



Around the Rideau

ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION FOR MUNICIPALITIES IN THE RIDEAU VALLEY

July/August 2018

Six Million Trees and Counting!

On June 28 RVCA celebrated planting its six millionth tree. This special tree is hidden among the over 275,000 seedlings planted this spring in our watershed — that's over 4,000 square kilometres of ground between Ottawa and South Frontenac Township. To highlight this achievement, a ceremonial tree was planted at RVCA's Perth Wildlife Reserve Conservation Area. Over \$5.7 million has been raised to support tree planting since 1983. These funds come through the continued support of partners including Carleton Refrigeration, the City of Ottawa, Eastern Ontario Model Forest, Forests Ontario, McGarry Funeral Homes, Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority, Newcap LIVE 88.5, Pratt & Whitney Canada and the Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation. The total value of this reforestation effort, including landowner contributions, is close to \$9.8 million and has resulted in over 26.9 square kilometres (2,686 hectares) of idle or marginal land being converted into the forests of the future. RVCA staff are currently looking for next year's planting partners. If you are interested in having one acre (0.4 hectares) or more planted in trees or to learn more about the program or book a free site visit, please contact SCOTT at ext. 1175 or scott.danford@rvca.ca.



Ottawa Councillor David Chernushenko, RVCA Board Member and Township of Drummond/North Elmsley Councillor Ray Scissons and RVCA Chair Lyle Pederson celebrate the planting of the RVCA's 6 millionth tree with the dedication of a sugar maple at the Perth Wildlife Reserve.

Stewardship Fund Targets Tay Subwatershed

RVCA and the Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation were awarded \$25,000 by the Great Lake Guardians Community Fund (GLGCF) for environmental work in the Tay River Subwatershed. This special provincial fund supports work that protects and restores ecological health to the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Basin. The money will go to engaging community members and landowners and all watershed residents in stewardship activities to improve watershed health and water quality. This will be done through tree planting, shoreline naturalization and livestock restriction fencing. The benefits to local landowners include improved water quality, a more vibrant habitat for animal and plant species, increased forest and natural shoreline cover. Plans are to plant 5,000 native trees and 1,000 shrubs to naturalize 1,000 metres of shoreline. As well, an additional 300 metres of cattle-restriction fencing will be installed. The project will involve various community groups, including the Friends of the Tay Watershed and Bobs & Crow Lake Foundation/Association. To learn more, contact MEAGHAN at ext. 1192 or meaghan.mcdonald@rvca.ca.



*Photo: Tay River, Perth
© Simon Lunn*

Long-time RVCA Board of Directors Member Alan Arbuckle Passes Away



It is with great sadness that we share the news that Alan Arbuckle has passed away. Mr. Arbuckle was a long-time member of the Board of Directors for RVCA. Services were held for Mr. Arbuckle at the Capital Funeral Home and Cemetery on June 4 and Masonic Service of Remembrance was held the following Sunday.

In 2002, Mr. Arbuckle began his tenure as a member of RVCA's Board of Directors representing the City of Ottawa. In 2003, he stepped up as a member of the Executive Committee as well as lending his expertise to the office relocation committee. In 2005, he served on RVCA's 40th Anniversary Committee. Then in 2007, he was elected Chair of RVCA's Board of Directors where he served until 2012. During this time, Mr. Arbuckle also Chaired the Executive Committee.

Other significant contributions made by Mr. Arbuckle came in 2009 when he chaired the Committee on Organization Structure which led to a new Board structure representing all member municipalities in the Rideau watershed. In 2010, he was also a member of the planning committee that organized the Conservation Authorities Biennial Tour which was co-hosted by the RVCA and the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority.

Mr. Arbuckle's many years of service to the RVCA and his significant contributions have had a lasting impact on organization. His quick wit, warm smile, strong work ethic, strong leadership and dedication to RVCA's conservation work will be greatly missed.

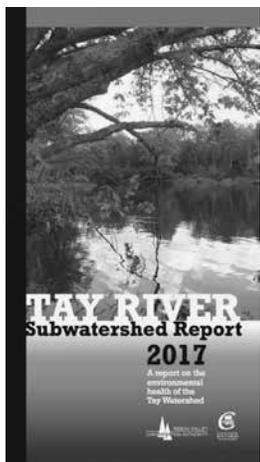
Staff and Board Members extend their sincere condolences to Mr. Arbuckle's wife, children and extended family.

