

# Around the Rideau

ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION FOR MUNICIPALITIES IN THE RIDEAU VALLEY

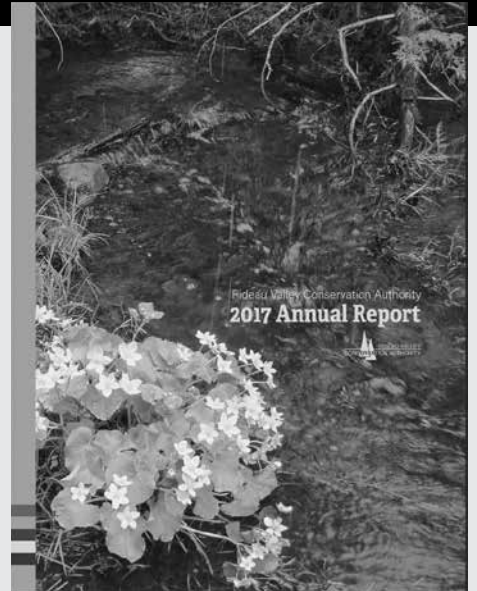
March/April 2018

## 2017 Annual Report Highlights

The 2017 Rideau Valley Conservation Authority Annual Report is now available for downloading at [www.rvca.ca](http://www.rvca.ca). It highlights the many achievements and on-the-ground projects that happened throughout the year in the over 4,000 square kilometres of the Rideau watershed.

### Highlights for 2017 include:

- \$752,192+ in grants distributed to landowners who undertook stewardship projects
- 274,550 trees planted (5.97 million planted since 1984)
- 200,000 visitors to conservation areas annually
- 10,200+ students experienced RVCA Outdoor Education Programs
- 9,700 trees and shrubs planted along shorelines through RVCA's Shoreline Naturalization Program
- 3,000 hectares of conservation land protected and managed
- 1,191 hours from 262 volunteers invested in Ottawa's City Stream Watch program to research and clean up city streams
- 1,187 *Planning Act* applications received (minor variances, site plan control, subdivision applications, etc.)
- 628 applications for new or replacement septic systems received
- 380 hours donated by 25+ volunteers to help monitor and sample Watershed Watch lakes
- 348 septic re-inspections completed in participating municipalities
- 300 applications received for work along wetlands, shorelines and waterways (Section 28, *Conservation Authorities Act*)
- 42 kilometres of trails maintained for public use at local conservation areas
- 40 flood forecasting and warnings messages issued in 2017
- 39 lakes and 58 river and stream sites monitored for nutrients, *E. coli* and other parameters
- 16 wells monitored for ground water quantity and quality
- 6 invasive species removals and 5 stream clean ups on tributary streams in Ottawa
- Release of the *Jock River Subwatershed Report* and 12 Jock catchment reports
- Posting of 6 subwatershed reports and 66 catchment reports online at [watersheds.rvca.ca](http://watersheds.rvca.ca)



To see what's in store for 2018 take a look at our *2018 Budget and Work Plan* which is also available online at our website. For more information contact DIANE at ext. 1126 or [diane.downey@rvca.ca](mailto:diane.downey@rvca.ca).

## Flowing Creek and Hobbs Drain Regulations and Hazard Land Mapping



RVCA has completed hazard mapping studies for Flowing Creek and Hobbs Drains. The studies show areas prone to natural hazards such as flooding and erosion and that have environmental features such as wetlands. The mapping will be used by the City of Ottawa when updating their Official Plan and Zoning Schedules and in the review of development applications under the *Planning Act*. RVCA will also use the mapping while reviewing development applications under the RVCA's *Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses Regulation*. Maps were rolled out for public input at an Open House on April 10. Public input will be accepted until the end of April. To understand how it may affect your property contact EMMA ext. 1132 or MEGAN ext. 1193, or email [development@rvca.ca](mailto:development@rvca.ca).



## Spring Means Headwater Monitoring!

Headwaters are a tributary or drainage feature close to or forming the source of the beginnings of a watershed network and can include swales, channels, creeks, wetlands and streams. RVCA staff and volunteers braved the cold this March and April to monitor them for watershed health. These headwater drainage features provide important ecological and hydrological functions to downstream reaches of creeks, rivers and lakes. Since 2011, RVCA has implemented its headwater monitoring program collecting data on these important drainage features. This spring the focus was on the Lower Rideau River and the Kemptville Creek subwatersheds and the City Stream Watch Program headwater sites on Nepean Creek, Mud Creek (East) and Black Creek — approximately 460 sample locations! The information collected will appear in the Lower Rideau River and Kemptville Creek Catchment Reports and in the 2018 City Stream Watch reports. RVCA staff and summer students will evaluate the same locations this summer to assess the hydrological status for each feature. A huge thank you to the volunteers who joined RVCA staff to collect data. To learn more about our monitoring programs visit [www.rvca.ca](http://www.rvca.ca) or contact JENNIFER at ext. 1108 or [jennifer.lamoureux@rvca.ca](mailto:jennifer.lamoureux@rvca.ca).

