

# PARTNERSHIP IN ACTION



## RVCA Work in NORTH GRENVILLE

**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 North Grenville

- The *Middle Rideau Subwatershed Report* was issued in 2016 along with detailed reports for its ten catchments. The report is a compilation of water quality, forest cover, wetland cover and riparian cover data shows the health of the subwatershed and if its health is improving or declining. This is the second reporting cycle for the Middle Rideau following the 2009 report. Municipalities and RVCA use these reports to make policy and program decisions and to focus resource management and stewardship actions where they are needed most.
- The *Kemptville Creek Subwatershed Report* was issued in 2014 along with detailed data sheets for six catchments that flow into the creek. We will be able to assess watershed health in 2019 and target projects for improvement.
- 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.
- RVCA staff participate in North Grenville's Development Review Team meetings to bring constraints to the attention of proponents early in their project planning. This involvement saves proponents time and money and streamlines the review of applications leading to faster approval times.
- 1 Official Plan amendment, 1 Permit to Take Water review, 12 severances, 11 zoning by-law amendments, 3 site plan control and 2 minor variances completed in 2017 under Conservation Authority *Planning Act* responsibilities.
- Worked with the municipality on the development of the North Grenville Trail System along the South Branch of the Rideau River. Discussions included trail placement, vegetative buffers and boardwalk construction.
- Macro Stream Assessment completed on the entire length of Kemptville Creek, North Branch, Mud Creek and Barnes Creek. This looks at aquatic bugs, fish, channel structure, thermal stability and site features to determine stream health and potential impacts on fish and water quality .
- 40 kilometres of hazard mapping (floodplain, steep slopes, unstable soils, wetlands, shorelines and valley lands) completed in North Grenville.
- 30 sites along Kemptville Creek and 17 sites along Barnes Creek visited to complete fish sampling. A total of 198 sections of Kemptville Creek have also been surveyed and mapped for species at risk fish habitat.
- 25 hectares of conservation land is owned and protected in North Grenville by the RVCA and the Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation.
- 16 water quality monitoring sites located in North Grenville. They are monitored each month from April to November for water chemistry as part of RVCA's baseline monitoring program. One of the sites is also tested as part of the Provincial Water Quality Monitoring Network and 6 of the sites are sampled for water quality conditions in the spring and fall for the Ontario Benthic Biomonitoring Network.
- 12 Headwater Drainage Feature assessments conducted on streams in the Barnes Creek catchment.
- 1 Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network well located in North Grenville which measures water levels hourly.

## 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 North Grenville

- 14,250 trees planted in North Grenville in 2017 with fundraised dollars totaling \$16,426 for total project value of \$25,688; 125,780 trees planted since 1984.
- 572 butternut seedlings planted in North Grenville through the Butternut Recovery Program since 2007.
- 104 property inquiries, 24 files, 13 clearance letters, 10 complaints and 1 violation processed regarding Section 28 of the *Conservation Authorities Act* in 2017.
- 22 Rural Clean Water projects approved in North Grenville in 2017 — \$63,670 allocated to projects valued at \$68,573; 254 Rural Clean Water projects approved since 2002 — \$375,711 allocated to projects valued at \$1,511,483.
- 3 Shoreline Naturalization projects completed in 2017 — 342 trees and shrubs planted totaling 169 metres of new buffer with a project value of \$3,561; 32 project completed since 2009 — 3,879 trees and shrubs planted totaling 1,463 metres of new buffer with a project value of \$37,546.
- 2 conservation areas are easily accessible by North Grenville residents and students — W.A. Taylor near Osgoode and Baxter Conservation Area near Kars.

## 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.

**North Grenville 2018 levy** = \$91,655.20

### Questions?

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