

## RVCA Work In

# Westport

**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 the natural environment 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 RVCA's programs don't support either directly or indirectly. We provide watershed knowledge and expertise that guides municipal decision-making, assists with emergency management and ensures sustainable development.

Our programs also support local economic development, tourism and recreation and we provide these programs in a consistent cost-effective manner across the watershed.

- **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*
- **Planning services** — provide professional, technical review of planning proposals within or adjacent to natural hazards and environmentally sensitive 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 inspection and approval services for new or replacement septic systems under the *Ontario Building Code* and provide re-inspection services for existing septic systems to ensure they function properly, especially around lakes
- **Watershed 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 3,000+ hectares of sensitive, natural land for strategic protection of vulnerable habitats and valuable local resources

## What it means in Westport

- *Rideau Lakes Subwatershed Report* released in 2015 along with detailed reports for its eight catchments.
- Policy interpretation, implementation tools and other support was provided to Westport 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 specially trained Risk Management Officials and Inspectors to implement the *Clean Water Act* Part IV policies within the Village of Westport. Source Protection staff collaborated with the Village of Westport to finalize a Source Protection Plan and Assessment Report amendment to revise the Dense Non-Aqueous Phase Liquids Policies.
- **50** hectares of conservation land is owned and protected by the RVCA and the Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation— Lions Club Mountain, an Area of Natural and Scientific Interest along Sand Lake and includes a portion of the Rideau Trail.
- **18** flood forecasting messages for the Rideau River watershed and **17** flood messages for the Ottawa River watershed were issued in 2019; **3** low water response messages were issued; **19** sites monitored for water levels, **10** monitored for precipitation and **6** sites monitored for snowpack.
- **3** severances completed in 2019 under Conservation Authority *Planning Act* responsibilities.
- **2** lakes sampled for water quality through the Watershed Watch Program — Westport Sand, Upper Rideau Lakes.
- **1** stream water quality site sampled as part of RVCA baseline monitoring.

## Serving your Residents

RVCA works closely with watershed residents to provide friendly, technical guidance and support to help landowners develop their property in a sustainable manner. We also provide support and financial assistance to help property owners undertake stewardship projects that benefit the watershed. At our popular conservation areas, the RVCA also provides outdoor recreation opportunities and looks to educate the next generation of conservationists. By investing in our watershed — the land and the people — we are creating healthy, resilient communities.

- **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 and summer day camps to watershed children — creating our future watershed guardians
- **Conservation areas** — offer 11 developed conservation areas for public use and enjoyment; inexpensive, outdoor, 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 property-specific information regarding natural hazards and environmentally sensitive areas; provide peace-of-mind through septic approvals and re-inspections that systems are constructed and working properly

## What it means in Westport

- Residents have access to outdoor recreation and education programs at nearby developed conservation areas including Foley Mountain, Rideau Ferry and Perth Wildlife Reserve.
- **3,400** trees planted in Westport since 1984 with fundraised dollars totaling **\$1,919** for total project value of **\$7,259**.
- **2,870+** students participated in outdoor education programming at Foley Mountain Conservation Area, **1,250+** people enjoyed Foley's rental facilities and **67** children participated in day camps.
- **3** Rural Clean Water projects approved in Westport between 2002 and 2018 — **\$4,000** allocated to projects valued at **\$33,022**.
- **1** property inquiry, **1** application and **1** complaint processed regarding Section 28 of the *Conservation Authorities Act* in 2019.
- Partnership with Upper Rideau Lake Association to distribute **400** seedlings through an over-the-counter plant sale.

## Dollars and Cents

The RVCA's 2020 budget is \$10.74 million. Levy requests amount to just over half of our revenue meaning another \$4.7 million is coming from other sources such as fundraising, grants, user fees, the province and special levies.

This means at the RVCA, every \$1 from our member municipalities translates into \$2 being invested into the Rideau

watershed for all. The RVCA is able to maximize valuable watershed programs and services through diverse funding sources and creative partnerships — work that could not be achieved without our many important partners.

**Westport 2020 levy = \$6,640.26**

**Questions?** Sommer Casgrain-Robertson,  
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