## Landowners Take Root this Spring!

The RVCA will plant 115,000 healthy young trees this spring through the City of Ottawa's Green Acres Program. Why is tree planting important? Besides improving the look of the land, trees increase forest cover, improve wildlife habitat, increase biodiversity, protect from soil erosion, play a huge part in water conservation and water quality and act as windbreaks for people and livestock and so much more. Once mature, a forest provides lumber, firewood, nuts, fruit and maple syrup. Trees mitigate climate change by absorbing CO<sub>2</sub> and producing oxygen. To take root next spring (2019) you need at least one acre of land and be willing to plant at least 1,000 trees. You will get RVCA's forestry experts to help plan and plant your new forest and best yet, costs can be reduced by over 90 percent. Talk to SCOTT at ext. 1175 or [scott.danford@rvca.ca](mailto:scott.danford@rvca.ca).



The newly constructed rain garden is ready for planting of native plants and flowers this May.

## Baxter Gets New Rain Garden!

Along with an upgraded, revitalized pond, Baxter Conservation Area will soon sport a shiny new planted rain garden. Basically, rain gardens are an inexpensive, simple and beautiful way to handle storm water runoff. Benefits include pollution control, flood protection, habitat creation and water conservation. As well, they replenish groundwater, improve water quality, remove standing water, reduce mosquito breeding areas, make habitat for beneficial insects and birds and are esthetically pleasing. Once gardening season is here the rain garden will be planted with

healthy, native plants. An informative interpretive sign will also be added. Visit Baxter this summer to "see how its garden grows"! For more, contact MEAGHAN at ext. 1192 or [meaghan.mcdonald@rvca.ca](mailto:meaghan.mcdonald@rvca.ca).

## Feeling a Little "Municipal" Lately?

We've got you covered! RVCA has launched its yearly municipal summaries. These information packed sheets outline how RVCA serves each member municipality in key areas, such as source water protection, flood protection and warning, development regulation, environmental planning, septic approvals and so much more. It covers how RVCA works with watershed residents to provide friendly, technical guidance and services. To learn how RVCA services your municipality visit our website at <http://www.rvca.ca/about-us/rvca-corporate-services/rvca-municipal-reports> or contact DIANE at ext. 1126 or [diane.downey@rvca.ca](mailto:diane.downey@rvca.ca) for more information.

## Wondering if You Need a Permit?

Don't take any chances — if you are planning work around a lake, river, stream or wetland. Be sure to call the RVCA to get advice on any permits or applications you may need. You may also be eligible for different RVCA stewardship programs where grants and technical assistance are available. Drop in to the office or visit our website at [www.rvca.ca](http://www.rvca.ca), under "Planning, Regulations and Permits," to see what local rules and regulations may apply. Contact EMMA ext. 1132, or MEGAN ext. 1193 or email [development@rvca.ca](mailto:development@rvca.ca).

# Fun Summer Programs

**Book Now!**  
Spots are filling up fast!

## Baxter Day Camps

### Nature Explorers | ages 6-12 | 5-day program | \$190

A fun filled week for 6 to 12 year olds, exploring Baxter's pond, meadow and forest habitats with different interactive nature studies, activities, games, crafts and swimming at our sandy beach 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. each day.

- July 9 - July 13 (full)
- July 16 - July 20 (full)
- July 30 - August
- August 13 - August 17
- August 20 - August 24

### Cool Canoe Camp | ages 10-14 | 5-day program | \$245

Learn tandem paddling skills, canoe tripping safety, canoe rescues, trip planning and preparation, games, river exploration, swimming at the beach, a day trip on the Rideau River and overnight camping (Thursday night of each session). 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. each day.

- July 16 - July 20 (full)
- July 30 - August 3
- August 13 - August 17 (full)

### Family Programs | all ages | must be accompanied by an adult

Baxter is offering family programming again this summer. Cost is \$5.50 per person per program, children under 5 are free. All kids must be accompanied by an adult and preregistration is required. 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. each day.

- July 24 Pond Study
- July 25 Incredible Insects
- July 26 GPS & Geocaching
- July 28 Pond Study
- August 7 GPS & Geocaching
- August 18 Pond Study
- August 28 Survival in the Woods
- August 29 Pond Study
- August 30 Incredible Insects

## Foley Mountain Day Camps

### Full Week Programs | ages 6-12 | 5-day program | \$175

Join our experienced outdoor educators for nature exploration, games, crafts, and more. Cost is \$175 per child or \$150 for an additional family member, for children aged 6 to 12, preregistration is required. 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. each day.

- July 16 - July 20 Nature Explorers
- July 30 - August 3 Junior Naturalists
- August 13 - August 17 Outdoor Adventurers

### Free Morning Programs

Children must be accompanied by an adult, free with a park pass. 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. each day.

- July 26, Art in the Park
- August 9 Fun in the Forest

Visit [www.rvca.ca/outdoor-education](http://www.rvca.ca/outdoor-education) to book your day camp, family or free morning program today. Call ANDREA for information on Baxter at 613-489-3592 or [andrea.wood@rvca.ca](mailto:andrea.wood@rvca.ca). For information on Foley Mountain, REBECCA can answer your questions at 613-273-3255 or [rebecca.whitman@rvca.ca](mailto:rebecca.whitman@rvca.ca).



# Around the Rideau

2018

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS!

### Rideau Valley Conservation Authority

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613-692-3571 or 1-800-267-3504  
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### Ramada Ottawa on the Rideau — 613-288-3500

[www.ramadaottawa.com](http://www.ramadaottawa.com), Offers 87 fully renovated rooms with balconies overlooking the Rideau River, banquet facilities, full service restaurant and outdoor pool. Pet friendly.