

# PARTNERSHIP IN ACTION



## RVCA Work in MERRICKVILLE-WOLFORD

**T**he 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 Merrickville-Wolford

- *Middle Rideau Subwatershed Report* released in 2016 along with detailed reports for its ten catchments; this is the second reporting cycle for the Middle Rideau following the 2009 report.
- *Kemptville Creek Subwatershed Report* released in 2014 along with detailed reports for its six catchments. We will reassess this subwatershed's health in 2019.
- 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

## 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

cover most of the costs associated with source protection plan implementation.

- 80 square kilometres of hazard mapping (floodplain, steep slopes, unstable soils, wetlands, shorelines and valley lands) completed in Merrickville-Wolford.
- 72+ hectares of natural areas located in Merrickville-Wolford — Nafel (40.8 hectares) and Fournier (32.16 hectares).
- 8 severances, 1 minor variance, 1 zoning by-law amendment completed in 2017 under Conservation Authority *Planning Act* responsibilities.
- 4 water quality sites tested as part of RVCA water quality baseline monitoring.
- 2 water quality sites tested as part of the Provincial Water Quality Monitoring Network.
- 1 site sampled as part of the Ontario Benthic Biomonitoring Network on Barbers Creek in spring and fall.

- **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 Merrickville-Wolford

- Residents have access to outdoor recreation at nearby developed conservation areas including Rideau Ferry Yacht Club, Mill Pond, Motts Mills and Portland Bay.
- 1,000 trees planted in Merrickville-Wolford in 2017 with fundraised dollars totaling \$1,918 for total project value of \$2,568; 56,500 trees planted since 1984.
- 200 butternut seedlings planted in Merrickville-Wolford through the Butternut Recovery Program since 2007.
- 30 property inquiries, 4 files, 3 complaints and 1 clearance letter processed regarding Section 28 of the *Conservation Authorities Act* in 2017.

- 9 Rural Clean Water projects approved in Merrickville-Wolford in 2017— \$11,379 allocated to projects valued at \$50,545; 54 approved projects since 2002 — \$87,677 allocated to projects valued at \$359,001.
- 4 Shoreline Naturalization projects completed in 2017 — 534 trees and shrubs planted totaling 123 metres of new buffer with a project value of \$5,063; 10 project completed since 2009 — 1,357 trees and shrubs planted totaling 811 metres of new buffer with a project value of \$9,728.

## 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.

**Merrickville-Wolford 2018 levy** = \$20,568.94

### Questions?

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