



Around the Rideau

Environmental Information For Municipalities In The Rideau Valley

FIFTY YEARS OF CONSERVATION IN THE RIDEAU VALLEY

March/April 2017



RVCA Loses a Long-time Leader in Conservation

It was with great sadness that we learned Don Maciver, retired RVCA Director of Planning, passed away on March 21, 2017. Don had a remarkable 38 year career with the RVCA during which he developed our planning and regulations program. Don was passionate about his work and the work of the RVCA and he was a colleague and mentor to many over the span of his career. Don will be remembered as a champion for the natural environment and an unwavering supporter of the work of Conservation Authorities, especially the RVCA. His family is planning a Celebration of Life on May 6, 2017 and all are invited. It will take place at 2:00 pm at the RVCA (3889 Rideau Valley Drive, Manotick). In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation.

“Connected Water” in Ottawa

Rogers Communication and Swedish Telecommunications giant Ericsson are partnering with the City of Ottawa, Mississippi Valley, Rideau Valley and South Nation Conservation Authorities for the “Connected Water” pilot project. The pilot project’s goal is to produce easy to deploy, movable sensors that can be strategically placed to collect continuous data to monitor conditions and help detect issues related to water quality. The sensors relay information back through a cloud based platform to better predict and respond to potential issues related to water quality, including clarity and abnormal temperatures. This is the first program of its kind in Canada and will complement Ottawa’s existing water monitoring program. Call SARAH for more information at ext. 1109 or sarah.macleod@rvca.ca.

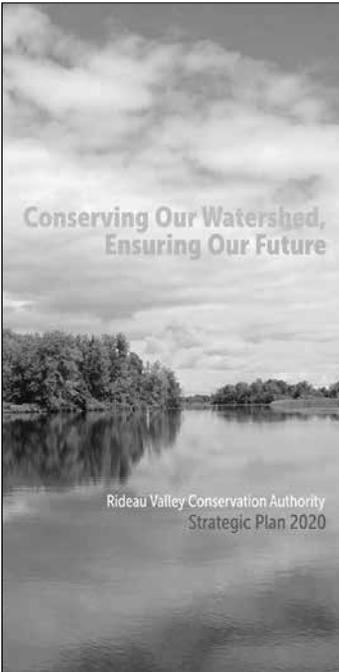
LIVE 88.5’s Carbon Neutral Forest Grows

Live 88.5 will see another 5,700 trees planted in southern Ottawa this spring. These new trees will offset carbon dioxide produced annually at the station’s Ottawa broadcast centre. This will bring LIVE 88.5’s total up to 39,000 trees planted since 2011. These trees will offset carbon from the station’s 48 full-time and 19 part-time employees. Amounts were calculated through the Foundation’s Carbon Neutral Program. It will cover staff commuting and travel, office heating and cooling and energy consumption of all kinds tallied using energy bills accumulated over a one-year period. Anyone can go carbon neutral! Businesses, schools, events, families — call DAN at ext. 1124 or dan.cooper@rvca.ca for more information on LIVE 88.5’s contribution or to find out all about the Carbon Neutral Program.



Spring Shoreline Planting

RVCA’s Shoreline Naturalization Program will be planting more than 5,000 native trees and shrubs along waterways this spring. These new plants will be helping to protect water quality, reduce erosion and enhance wildlife habitat. Want to get in on the action? Program staff can help you design your own shoreline naturalization project. Custom planting plans, native plants and assistance with planting are all available through this program. Live along the Jock River, Otter Lake or in the Middle Rideau Subwatershed? You might qualify for a FREE project this year. Contact MEAGHAN at ext. 1192 or meaghan.mcdonald@rvca.ca for more information.



