



Around the Rideau

Environmental Information For Municipalities In The Rideau Valley

July | August 2015

Motts Mills Dam

Work will begin in August to replace and decommission the failing, 63 year old dam located just off County Road 1 in Elizabethtown-Kitley. The RVCA and partners looked for creative and less expensive options than rebuilding the concrete dam. We found Ducks Unlimited who build a structure that is economically viable while providing the water control options needed to create a healthy upstream wetland. An earthen berm made of rock and clay will be built just upstream from the existing dam. It will have two steel inlet chambers to hold or pass water. Ducks Unlimited, who has vast experience and knowledge in designing and building these structures for wetland purposes, will oversee the construction that should take seven to 10 days.

RVCA continues to work collaboratively with Ducks Unlimited Canada, the Leeds-Grenville Stewardship Council, the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry and the Township of Elizabethtown-Kitley to develop a long-term plan for restoration and management of the upstream Hutton Marsh. TERRY can tell you more at ext. 1107 or terry.davidson@rvca.ca.

Summer Student Infusion

RVCA continues to be the fortunate recipient of special funding to hire some of the best and brightest local "student" talent. This year, 22 students were hired allowing the RVCA to pursue important Authority work such as watershed data collection through our water resource technicians, outdoor education programming through our camp councillors, information management through our various clerks, conservation area improvements through our park technicians and more! It is win-win — students gain practical, hands-on experience and the Authority completes special projects. ROSIE has the details at ext. 1145 or rosie.maclean@rvca.ca.

Invasive Removal Continues

Volunteers (you are the best!) are invited to join one of our invasive species removals along city streams. Time to remove these plants before they spread and out compete native plants. The City Stream Watch Program is removing Himalayan balsam, Japanese knotweed and European water chestnut. To learn more, contact CHELSEY at ext. 1180 or citystreamwatch@rvca.ca.

Celebrating Brewer Park Pond

After years of separation, the landlocked Brewer Park Pond has been reconnected to the Rideau River. Partners gathered on July 10 to celebrate the reunion and enhancement of Ottawa's greenspace.

This project is made possible thanks to Minto, Richcraft, the City of Ottawa, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, Muskies Canada, the Institute of Environmental Science at Carleton University and the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority. The Ottawa South Community Association was vital in bringing the residents and the partners together to ensure a project with environmental and social benefits acceptable to the community.

Learn more at www.rvca.ca/brewerpark or contact JENNIFER at 1108 or jennifer.lamoureux@rvca.ca



Project partners join Capital Ward Councillor David Chernushenko and Ottawa Mayor Jim Watson to unveil new Brewer Park Pond Project sign at a special event held on Friday, July 10, 2015.

Thank you and Best Wishes Don

After an impressive 38 year career, RVCA Director of Planning and Regulations, Don Maciver is moving on to greener pastures. Retirement calls and so does the west.

Don started his career in 1977 as an Inspector and has been part of the Authority ever since. Don has been instrumental in the development of many of the watershed planning and regulatory policies.



General Manager Sommer Casgrain-Robertson (left) and RVCA Chair Lyle Pederson (right) present Don with a certificate of achievement at July's Board of Directors meeting.

Time to Hit the Beach

RVCA is proud of its beach features at Rideau Ferry Conservation Area and Baxter Conservation Area. Access a great day of fun at \$6 per vehicle or get the \$45 annual pass that gives you year-round access to the RVCA's five developed conservation areas (Foley Mountain, Perth Wildlife Reserve, Baxter, Rideau Ferry and W.A. Taylor Conservation Areas). We also invite you to visit Chapman Mills, Mill Pond, Meisel Woods and Portland Bay Conservation Areas with unique trails and beautiful natural areas at no cost. MEGAN can tell you more at ext. 1179 or megan.dunster@rvca.ca.

Regatta Returns to Rideau Ferry

Join the Rideau Ferry Yacht Club on August 15 and 16 as the historical Rideau Ferry Regatta returns to the Big Rideau. The RVCA's Rideau Ferry Conservation Area becomes the spot to see inboard and outboard race boats as they compete. For regular Conservation Area users, annual passes will not be valid that day as an event fee is being charged. The boat launch will not be accessible. Boaters may launch at Beveridges Locks, just off of Port Elmsley Road. For safety reasons there will also be restrictions on swimming when the boats are in the water. We apologize for any inconvenience. Learn more about the regatta by visiting www.rfyc.ca.

If You Build It . . . Otty Lake Monitoring Shows Great Results

CA staff recently visited Otty Lake to complete post effectiveness monitoring on fish habitat installation efforts. In October 2013, Otty Lake Association volunteers and RVCA staff installed 92 gravel spawning beds spread along a kilometre of the bottom of Otty Lake. In September 2014, an additional 83 nests were installed. Monitoring shows 43 percent of the spawning beds have a male guarding the nest. RVCA staff also observed the black fry stage at numerous beds. Great results are motivating as we move into the next two phases of fish enhancement work on Otty Lake which will include more spawning beds as well as brush piles for turtles, invertebrates and amphibians. Hats off to the Otty Lake Association for their interest in enhancing fish and wildlife habitat on their lake. JENNIFER can tell you more at ext. 1108 or jennifer.lamoureux@rvca.ca.

Spring 2015 Monitoring Results — 175 beds

Spawning bed status	Numbers
Confirmed (observed male guarding nest)	75
Possible (nest was maintained/cleaned)	16
Not Active	27
Unconfirmed (could not see beds due to depth and waves)	57
Success rate for confirmed spawning beds	43%

- Site visits were conducted on May 29 and June 3, 2015
- Nesting behavior was evaluated on each of these dates
- Observations were made from each spawning bed to determine the status (confirmed, unconfirmed, possible)
- Nesting material integrity was assessed



Smallmouth bass fry enjoying the rocky spawning bed that provides shelter and protection.



Around the Rideau

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

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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.