

# AROUND the Rideau



January | February 2019

## Flood Prep 2019

It's that time of the year — we need to get all our flood preparation ducks in a row!

RVCA uses stream gauges, weather stations, surveys of snow conditions, meteorological forecasts and computer models to determine the possibility of flooding. With spring melt or severe precipitation, the RVCA estimates the severity, location, and timing of possible flooding and warns accordingly based on the four stages of the Flood Warning Index. RVCA maintains a flood forecasting and warning system that aims to reduce danger to people and property by providing local agencies and the public with advance notice and information.

As a property owner, you need to assess your emergency plan for minimizing flood-related property damages. If you don't have a plan, now's the time to make one. There are lots

of excellent online resources on how to prepare your family's emergency plan. Should flooding occur, the first response is up to you, the homeowner! If the flood is beyond your capability, the Municipal Emergency Response Plan kicks in. Your municipality is responsible for emergency response services during severe floods. It may be a good time to check out your municipality's website and familiarize yourself with their emergency preparedness plan. Property owners, especially ones in vulnerable areas, need to have emergency phone numbers handy.

To get up-to-date information on local watershed conditions, you can sign up for RVCA's flood forecasting and warning emails — join our mailing list at [www.rvca.ca](http://www.rvca.ca) — look for "Get RVCA News." For more information call BRIAN at ext. 1141 or [brian.stratton@rvca.ca](mailto:brian.stratton@rvca.ca).



### Flood Warning Index

1. **Normal** — No flood conditions exist.
2. **Awareness** — Be informed and aware.
  - **Water Safety Statements** — High flows, unsafe banks, melting ice or other factors that could be dangerous for recreational users such as anglers, canoeists, hikers, children, pets, etc. Flooding is not expected.
  - **Flood Outlook Statements** — Early notice of the potential for flooding based on weather forecasts calling for heavy rain, snow melt, high wind or other conditions that could lead to high runoff, cause ice jams, lake shore flooding or erosion.
3. **Flood Watch** — Be prepared to activate your flood response plans, if it becomes necessary. Flooding is possible in specific watercourses or municipalities. Municipalities, emergency services and individual landowners in flood-prone areas should prepare.
4. **Flood Warning** — Activate your flood response procedures now! Flooding is imminent or already occurring in specific watercourses or municipalities.

Interested in accessing real-time information on stream flows, water levels and snow measurements? Our interactive monitoring tool (maps and graphs) can be seen online at [www.rvca.ca/water-levels](http://www.rvca.ca/water-levels).

You can also use our online mapping tool to search for your property and see if it is located in a floodplain at [www.rvca.ca/map-a-property](http://www.rvca.ca/map-a-property).

RVCA's Flood Forecasting and Warning and Low Water Response System operates 12 months a year and provides member municipalities and local residents advance notice and information about potential flooding and drought conditions.



### Around the Rideau Gets a Refresh!

There's nothing better than a bit of de-cluttering so we've decided to give the *Around the Rideau* newsletter a bit of a refresh. With the implementation of our new logo late last fall it's a great time to simplify, revamp and modernize our newsletter. We hope you enjoy the new look! For more information on the *Around the Rideau* or if you'd like to sponsor the newsletter for the next year call DIANE at ext. 1126 or [diane.downey@rvca.ca](mailto:diane.downey@rvca.ca).

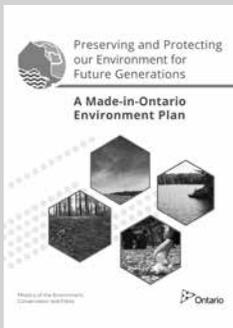


**City Stream Watch – 2019 Season**

In 2019 City Stream Watch (CSW) will be monitoring the health of Cranberry (South of Kars), Borthwick (Gloucester), Hunt Club (Gloucester) and Ramsey Creeks (Gloucester). Spring plans are to evaluate headwater drainage features and water temperature with the installation of temperature loggers. In late spring and early summer, fish communities will be assessed and streams will be surveyed with the assistance of our dedicated City Stream Watch volunteers. In addition to monitoring, CSW will host training and demonstration workshops and hold a few other events, including invasive species removals, stream cleanups and shoreline restoration projects. All of these events will be listed at [www.rvca.ca/volunteer](http://www.rvca.ca/volunteer).