RVCA's Strategic Plan

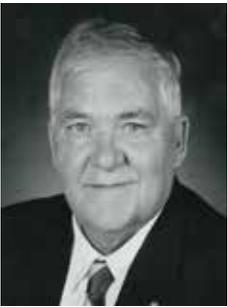
In its simplest form a strategic plan's purpose is to set overall goals for the organization and develop a plan to achieve them. In 1946 the *Conservation Authorities Act* was passed (70 years ago!). This was epic, forward-thinking legislation because it recognized the importance of managing natural resources at the watershed scale. The role and mandate of a Conservation Authority (CA) is established through Section 20 of the Act. It tasks conservation authorities with establishing and undertaking programs designed to further conservation, restoration, development and management of natural resources in our watershed. In addition, CAs also work to protect people and property from natural hazards like flooding and erosion. Each of the province's 36 CAs operate at a local level through its municipally-appointed Board of Directors. Strategic plans allow each CA to prioritize their watershed needs and interests.

Over the years the RVCA has had several strategic plans; this recent update is an important tool to ensure resources are being used efficiently and effectively. It sets clear organizational expectations so staff can achieve goals, be accountable and measure progress. It keeps everyone focused and pulling in the same direction. After a lot of thought and hard work the RVCA is very pleased to present *Conserving our Watershed, Ensuring Our Future*, a strategic plan to 2020. The document outlines four strategic directions and provides details on each.

1. Develop and share watershed knowledge that advances decision making and leads to on-the-ground action
2. Protect, restore and enhance watershed health and safeguard people and property from natural hazards
3. Increase watershed awareness and appreciation and inspire action in others
4. Operate a sustainable, well-managed, service-driven organization fueled by engaged employees

As well, RVCA's vision, mission and core values are laid out. If you would like to read the Strategic Plan it is available online at www.rvca.ca or we can mail you a copy — call 613-692-3571 or email info@rvca.ca. For more information contact SOMMER at ext. 1214 or sommer.casgrain-robertson@rvca.ca.

Source Protection Committee New Chair



A familiar face will be the new chair of the Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Committee. Ken Graham, who is a former chair of RVCA, takes on this important role under *Ontario's Clean Water Act*. The Source Protection Committee will be in great hands as Ken leads the group representing multiple stakeholders and overseeing the drinking water source protection program locally. We know from our own experience that Ken brings a wealth of talents to the position of chair. He has broad experience related to

environmental protection and many years of service to his community in a variety of capacities. Ken's leadership as chair of the Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Committee will be key to the local success of the drinking water source protection program. We wish Ken the best in his new and important position — the Committee is in great hands! For more information contact BRIAN at ext. 1141 or brian.stratton@mrsourcewater.ca.

Spring Water Awareness

As warmer weather approaches, ice is unstable and melting and waterways fill up with cold, fast-moving water. Be especially diligent regarding educating kids of the dangers. Often they are interested in exploring rushing streams and thawing ponds during the spring. However, these areas are unsafe and it is important to educate everyone about these dangers. RVCA has educational resources available on our website for school-aged children. Resources include background information about spring flooding and an excellent video entitled, *Safety Says*. It comes with accompanying teacher notes, activity ideas, resources and work sheets for use by classroom teachers. General curriculum information is also available for students to take home during flood season. Visit www.rvca.ca/careas/swap for more information and please, stay safe!

Our Sponsors are the Best!

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Always Time for Tree Planting

With spring right around the corner it's time for landowners to think about tree planting. If you have one acre and can plant 500 or more trees, it's time to call RVCA's forestry department and set up a free site visit. RVCA provides professional reforestation services such as site preparation, planning and planting. And, they make it as affordable as possible with significant subsidies to cover costs! Tree planting is a simple way to improve and take care of the watershed. Trees provide homes and feeding places for wildlife, improve biodiversity, make windbreaks and shade screens and clean air and water throughout the trees' 80+ year life cycle. It's a win-win for sure. Call SCOTT at ext. 1175 or scott.danford@rvca.ca.

Access4All Barrier Buster

The Royal Canadian Legion Branch in Manotick and the Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation are happy to be the recipient of a \$30,000 funding grant through the Rick Hansen Foundation's Access4All Program. This is a Canada 150 Signature Initiative aimed at breaking down barriers for people living with disabilities. With the participation of the Government of Canada, this grant will support the community by making Remembrance Park more accessible to people living with disabilities. This will be a wonderful addition to Dickinson Square. For more information contact DAN at ext. 1124 or dan.cooper@rvca.ca.



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