Local Leader Awarded the Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers

Jason Kelly, Chair of the Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation (RVCF), philanthropist and well-known Ottawa businessman, was recently honoured for his service to Canada and the community with the Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers. Mr. Kelly was presented the medal by Mayor Jim Watson at City Hall this spring. This award is presented to individuals who have made significant, sustained and unpaid contributions to their community in Canada or abroad and is considered the highest volunteer honour in Canada. Mr. Kelly was also awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal for his community work and efforts with the Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation in 2012. He has put in thousands of volunteer hours and has provided enormous charitable support to many environmental, community and tourist-related projects. His involvement in some landmark projects include the Ottawa Chinatown Gateway on Somerset Street West, the Can-Go-Afar Foundation providing humanitarian relief in Ethiopia, development of the Rideau Heritage Tourist Route between Ottawa and Kingston, construction of the Chapman Mills Community Bridge and especially his visionary leadership of the Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation. We want to congratulate Mr. Kelly on this prestigious award and thank him for his leadership at the Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation. To learn more contact MICHAEL at ext. 1184 or michael.poliwoda@rvcf.ca.



Jason Kelly, Chair, Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation and His Worship, Jim Watson, Mayor of the City of Ottawa at city hall.



Report on State of the Tay River Subwatershed Now Available

How healthy is the Tay River? Readers can learn all about it in RVCA's *Tay River Subwatershed Report 2017*. This information-packed report summarizes the subwatershed's health by looking at four indicators: forests, wetlands, shorelines and water quality. This is the second subwatershed report for the Tay River and compares baseline information collected from 2006 to 2017. Changes are small, but understanding how to prevent cumulative long-term negative effects is important. RVCA's monitoring helps to better understand watershed trends and focus

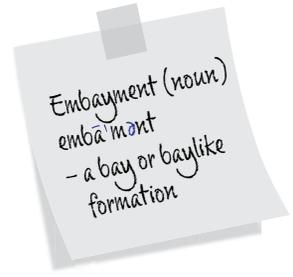
stewardship activities where they are most needed. The subwatershed reports summarize RVCA information and are valuable tools for decision-makers at all levels — individuals, families, municipalities, counties and the province. The report can be viewed on-line at watersheds.rvca.ca. For more information contact MARTIN at ext. 1163 or martin.czarski@rvca.ca

Coming this Fall — Foley Forest School for Kindergarten

Foley Mountain Forest School offers kids an alternative educational experience where they will spend most of their time out-of-doors, learning through child-centered, hands-on experiences that will foster curiosity in a natural, active and authentic learning environment. And, this fall, Foley Mountain Forest School will offer programs to our youngest students. The school will be accepting registrations to their brand new Kindergarten morning programs geared to kids three to six years-of-age. Preregistration is required. Cost per session depends on if kids are registered for the one-morning-per-week or two-mornings-per-week programs. Sessions run from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (3 hours). Special thanks to the Friends of Foley Mountain and the Country Roads Community Health Centre for providing seed funding and expertise for the forestry school development. For more details visit www.rvca.ca/foley-forest-school or call REBECCA at 613-273-3255 or rebecca.whitman@rvca.ca.

Jebbs Creek Gets New and Improved Habitat

It's Jebbs Creek's turn for some TLC! This summer the Jebbs Creek Wetland Embayment Creation Project will convert a small area of existing meadow at the Perth Wildlife Reserve Conservation Area into a series of small riverine wetland embayments. Over 1,600 metres squared of new habitat will be created for fish (particularly northern pike), reptiles, amphibians, insects and other animals that call the creek home. It will act as a demonstration area that shows a variety of cost-effective methods for protecting and enhancing shoreline habitats. You can read all about the habitat improvements in detail at www.rvca.ca, select "More" at the top right corner of the webpage and the Jebbs Creek project is listed among the Special Projects. For more information call JENNIFER at ext. 1108 or jennifer.lamoureux@rvca.ca.



Baxter's Sporting a Brand New Rain Garden

Last fall all the digging and filling was completed in anticipation of this spring's planting of a brand new rain garden at Baxter Conservation Area. Our rain garden is designed to soak up runoff from hardened surfaces like driveways, patios and roofs. Carefully selected native plants, a special soil mix and the shape of the garden work together to filter runoff. Rain gardens stop runoff from going directly to water bodies or sewer systems keeping our lakes, rivers and streams clean. A new, informative interpretive sign will soon make an appearance that will outline how the rain garden actually works. Contact MEAGHAN for more information at ext. 1192 or meaghan.mcdonald@rvca.ca.



If you are considering a rain garden, come see ours and learn more about the benefits.



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