reptile Zoo** is continuing with its Carbon Neutral pledge. The Foundation is very happy that Little Ray's continues to be an important partner in our Carbon Neutral family.
- **LiVE 88.5** — Canada's first and only carbon neutral radio station has planted another 5,700 trees this spring. Their collective forest has grown to 34,200 trees! Congratulations to the team at LiVE 88.5.
- **Vélofix** mobile bike shop in Ottawa has made its operations Carbon Neutral for 2016. The Foundation is thrilled to welcome them to the program.
- **Queens's University Tea Room** and their Chapter of *Engineers Without Borders* have combined efforts to plant 725 trees in 2016. We appreciate the commitment to being carbon neutral while completing your studies. Keep up the great work!

### Steve Simmering Fund

The Steve Simmering Fund plays a vital role by providing funds to take care of the properties as they become active public parks. The fund helps pay for public safety features such as guardrails, mapping, basic signs, trail maintenance, fencing, monitoring and parking lots for visitors.

- Special thank you to **Bell Baker LLP**, a leading Ottawa firm providing exceptional legal services since 1957, for their continued support of the Steve Simmering Fund.
- **Golder Associates** has partnered with the Foundation since 2009 to improve Conservation Areas by contributing to the Steve Simmering Fund. Recently, they have helped to improve our public spaces by planting trees. Thank you Golder Associates for your contributions.

### Tree Planting

- **Pratt & Whitney Canada** — a global leader in aerospace, has continued its commitment to greening the Rideau Valley by planting 2,500 trees again in 2016. P&WC has been a partner since 2005 and have planted 30,000 trees to date!
- **Hulse, Playfair & McGarry Funeral and Cremation Services** is thrilled to plant trees again this year bringing their total to 23,500 trees. Thank you very much for your support.

The RVCA and the Foundation work together to make these conservation programs a success. To learn more about the Carbon Neutral program, the Steve Simmering Fund or tree planting in the Rideau Valley, contact DAN at ext. 1124 or dan.cooper@rvca.ca.

### City Streams to Get TLC

The City Stream Watch Program is always looking for volunteer "scientists" to help monitor and clean up Ottawa streams — everyone is welcome. The City Stream Watch program is driven by volunteer participation and gives the community a chance to contribute to the health of their local streams. This year the program will concentrate on Brassils (Burrhills Rapids), Graham (Ottawa West), Greens (Gloucester) and McEwan Creek (Hunt Club East). This sampling will assess habitat, water and shoreline conditions of the streams and include fish sampling. There are also additional opportunities for cleanups, shoreline planting and invasive species removals. For more on the City Stream Watch Program or to volunteer talk to JUSTIN at ext. 1194 or justin.robert@rvca.ca.

### City of Ottawa's Water Environment Strategy Released

The City of Ottawa's *Water Environment Strategy Phase 2 Report* and accompanying 2016–2018 work plan was presented to City of Ottawa Council on June 8. The goals and objectives outlined in the report complement what Conservation Authorities do. The City is looking to work closely with the CAs to implement many of the goals they've outlined especially for stream restoration and erosion protection works. To learn more contact SOMMER at ext. 1214 or sommer.casgrain-robertson@rvca.ca.



### Hats off to Barrhaven Residents

A special shout out to Barrhaven residents who planted 750 trees along the Jock River at Half Moon Bay on May 14.



## Around the Rideau

#### Rideau Valley Conservation Authority

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www.rvca.ca

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