

# AROUND the Rideau



May / June 2021

## Modern Niagara pledges \$300,000 to Conservation Foundation

Rideau Valley residents can count on cleaner water, healthier shorelines and more climate-resilient communities thanks to a ground-breaking agreement between the RVCA's charitable foundation and building services giant Modern Niagara. The national corporation will provide \$300,000 to the Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation over five years to help acquire 375 more acres of local wetlands, shorelines and forests for perpetual protection. This is the first

deal of its kind for the Foundation and will provide it with much more flexibility to acquire sensitive natural areas across the watershed. The land deal also safeguards vital environmental services for nearby communities. The Foundation and the RVCA are extremely excited for this new partnership and thank Modern Niagara for this commitment to a cleaner, healthier future for the region. Contact DIANE for more at [diane.downey@rvca.ca](mailto:diane.downey@rvca.ca).

## Spring planting roundup

The stewardship team has finished its spring tree planting and shoreline naturalization work, marking another banner year for watershed restoration. The forestry team planted a total of 210,000 native tree seedlings on 90 properties across the watershed through its private landowner forestry program, bringing the RVCA's total to 6.8 million trees planted since 1984. The shoreline naturalization team has completed 55 projects and planted 13,000 trees and shrubs, for an estimated total of 2.5 kilometres naturalized this year.

The trees and shrubs planted through these programs offer vital environmental services such as flood and drought mitigation, erosion control, water filtration and carbon sequestration. Participating landowners can access generous grants and follow-up site visits. Stewardship teams will begin conducting site visits in the summer to help interested landowners plan for Spring 2022. Visit [www.rvca.ca/stewardship-grants](http://www.rvca.ca/stewardship-grants) for details.



## 2020 Annual Report highlights successful pandemic pivot

The RVCA's 2020 Annual Report is now available, and it captures a year like no other. While the global pandemic dramatically changed RVCA's day-to-day operations, staff pivoted quickly to deliver virtual and contactless programs as much as possible. We saw a 50 per cent increase in visitors to our conservation areas and record numbers of planning and development applications. Staff also navigated significant changes to the *Conservation Authorities Act*, introduced in the final weeks of 2020.

### 2020 Highlights

- **300,000** visitors to RVCA's **11** conservation areas
- **\$396,488** in rural clean water grants for farmers and landowners
- **231,050** trees planted through our private landowners program
- **14,554** trees and shrubs planted on **92** waterfront properties
- **1,422** *Planning Act* applications reviewed, **1,099** property inquiries completed through Section 28 of the *Conservation Authorities Act* and **724** septic system applications processed
- **1,385** free endangered butternut seedlings distributed to landowners
- **156** sites sampled for water quality on lakes, rivers and major tributaries
- **44** sites sampled in spring and fall for the Ontario Benthos Biomonitoring Network
- **8** Rideau River and **3** Ottawa River flood messages issued.



Download your complete copy at [www.rvca.ca/rvca-publications](http://www.rvca.ca/rvca-publications).



### Baxter and Rideau Ferry beaches welcome accessible beach mats

Beach-lovers of all abilities can enjoy the beautiful sandy beaches at Baxter and Rideau Ferry conservation areas this summer, thanks to our new accessible beach mats. The mats will help people with mobility devices like wheelchairs, walkers and strollers access the Rideau River without worrying about getting stuck in the sand. The mats are part of a suite of accessibility tools the RVCA has recently introduced to make our conservation areas more inclusive. CHELSEY can tell you more at [chelsey.ellis@rvca.ca](mailto:chelsey.ellis@rvca.ca).

### Thank you, Friends of Foley Mountain!

We get by with a little help from our friends, and Foley Mountain Conservation Area is no exception. The Friends of Foley Mountain has continued its support despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite the cancellation of their major fundraiser two years in a row, the group still covered Forest School tuition for two students in need in Fall 2020 and supported the creation of 100 Outdoor Adventure take-home activity kits to connect kids to nature when Forest School had to be cancelled this winter. "We're so grateful that the Friends have continued to support us through a very challenging and unpredictable time," said Foley Mountain site supervisor Rebecca Whitman. The best way to support the Friends is to buy a membership. For more information contact REBECCA at [rebecca.whitman@rvca.ca](mailto:rebecca.whitman@rvca.ca).

### Foundation joins GiveShop charity marketplace

The Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation is thrilled to be the first environmental charity to join GiveShop, an online community marketplace in support of local charities. Similar to other community buy-and-sell platforms, residents can post new and gently used items for sale on the GiveShop app or website. But in an exciting twist, the sale proceeds are donated to the seller's charity of choice and the seller gets a charitable tax receipt for the total sale amount instead. This is an innovative new option for our supporters, especially if direct financial donations are not feasible. To sell on behalf of the Foundation, visit [www.GiveShop.ca](http://www.GiveShop.ca), choose the Foundation as your charity of choice and post your items for sale. Learn more from EMMA at [emma.jackson@rvca.ca](mailto:emma.jackson@rvca.ca).

### Responding to low water conditions

2021 is shaping up to be an abnormally dry year across the Rideau Valley watershed if the current dry trend continues. To prepare for possible low water conditions during the hottest months of the year, RVCA staff coordinates meetings with the Rideau Valley Water Response Team.

The team includes representatives from local municipalities, the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change and Parks Canada.

The team meets when necessary to review stream flow information and weather forecasts. Based on the information, the committee may declare a low water condition for the watershed and may make recommendations for the conservation of limited water supplies throughout drought events. Droughts and low water conditions can impact recreational, agricultural, business and personal water usage.

Visit [rvca.ca/watershed-conditions](http://rvca.ca/watershed-conditions) to learn more and subscribe to our Flood Forecasting and Warning newsletter. Questions? Contact BRIAN at [brian.stratton@rvca.ca](mailto:brian.stratton@rvca.ca).

### Thank you to our sponsors!

The RVCA would like to extend a big thank you to our returning Around the Rideau sponsors, who support the publication of our newsletter to keep watershed residents informed. We are so grateful to Bell Baker Barristers and Solicitors, Bird Richard Lawyers for Employers and Ramada Ottawa on the Rideau for their continued support. For more information or to sponsor the RVCA's conservation efforts contact DIANE at [diane.downey@rvca.ca](mailto:diane.downey@rvca.ca).

 is made possible thanks to our generous sponsors

**Rideau Valley Conservation Authority**  
Box 599, 3889 Rideau Valley Drive  
Manotick, ON K4M 1A5  
613-692-3571 or 1-800-267-3504  
[www.rvca.ca](http://www.rvca.ca)

-  Facebook: [RideauValleyConservationAuthority](https://www.facebook.com/RideauValleyConservationAuthority)
-  Twitter: [RideauValleyCA](https://twitter.com/RideauValleyCA)
-  Instagram: [rideauvalleyca](https://www.instagram.com/rideauvalleyca)
-  Youtube: [@RideauValleyCA](https://www.youtube.com/@RideauValleyCA)

**Bell Baker, Barristers and Solicitors** — 613-237-3444 | [www.bellbaker.com](http://www.bellbaker.com)  
Effectively providing quality legal services in Eastern Ontario for over 50 years

**Bird Richard, Lawyers for Employers** — 613-238-3772 | [www.lawyersforemployers.ca](http://www.lawyersforemployers.ca) | Representing management in labour and employment law across Ontario

**Ramada Ottawa on the Rideau** — 613-288-3500 | [www.ramadaottawa.com](http://www.ramadaottawa.com)  
Offers 87 fully renovated rooms with balconies overlooking the Rideau River, banquet facilities, full service restaurant and outdoor pool. Pet friendly.