

AROUND the Rideau



March / April 2022

Annual Report, Workplan and Budget now available online

Want to catch up on everything RVCA? Our 2021 Annual Report and 2022 Workplan and Budget are now online. 2021 was a hugely successful year despite continued COVID-19 challenges. Staff maintained and broadened program offerings across the board, processing record numbers of development applications, spearheading a virtual outdoor education program and meeting our stewardship goals. Several policy projects started in 2021 have now set the stage for an ambitious 2022. Upcoming projects include: development of a watershed conditions report card, calibration of 11 new real-time weather stations, finalizing our updated planning and development policies, accessible infrastructure upgrades at three conservation areas, and working with municipalities to begin implementing the province's changes to the *Conservation Authorities Act* and regulations. Want to know more? Visit www.rvca.ca/about-us or contact SOMMER at sommer.casgrain-robertson@rvca.ca.

Public presentation for Stevens Creek hazard mapping study

RVCA has been meeting one-on-one with landowners to discuss the new Stevens Creek hazard mapping study since November 2021. With the recent easing of provincial COVID-19 restrictions, the RVCA is now able to host an in-person presentation and question and answer session to provide an additional opportunity for public consultation.

Thursday, April 21, 2022

Alfred Taylor Recreation Centre
2300 Community Way, North Gower

Doors open at 6 p.m. Presentation begins at **6:15 p.m.**
Question & Answer Period to follow

If you can't attend but want to learn more, visit www.rvca.ca/stevens-creek or contact development@rvca.ca.

Wondering if You Need a Permit?

Don't take any chances — if you are planning work around a lake, river, stream or wetland, be sure to call the RVCA to get advice on any permits or applications you may need. You may also be eligible for various RVCA stewardship programs where grants and technical assistance are available. Give us a shout or visit our website at www.rvca.ca under "Planning, Regulations and Permits" to see what local rules and regulations may apply. Contact EMMA ext. 1132, NICK ext. 1193 or email development@rvca.ca.

Buttressing the butternut: RVCA welcomes CWS partnership

RVCA's butternut recovery program has partnered with the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) to protect a rare and healthy butternut population recently discovered in Eastern Ontario. Butternuts are endangered due to a deadly fungal canker disease. The new site features some of the largest butternut trees in the RVCA database, as well as seedlings and semi-mature trees, according to RVCA's resident butternut expert Rose Fleguel. She and the RVCA forestry team will collect seeds from the site for off-site regeneration, remove competing vegetation around 12 naturally-occurring seedlings and plant up to 20 more disease-tolerant seedlings on site over the next four years. For the full story visit www.rvca.ca/blog or contact ROSE at rose.fleguel@rvca.ca.



Keep your distance from ticks this spring

Ticks are notoriously bad at social distancing, and once temperatures are consistently above freezing, they're back to their old tricks! Avoid tick bites:

- Stay on the trail
- Wear light-coloured long sleeves and pants, with socks pulled over
- Use bug spray with DEET or picaridin
- Brush or lint roll your clothes before leaving the site
- Conduct a thorough tick check when you get home, focusing on hairlines, groin and underarms
- Check outdoor pets for ticks, as well.

If you do find a tick attached, remove it immediately with a tick key or needle-nosed tweezers, being careful to keep the tick intact. Seek medical attention if you think it's been attached for more than 24 hours. For more information visit www.ottawapublichealth.ca.



Reminder: always keep dogs on leash and on the trail

Even good pups have to follow the rules! Off-leash dogs can be a nuisance or safety risk for other trail users and can accidentally harass or kill wildlife while off exploring. This is especially problematic in the spring when many birds and animals nest on the ground, where their young could be trampled or eaten. Some of these nests belong to species at risk like the bobolink, meadowlark and whip-poor-will. Poop is another problem: allowing pups to poop in the woods where it's not easily cleaned up can contaminate nearby waterways and introduce disease to local wildlife.

While we welcome dogs to most of our trails, they must stay on leash and on the trail at all times. Please note the Perth Wildlife Reserve does not allow any dogs at any time. For more information contact CHELSEY at chelsey.ellis@rvca.ca.



Turn in your toxic tackle!

The Wolfe Lake Association in Westport has launched a buy-back and exchange program to keep toxic lead fishing tackle out of lakes and rivers. Lead tackle is deadly for loons, eagles and other aquatic birds: an estimated 1 in 5 loons die of lead poisoning after they ingest lead tackle. Thanks to a generous grant from South Frontenac Township, over the next year anglers can exchange their lead fishing tackle for a \$10 voucher toward lead-free tackle products at participating retailer locations. The lake association will also host tackle exchanges at community events, and lead tackle will be accepted at the Westport Lions Reuse and Recycle Centre. For more info and a list of participating retailers visit www.fishleadfree.ca.



COVID-19 Updates

Check out the latest RVCA COVID-19 information at www.rvca.ca/covid-19.

Around the Rideau thanks its generous sponsors!

The RVCA is grateful for its dedicated corporate partners who help us publish the *Around the Rideau* newsletter for the benefit and enjoyment of all watershed residents.

AROUND the Rideau is made possible thanks to our generous sponsors

Rideau Valley Conservation Authority
Box 599, 3889 Rideau Valley Drive
Manotick, ON K4M 1A5
613-692-3571 or 1-800-267-3504
www.rvca.ca

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