

PARTNERSHIP IN ACTION



RIDEAU VALLEY
CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

RVCA Work in

DRUMMOND/NORTH ELMSLEY

The strength and resiliency of our local communities rely on the Rideau River and its surrounding watershed. Without lakes, rivers, streams, forests, wetlands, floodplains, natural shorelines and groundwater aquifers we wouldn't have air to breathe, water to drink, places to boat, swim and fish, water and soil to support agriculture and industry or green spaces to explore and relax in. Simply put, natural areas sustain life. They also support economic development and property values, reduce flood, erosion and drought impacts and they are the best defense against climate change.

Since people and nature are interconnected and interdependent, the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA) works closely with local municipalities, residents and other partners to deliver programs and services that protect, restore and enhance the Rideau watershed. RVCA's work also protects people and property from natural hazards like flooding and erosion.

Serving your Municipality

It's hard to find a municipal service that our programs don't support either directly or indirectly. RVCA supports informed municipal decision-making, provides cost-effective solutions, ensures consistent delivery and reduces municipal liability. Often we provide this support at a fraction of the cost as our staff are shared among our 18 watershed municipalities. We are here to help you achieve your environmental requirements and initiatives.

- **Source water protection** — develop and implement local policies to protect sources of municipal drinking water and regional groundwater
- **Flood protection and warning** — reduce the threat of loss of life and property damage, helping municipalities prepare and deal with potential flooding and flood emergencies
- **Low water response** — enable communication amongst water management agencies and water consumers and facilitate optimal management when resources are scarce
- **Development regulations** — regulate development on hazard lands (floodplains, steep slopes, unstable soil) and in environmentally sensitive areas (wetlands, shorelines and valley lands) under *Ontario Regulation 174/06 — Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses Regulation*
- **Environmental planning services** — provide professional, technical review of development proposals within or adjacent to natural areas for member municipalities regarding official plan amendments, zoning by-law amendments, plans of subdivision, site plans, consents/severances and minor variances
- **Septic approvals and re-inspections** — provide Part 8 approval and re-inspection services
- **Water quality monitoring** — collect data to better understand watershed health and pursue targeted remediation efforts for maximum benefit
- **Subwatershed and catchment reporting** — present municipalities with science-based information that allows for the adoption and implementation of policies and programs that ensure the health of watersheds and the achievement of long-term watershed management goals
- **Conservation lands** — manage 2,300 hectares of sensitive, natural land for strategic protection of vulnerable habitats and valuable local resources

What it means in Drummond/North Elmsley

- *Tay Valley Subwatershed Report* released in 2012 along with detailed reports for its 14 catchments. We reassessed this subwatershed's health in 2017 and will release an updated report in spring 2018.
- Policy interpretation, implementation tools and other support provided to municipal staff regarding the *Mississippi Rideau Source Protection Plan* which focuses on policies to protect municipal sources of drinking water and is required under the *Clean Water Act*. We provide a specially trained Risk Management Official and Inspectors that are required to enforce the *Clean Water Act* Part IV policies within the municipality. The municipality received provincial Source Protection Municipal Implementation Funding to cover most of the costs associated with source protection plan implementation.
- 260 hectares of conservation land protected in Drummond/North Elmsley including the Dworschak property, Perth Wildlife Reserve and Rideau Ferry.
- 72 square kilometres of hazard mapping (floodplain, steep slopes, unstable soils, wetlands, shorelines and valley lands) is complete in Drummond/North Elmsley.
- 224 spawning beds, 335 sunken wood clusters (shelter and feeding habitat), plus 133 cornerstones (cover for guarding males) installed by volunteers as part of the Otty Lake Bass Enhancement Project (2013–2016) undertaken in partnership with the Otty Lake Association. Effectiveness monitoring conducted in 2017.
- 19 headwater drainage feature sampling sites assessed in the spring and summer of 2017 in the Tay River Port Elmsley catchment and 32 sites Otty Lake – Jebbs Creek catchment.
- 14 severances, 11 minor variances, 6 site plan control, 4 zoning by-law amendments completed in 2017 under Conservation Authority *Planning Act* responsibilities.
- 4 water quality sites sampled as part of RVCA baseline monitoring.
- 3 stream sites sampled (Black Creek, Jebbs Creek and Tay River) in the spring and fall for the Ontario Benthic Biomonitoring Network (OBBN).
- 3 sample sites on Otty Lake for the OBBN program sampled annually in the spring.
- Multiple water quality sites sampled on two lakes through the Watershed Watch program — Otty and Lower Rideau Lakes.
- 1 water quality site was tested in the municipality as part of the Provincial Water Quality Monitoring Network.

Serving your Residents

RVCA works closely with your watershed residents to help them develop their property sustainability. RVCA looks to provide friendly, technical guidance and services that help your residents complete environmental projects on their property. We also support healthy, outdoor family experiences and look to educate and inspire the next generation of conservationists. By investing in our watershed — the land and the people — we are one step closer to a healthy, resilient community worth calling home.

- **Stewardship programs** — work with landowners to restore and improve our watershed through tree planting and shoreline naturalization projects; provide technical advice and assistance for on-the-ground efforts
- **Grant programs** — help landowners complete projects that improve water quality, wildlife habitat and overall ecosystem health
- **Education programs** — provide high quality curriculum-based environmental education programs to watershed children — building our future watershed guardians
- **Conservation areas** — offer 11 developed conservation areas for public use and enjoyment; inexpensive, recreational experiences including trails, boat launches, beaches, picnic shelters, education programs for schools and community groups and summer day camps
- **Property & environmental information and resources** — create and distribute environmental information; support real estate transactions with site-specific information regarding setbacks from natural hazards; provide peace-of-mind through septic approvals and re-inspections that systems are constructed and working properly

What it means in Drummond/North Elmsley

- Residents have access to outdoor recreation at Rideau Ferry Conservation Area with access to Lower Rideau Lake that includes a public beach, boat launch and picnic area and Perth Wildlife Reserve with 3 kilometres of trails for walking, skiing or snowshoeing.
- 18,800 trees planted in Drummond/North Elmsley in 2017 — \$20,523 fundraised; \$32,746 provided in value; 403,775 trees planted since 1984.
- 605 butternut seedlings planted in Drummond/North Elmsley through the Butternut Recovery Program since 2007
- 15 Rural Clean Water projects approved in Drummond/North Elmsley in 2017— \$29,776 allocated to projects valued at \$46,459; 130 approved projects since 2002 — \$140,801 allocated to projects valued at \$509,660.
- 39 property inquiries, 8 files, 1 clearance letter and 1 complaint processed regarding Section 28 of the *Conservation Authorities Act* in 2017.
- 1 Shoreline Naturalization project completed in 2017 — 146 trees and shrubs planted totaling 60 metres of new buffer with a project value of \$684; 2,607 shoreline seedlings planted since 2009 through the Shoreline Naturalization Program with \$12,946 funding and a total project value of \$18,813.

Dollars and Cents

The RVCA's proposed 2018 budget is \$10.19 million. Levy request amounts to just over half of our revenue meaning another 4.5 million is coming from other sources such as fundraising, the province, grants and special levies.

At the RVCA, every \$1 from our member municipality translates into \$2 being invested into the Rideau watershed. The RVCA is able to maximize services through alternative funding sources. Impressive value-added efforts are being achieved — work that could not be achieved working alone. It is our creative

partnerships that make us stronger — finding creative ways to support valuable watershed programs and services.

Drummond/North Elmsley 2018 levy = \$42,20716

Questions?

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