



Around the Rideau

ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION FOR MUNICIPALITIES IN THE RIDEAU VALLEY

July/August 2017

Chapman Mills Celebrates Improvements

Only July 27, dignitaries and special guests gathered at the Chapman Mills Conservation Area to celebrate and help with the installation of the final pieces of wooden boardwalk. Over 600 metres of boardwalk have been widened and now include turnaround areas to allow for increased accessibility. Some 50 metres of trails have also been upgraded to offer a smoother surface and gradual grading (where possible) to allow for improved recreational use.

These upgrades were completed over the past two years thanks to funding of up to \$32,000 from the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario, through the Canada 150 Community Infrastructure Program, and donations from Movati Athletic Group and the Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation. DAN can tell you more at ext. 1124 or dan.cooper@rvca.ca.

“The Chapman Mills Conservation Area project is a great example of what the Canada 150 Community Infrastructure Program is all about,” said Chandra Arya, Member of Parliament for Nepean. “Supporting improvements to the places where families go to spend quality time together is an ideal way to invest in our communities so that they can be enjoyed by Canadians for years to come.”

Photo left to right: MP Chandra Arya, RVCA Chair Lyle Pederson, Ottawa Mayor Jim Watson, Ottawa City Councillor Michael Qaqish, MPP Lisa MacLeod, RVCF Chair Jason Kelly, former Ottawa City Councillor Steve Desroches.



Rideau River Regulations and Hazard Land Mapping Open House

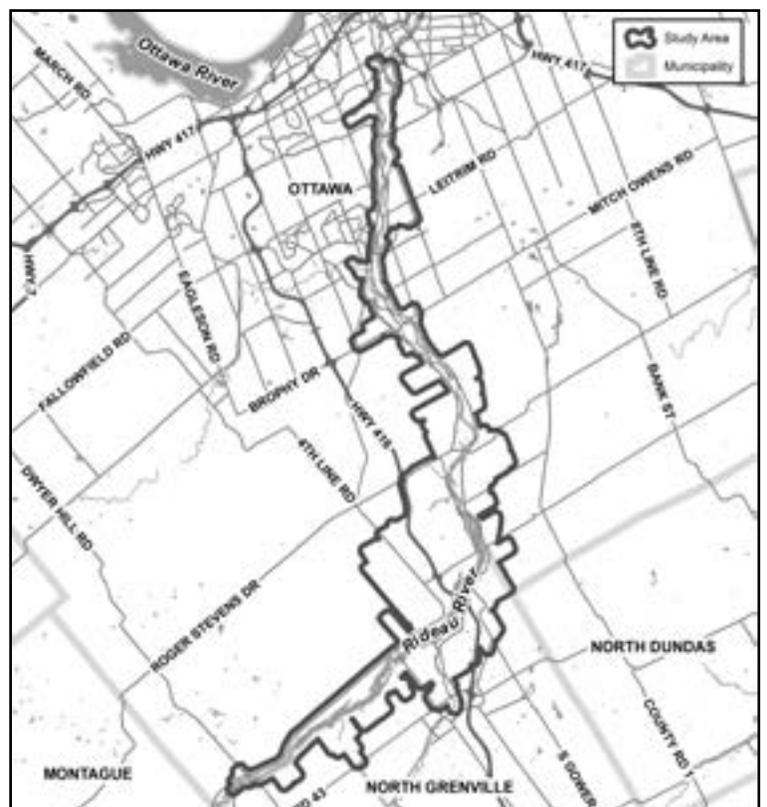
As part of an ongoing partnership with the City of Ottawa, the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority has completed two mapping studies of flood prone areas and steep slopes along the Rideau River: Hogs Back to Kars and Kars to Burritts Rapids. Please join us at our open house to learn how floodplain and slope delineation may affect shoreline management and development in the City of Ottawa and the Municipality of North Grenville.

The goal of this mapping is to help ensure that sound planning decisions are made — keeping people and property safe. Accurate engineered hazard land mapping is the foundation of effective floodplain and resource management.

Rideau River Open House

- Wednesday, September 27, 2017
- 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Rideau Valley Conservation Centre
- 3889 Rideau Valley Drive, Manotick

To learn more about these Rideau River maps visit: www.rvca.ca/rideau-river-hazard-mapping-studies. To learn about other mapping studies, visit www.rvca.ca/ottawa-mapping-project.



