

AROUND the Rideau



January / February 2022



RVCA WINTER SCAVENGER HUNT

Can you find everything in our winter scavenger hunt list?

Can you spot? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Squirrel <input type="checkbox"/> Tree stump <input type="checkbox"/> Animal tracks <input type="checkbox"/> Icicle <input type="checkbox"/> Pinecone <input type="checkbox"/> Bird <input type="checkbox"/> Footprints 	Can you Feel? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Something cold <input type="checkbox"/> Something warm <input type="checkbox"/> Something wet <input type="checkbox"/> Something rough <input type="checkbox"/> Something smooth
Can you hear? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Birds chirping <input type="checkbox"/> Crunching footsteps <input type="checkbox"/> Wind 	What else did you find? <small>Write your answers in the spaces below</small> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>

Fresh Air Fun

It can be hard to get the kids outside when it's -20 degrees. But we've got some great resources to make it a little easier, including winter scavenger hunts, reading lists and outdoor art activities. Look for the Fresh Air Fun tab at www.RVCA.ca/outdoor-education for fun print offs, tips for a successful winter walk and a video tutorial for snow ice cream!

Stay safe on the ice!

Frozen lakes and rivers support many of our favourite winter activities, but safety must always come first. Ice thickness is unpredictable and can change quickly. Falling into open water can result in hypothermia or drowning. Stay safe by regularly testing ice thickness, staying away from areas with flowing water, reminding children of the dangers of playing on or near the ice and keeping pets on leash near frozen waterbodies.

Please note the RVCA does not monitor or maintain ice conditions anywhere in the watershed, including at its 11 public conservation areas. The RVCA does not allow or encourage skating at any of its properties. For more information contact CHELSEY at chelsey.ellis@rvca.ca.

Ice Safety

Minimum Ice Depth

No ice is 100% safe

5 cm/2 in or less stay off ice	15 cm/6 in one person and gear	20 cm/8 in group in single file	25 cm/10 in snowmobile or ATV
			30 cm/12 in one vehicle car or small pick-up truck

Based on solid blue lake ice.
No ice is without some risk. Be sure to measure!
Canadian Red Cross Ice Safety Guidelines



Please fish your huts off the ice!

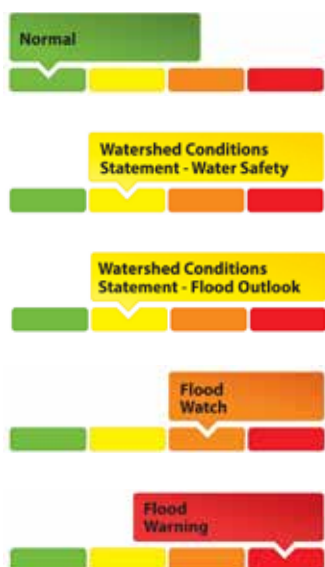
As the weather warms, plan ahead to remove any fishing huts, rink materials, garbage and other equipment you've left on the ice before it gets too thin. Letting these materials go down with the ice can pollute our rivers and lakes, be toxic for fish and wildlife and create hazards for boaters and swimmers in the spring. It is an offence under the *Public Lands Act* to leave your ice hut out after ice break up, even if that occurs before the local removal deadline of March 15. Protect and respect the river that has kept you going through these long winter months!

Get ready for flood season

Dreaming of spring? Prepare for it, too! The spring freshet is just around the corner, and RVCA staff are using stream gauges, weather stations, snowpack measurements, meteorological forecasts and computer models to prepare. As the spring melt begins, staff can use the data collected to determine the potential for flooding. Residents can monitor real-time water levels, access neighbourhood-level flood maps and more at www.RVCA.ca/watershed-conditions.

Should flooding occur, the first response is up to you! As a property owner, you need an emergency plan to minimize flood-related property damages. While our flood forecasting and warning program is responsible for providing timely, accurate flood predictions, your municipality is responsible for emergency response in the event of severe flooding. Now is the time to explore your municipality's website, get to know its emergency preparedness plan and dig out your local emergency phone numbers.

For up-to-date information on local watershed conditions, subscribe to RVCA's flood forecasting and warning emails at www.rvca.ca — look for "Get RVCA News." For more information contact BRIAN at brian.stratton@rvca.ca.



Flood Index

1. **GREEN: Normal** – No flood conditions exist.
2. **YELLOW: 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. **ORANGE: 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. **RED: Flood Warning** – Activate your flood response procedures now! Flooding is imminent or already occurring in specific watercourses or municipalities.



Need a summer job? Work for us!

It may not feel like it, but summer is just around the corner – which means students can now apply for 13 different positions across the RVCA's programs. Spend your summer conserving and protecting Eastern Ontario's natural resources! Outdoor positions include parks maintenance, aquatic and water quality monitoring, stewardship and camp counselling. We will also welcome several students to our planning and regulations department at our head office in Manotick. Check out www.RVCA.ca/careers to find your dream job this summer or contact RICO at rico.vipari@rvca.ca for more information.

COVID-19 Updates

Check out the latest RVCA COVID-19 information at www.rvca.ca/covid-19.

AROUND the Rideau is made possible thanks to our generous sponsors

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