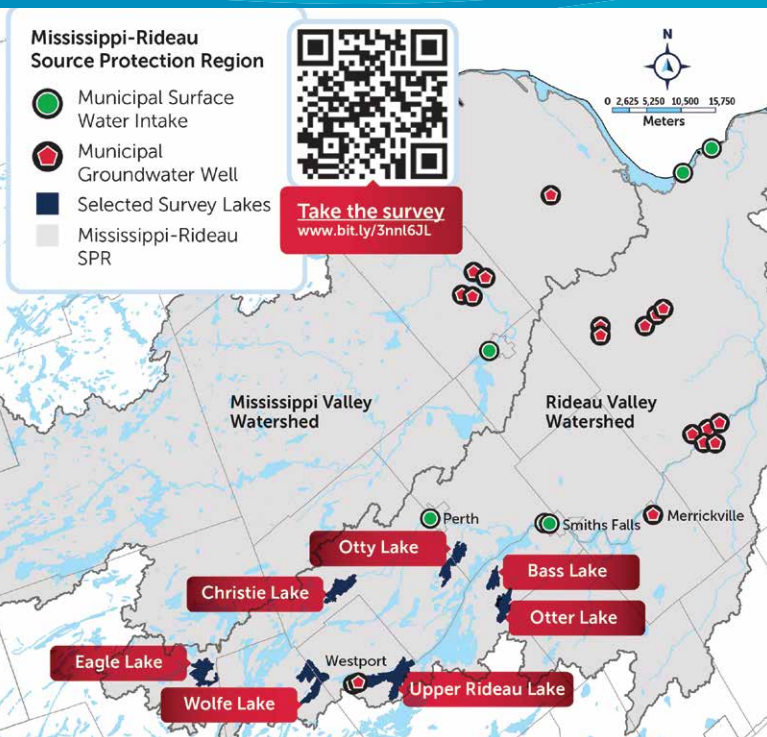


# AROUND the Rideau



July / August 2022



## Drinking water survey for Rideau Lakes region

Calling all cottagers! Our partners at the Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Region are studying seven lakes in the Westport, Perth and Smiths Falls area to learn how property owners source their drinking water - whether it's from a well, the lake or carried in. A quick landowner survey will help staff determine where to focus education efforts to ensure people are accessing safe drinking water sources. If you've got property on Bass, Christie, Eagle, Otter, Otty, Upper Rideau or Wolfe lakes, complete the survey for a chance to win an annual pass to RVCA's 11 conservation areas (valued at \$50). Find it at [www.mrsourcewater.ca](http://www.mrsourcewater.ca) under Protect Your Drinking Water. Contact MAREN at [maren.catt@rvca.ca](mailto:maren.catt@rvca.ca) for more info.

### Pilot project promotes sustainable drainage on Big Rideau Lake

A school of painted yellow fish has invaded Portland to send an important reminder that stormwater runs directly to our waterways - often carrying chemicals, nutrients and pollutants along with it. This can cause algae blooms, excessive weeds and reduced water quality in our beloved lakes. In partnership with the Township of Rideau Lakes, Big Rideau Lake Association and Cataraqui Conservation, a new pilot project this summer aims to monitor several Portland drains and offer easy sustainable drainage tips for residents, such as using a rain barrel or installing a rain garden. Learn more at [www.rvca.ca](http://www.rvca.ca) under Special Projects or contact CAITLIN at [caitlin.sommer@rvca.ca](mailto:caitlin.sommer@rvca.ca).



### Shoreline naturalization visits available now



Got geese? We can help! Our Shoreline Naturalization Program is booking site visits to help you add native shrubs and plants to your shoreline to discourage geese, reduce erosion and cut back on mowing - all while preserving water access and views. Generous grants and technical support included! Contact MEAGHAN at [meaghan.mcdonald@rvca.ca](mailto:meaghan.mcdonald@rvca.ca).

### Ottawa residents: Book your tree planting for 2023!

If you're a rural Ottawa resident with some land to spare, consider planting trees through our Green Acres program! This grant program in partnership with the City of Ottawa reforests retired farm fields and idle land to help increase tree cover in the nation's capital. For only \$0.15 per tree or \$150 per 1.25 acres, you can plant a forest of the future. Spots are limited, so book a site visit today for planting in Spring 2023. Contact IAN at [ian.cochrane@rvca.ca](mailto:ian.cochrane@rvca.ca).

## Calling all citizen scientists: City Stream Watch needs you!

Our City Stream Watch program needs volunteers to help with two invasive species removals as well as in-depth stream surveys throughout the month of August. On Aug. 13 the team will remove Japanese knotweed from Sawmill Creek, and on Aug. 27 they'll remove European Frogbit and garlic mustard from the Jock River in Richmond. As well, throughout August staff will require stream survey volunteers to help run in-depth studies along Black Rapids Creek in Nepean. Training and equipment is provided! To learn more and register, contact AMANDA at [citystreamwatch@rvca.ca](mailto:citystreamwatch@rvca.ca).

## Help bridge the accessibility gap at Chapman Mills

Chapman Mills Conservation Area is fundraising for a new, state-of-the-art accessible pedestrian bridge. The current wooden bridge has reached the end of its life cycle and must be replaced. In the process, RVCA hopes to address several accessibility barriers by including a wider deck, accessible sight-lines and safer ramps. Our charitable Foundation has launched a new fundraising campaign to help make it happen. Individuals can donate directly at [www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/73114](http://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/73114) or visit [www.rvcf.ca](http://www.rvcf.ca) to learn more. The Foundation also welcomes corporate partnerships for this project. Contact DIANE at [diane.downey@rvcf.ca](mailto:diane.downey@rvcf.ca) to get involved.



### Foundation board seeking new board members

If you're passionate about protecting and restoring our local environment and have some time and skills to share, the Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation wants you on its Board of Directors. Founded in 1970, the Foundation is a registered environmental charity working to protect and conserve the lands and waters of the valley of the Rideau River in Eastern Ontario. The board meets formally four times a year, plus occasional events and meetings as needed. To apply, visit [www.rvcf.ca/about/board-of-directors](http://www.rvcf.ca/about/board-of-directors) or contact DIANE at [diane.downey@rvcf.ca](mailto:diane.downey@rvcf.ca).

### Junior Explorers!

Our summer day camps are in full swing at Baxter and Foley Mountain conservation areas. Our outdoor education programs focus on exploring the natural world, taking risks and soaking up that fresh forest air. Registration will open soon for fall Forest School sessions at both sites. Join the mailing list for your preferred site to stay in the loop at [www.rvca.ca/outdoor-education](http://www.rvca.ca/outdoor-education). For Baxter contact BETH at [baxter.supervisor@rvca.ca](mailto:baxter.supervisor@rvca.ca). For Foley Mountain contact REBECCA at [rebecca.whitman@rvca.ca](mailto:rebecca.whitman@rvca.ca).

### Beating the heat!

The Ice Cream Float has been a summer staple at Baxter Beach for more than 20 years. Watch the boat float into its designated spot and line up for a cool cone! You can catch the Float most days around 1 p.m.



## See you at the IPM!

The International Plowing Match is headed to Kemptville this September. Check out the conservation tent and discover all the many ways we protect the watershed!

AROUND the Rideau is made possible thanks to our generous sponsors

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Offers 87 fully renovated rooms with balconies overlooking the Rideau River, banquet facilities, full service restaurant and outdoor pool. Pet friendly.