July Flooding in North Gower

Eastern Ontario has seen a cooler than normal, very wet spring and summer. As a result, in North Gower and vicinity, when the rainfall of July 24 hit, soils that were already saturated had no capacity to absorb more precipitation. Rapid runoff resulted and flows reached flood stage and overtopped watercourse banks. Flooding exceeded the 100-year flood level by as much as 62 centimetres. Rainfall exceeded the 100-year precipitation amount (123 millimetres). The erratic nature of the July 24 weather system made it very difficult to predict exactly where the rain would fall. By the end of the rain, Stevens Creek had received 35 percent more than predicted and North Gower almost twice that causing unprecedented flooding of homes, businesses and agricultural fields in the area. For more information contact PATRICK at ext. 1210 or patrick.larson@rvca.ca.



Flooding on Perkins Drive, North Gower.

Awesome Volunteers Receive Recognition

Six of Rideau Valley Conservation Authority's (RVCA) City Stream Watch volunteers were recognized in June with the presentation of Ontario Volunteer Service Awards. The Ontario Volunteer Service Awards recognize volunteers for providing committed and dedicated service to an organization.

Congratulations to Sidney Arnold, Rebecca Cameron, Bruce Douglas Clarke, Francois Yvon Deslauriers, Peter Melvin and Peter Stewart-Burton. These six representatives regularly give their time to monitor and restore the health of Ottawa's city streams through the City Stream Watch Program.

Since CSW's inception in 2003, volunteer numbers have grown from 26 to over four hundred. This adds up to over 2,653 hours of volunteer work over the last 14 years. For more information, contact ROSARIO at ext. 1155 or rosario.castanon.escobar@rvca.ca.



A few of our City Stream Watch Volunteers celebrating their Service Awards — left to right: Sidney Arnold, Peter Melvin, Rebecca Cameron and Peter Stewart-Burton.

Website Upgrades!

The old RVCA website has been replaced with a fancy new, 2017-worthy site. Things might not be where they used to be, but now we have a new-fangled "search" feature to help you find what you need (if necessary). Be sure to check out our volunteer calendar and see what opportunities there are for you to become involved in watershed conservation work. You can also see our outdoor programs, meetings and events calendars. Notice something not working quite right? Let DIANE know about the bugs at ext. 1126 or diane.downey@rvca.ca.

Baxter Pond Improvements

The beloved Baxter Pond — where thousands of children experience the magic and beauty of pond life — is getting a facelift!

Starting this fall, critters will be collected and work will begin to improve the pond. Over the years, the pond has slowly filled in with sediment making the water too shallow and less appealing to local aquatic and terrestrial animals. This infilling reduces open water habitat which is crucial to pond health. Work will deepen the pond. Root wads and basking logs will be installed to create complex habitat for aquatic and terrestrial species. Also, wetland and shoreline seed mixes along with shoreline shrubs and trees will be placed in and around the feature to provide even more habitat for pond residents.

This will also benefit our guests — mostly school-aged children — who participate in pond studies, investigating the unique habitat and species who call it home. JENNIFER can tell you more at ext. 1108 or jennifer.lamoureux@rvca.ca.

High Water Woes: Boats, Wake & Speed

With recent high water on our system, boating speeds and associated wake have been a concern. Speed zones and no wake zones have been established by Parks Canada along the navigation channels. All zones are posted with signs and regulated under the Boating Restrictions Regulations, part of the *Canada Shipping Act*. Concerned about posted signs? Call Parks Canada, Rideau Canal Office at 1-613-283-5810.

Boating speed is limited to 10 km/h within 30 metres of shore on allwaters in Ontario except for waterskiing where the vessel follows a trajectory perpendicular to the shore, in rivers less than 100 metres wide or in canals or buoyed channels, or in waters where another speed is prescribed.

The Ontario Provincial Police patrol from Kingston to Burritts Rapids and the Ottawa Police Service patrols from Burritts Rapids through to Ottawa. Anyone who witnesses careless operation of vessels is encouraged to report these incidents to the responsible enforcement agency.

- OPP — 1-888-310-1122 (Kingston to Burritts Rapids)
- Ottawa Police: 613-236-1222 (Burritts Rapids to Ottawa)



Teachers — Book Ed. Programs Now!

Baxter and Foley Mountain Conservation Areas are gearing up for busy fall and winter seasons as schools will soon be returning for outdoor education programs. Now is the time for teachers to book their interactive and experiential program that provides students with a "hands-on" approach to learning about natural science in one of RVCA's "Ecology Labs." Get full details on educational programs at <https://www.rvca.ca/outdoor-education>.



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Ramada Ottawa on the Rideau — 613-288-3500, www.ramadaottawa.com, ~Previously *The Monterey Hotel*~ Offers 87 fully renovated rooms with balconies overlooking the Rideau River. Pet friendly.