If you are looking to help monitor, restore and enhance our city streams, consider volunteering with us! For more information or to sign up for our CSW mailing list visit [www.rvca.ca/volunteer/city-stream-watch](http://www.rvca.ca/volunteer/city-stream-watch) or email [citystreamwatch@rvca.ca](mailto:citystreamwatch@rvca.ca).

*Volunteers measure air and water temperature, pH, conductivity and dissolved oxygen with a water chemistry probe in Borthwick Creek (Gloucester).*



**Provincial Plan Commits to Working with CAs**

Last fall the government of Ontario released its *Made in Ontario Environment Plan*. The Plan praises the effective partnership between provincially-supported source protection committees, municipalities and conservation authorities (CAs) in protecting essential sources of drinking water. The government has committed to continue to work with CAs to ensure the health of lakes, rivers and green spaces. It explicitly recognizes the vital role of CAs in the protection of people and property from flooding and other natural hazards as well as CA work in conserving natural resources. The Plan is available to read at <https://www.ontario.ca/page/made-in-ontario-environment-plan>.

**Looking for New Committee Members**

The Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Region (MRSPPR) is seeking Source Protection Committee members who are interested in protecting municipal drinking water sources in the Mississippi and Rideau Valley watersheds. The MRSPPR Committee was established in 2007 as a result of the Province's *Clean Water Act*. The committee guides local efforts to protect drinking water at the source and is made up of one-third municipal, one-third economic and one-third public sector representatives. The composition ensures that a variety of local interests are represented at the decision-making table as the committee works to oversee the implementation of science-based source protection plans. If you are interested in becoming a member or you'd like more information contact MARIKA at ext. 1148 or [marika.livingston@mrsourcewater.ca](mailto:marika.livingston@mrsourcewater.ca). Applications are being accepted until March 8, 2019.

**Visiting Conservation Areas**

Getting outdoors in a natural setting has proven physical, mental and spiritual health benefits. RVCA owns and operates eleven unique conservation areas that are full of fresh air and naturalness waiting for you! Visit [www.rvca.ca/](http://www.rvca.ca/)

conservation-areas to see where your next adventure will be. Five of these conservation areas are pay-as-you-go. You can purchase a day pass for \$7. Or better yet, buy the entire year with a \$50 annual pass that will give you dawn to dusk access to these natural gems. Visiting has never been easier with our efficient paybyphone system — no cash required as long as you have your phone! Contact MEGAN at ext. 1179 or [megan.dunster@rvca.ca](mailto:megan.dunster@rvca.ca).

**New Video Released**

Conservation Ontario has released a short-animated video so people can learn, in a fun way, about their sources of drinking water. The video features a young man named Matt and his dog Buddy. It highlights the importance of keeping our sources of drinking water abundant and clean, and that everyone can play a role in protecting their community sources of drinking water. The video is only about a minute long and is available in both English and French. To see it, visit Conservation Ontario's YouTube channel or use the link [youtu.be/4U-zmi3FJOA](http://youtu.be/4U-zmi3FJOA). To learn more about this video and drinking water source protection, visit [sourcewaterinfo.on.ca](http://sourcewaterinfo.on.ca) and [protectingwatermatters.ca](http://protectingwatermatters.ca). For more, contact MARIKA at ext. 1148 or [marika.livingston@mrsourcewater.ca](mailto:marika.livingston@mrsourcewater.ca).

**AROUND the Rideau** is made possible thanks to our generous sponsors

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