



Around the Rideau

Environmental Information For Municipalities In The Rideau Valley

January | February 2015

Spring Flooding — are you prepared?

January/February is the right time to think about spring flood preparations. The Rideau River watershed has a number of flood vulnerable areas and they, as a result of late winter/early spring's unpredictable weather, can experience flooding. It's best to plan ahead and be ready — just in case!

RVCA monitors climate and flow conditions and provides local agencies and the public with advance notice so they can respond to potential flooding and flood emergencies.

Accurate flood forecasting relies on reliable and timely data. The RVCA has several tools to forecast spring flooding: stream gauges, snowpack measurements, weather forecasts, computer modeling and floodplain maps — all are key in making a reliable flood forecast.

RVCA uses 15 stream gauges that continuously record water levels within the Rideau watershed. We also do snowpack surveys which help us understand just how much snow has fallen from which runoff and water levels are estimated. We monitor six different sites in the lower watershed east of Smiths Falls. Another six sites in the upper watershed are monitored by Rideau Canal, Parks Canada staff. There are also six sites where precipitation is measured. Floodplain maps show the capacity of the river to hold water and where overbank flooding can be expected. All this information, when combined with weather forecasts and computer modeling, allow us to estimate flows and predict potential floods.

If flooding is imminent, RVCA warns local municipalities and other government agencies that emergency response plans should be implemented. We also notify the public through the media and special contact lists allowing individuals to stay informed and to take appropriate precautions.

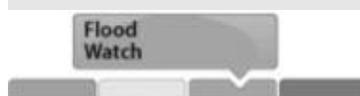
This is the best time for municipal flood emergency response plans to be reviewed so that employees, equipment and communications are all ready. Property owners should also assess their plans for minimizing flood-related property damages. Should flooding occur, the first response is up to the individual homeowners. If the flood is beyond the capability of the homeowner, the municipal Emergency Response Plan kicks in to assist.

Flood forecasting is just part of the preventative measures that Conservation Authorities take to protect the general public from flooding. The RVCA also regulates development and promotes proper land use in our local floodplains. Parks Canada and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forests manage water levels throughout the system at dams and other water control structures and the RVCA works in cooperation with them. PATRICK can tell you more at patrick.larson@rvca.ca or ext. 1110.

The RVCA provides member municipalities and local residents advance notice and information about potential flooding. The RVCA's Flood Forecasting and Warning System operates 12 months a year (along with its involvement with the Low Water Response Team).

When warranted, the RVCA issues one of three types of messages to municipal emergency managers and the public; they are:

1. Watershed Condition Statements — water safety or flood outlooks. These statements contain information about the current conditions of the watershed that set the stage for the possibility of flooding if the right weather patterns develop. Be informed and be aware!



2. Flood Watch — these messages are issued when it is perceived that flooding could result from an approaching weather system that could bring heavy rain or warm air causing a rapid snowmelt. Be prepared to activate your flood response plans if it becomes necessary.



3. Flood Warning — these messages are issued when it is perceived that flooding conditions definitely will be experienced. Activate your flood response plan now!

It is the RVCA's job to notify municipalities and residents of the potential flooding from our rivers, creeks and streams. **It is up to each individual to develop a flood plan specific to their property and their needs.**

What you can do ...

- View regular updates of streamflow conditions at the RVCA website at www.rvca.ca
- Find out if you are in a flood vulnerable area by speaking with one of our Resource Specialists at 613-692-3571 or 1-800-267-3504 ext. 1128 or 1132
- Get messages sent directly to your email account. Contact MICHELLE at michelle.paton@rvca.ca
- Follow us on Twitter (RideauValleyCA) or like us on Facebook!





CO₂ Neutral Family

The Rideau Valley Conservation

Foundation is excited to welcome

our first local family to the Carbon

Neutral Program. The Lucuik family of Manotick reduced their carbon

footprint by building a LEED platinum home and have made the next

step of sequestering the rest of their carbon by planting trees. We

hope that the Lucuik family's model inspires other like-minded families.

The Lucuik family joins many local businesses who have chosen to

make their businesses carbon neutral. Call DAN for more information

or to become carbon neutral at ext. 1124 or dan.cooper@rvca.ca.

Family



Now Hiring Students!

RVCA is in full gear hiring our team of summer students. Check out the opportunities on our website at www.rvca.ca/news/employment.html.

RVCA 2015 Budget and Work Plan

Want to find out what the RVCA will be up to for the next year? If yes, visit our website at www.rvca.ca and check out our new *Rideau Valley Conservation Authority 2015 Budget and Work Plan*. The plan outlines expenditures and revenues — where the money comes from and how and where it is being spent. It goes on to break down RVCA tasks and how they benefit municipalities. This easy-to-read breakdown of RVCA's 2015 plan is a must-read for any interested in how the RVCA works, how it is paid and the benefits to our Rideau watershed residents. For more information contact SOMMER at ext. 1114 or sommer.casgrain-robertson@rvca.ca.

New Hazard Mapping for Ottawa River

New and updated mapping has been prepared along the Ottawa River resulting in minor revisions to existing maps. For the first time, however, the mapping does include hazard identification up key tributaries of the Ottawa River up to the point where the influence of the Ottawa River 1:100 year flood level begins to diminish. This includes Graham and Stillwater Creeks in old Nepean and Greens and Bilberry Creeks in the east end of the City. These maps show areas prone to natural hazards such as flooding, erosion and unstable slopes and natural environmental features such as wetlands. The maps are used by municipalities and the RVCA when updating Official Plans and Zoning Schedules and in the review of other *Planning Act* applications. Two open houses were held in late 2014. Mapping was also completed for most of the Cardinal Creek sub-watershed in Orleans. These hazard maps are available for viewing at www.rvca.ca and are now in use. For more contact FERDOUS at ext. 1170 or ferdous.ahmed@rvca.ca.

TD Friends Helps Kids Get Back to Nature

The Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation recently received a generous gift from the TD Friends of the Environment to help more students visit Foley Mountain Conservation Area. The \$3,000 fund will be used to provide \$150 transportation subsidies to local schools to help get students to Foley Mountain. The cost of bussing is a major barrier for schools. Not only are outdoor education programs important for learning but they also help connect children with nature and help build a future generation of stewards for our watershed. There is a lot of evidence that nature has significant benefits to our mental and physical health, as well as providing different types of learners with meaningful educational experiences. Call REBECCA for more at 613-273-3255 or rebecca.whitman@rvca.ca.

Five Million Trees and Counting!

The RVCA's tree planting program will be planting another 235,000 trees this spring. This will surpass five million trees planted since the program started. We continue to look for private land tree planting opportunities throughout the watershed for the 2016 planting season. Our full-service tree planting program is available to all landowners in the Rideau Valley watershed who are interested in planting over one acre. Huge subsidies and profession planting services continue to be available. Book your free site visit by calling SCOTT at ext. 1175 or scott.danford@rvca.ca.

Evolution of Brewer Park Pond



Brewer Park Pond — Community Plant Looking for Volunteers!

Construction on the Brewer Park Pond Restoration Project has been completed and we're now turning our attention to a community tree plant planned for this spring. Plans are to plant approximately 1,500 hardy, native shrubs around the perimeter of the pond to stabilize the shoreline. Anyone interested in participating can go to the Brewer Park Pond web page at www.rvca.ca/brewerpark and click on the yellow tree plant button to have their name added to our list of planters. More detailed information, dates, etc. will be emailed to participants. Project partners include: Minto Communities, Richcraft Group of Companies, Rideau Valley Conservation Authority, City of Ottawa, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Carleton University, Muskies Canada – Ottawa Chapter and the Environment Committee for Ottawa South. For more information contact JENN at ext. 1108 or jennifer.lamoureux@rvca.ca.



Around the Rideau

Rideau Valley Conservation Authority
Office de protection de la nature de la
vallée de la rivière Rideau

Box 599, 3889 Rideau Valley Drive
Manotick, ON K4M 1A5
613-692-3571 or 1-800-267-3504 www.rvca.ca
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Around the Rideau circulation has risen to 3,800 Heads of Council, Councillors, senior municipal and provincial staff, interested persons and the media throughout the 18 municipalities in the Rideau Valley watershed courtesy of our generous sponsors:

Ramada Ottawa on the Rideau

613-288-3500 Previously The Monterey Hotel — Offers 87 fully renovated rooms with balconies overlooking the Rideau River. It is an Oasis in the city.



Interested in being a 2015 **Around the Rideau** sponsor? Contact DIANE at diane.downey@rvca.ca