



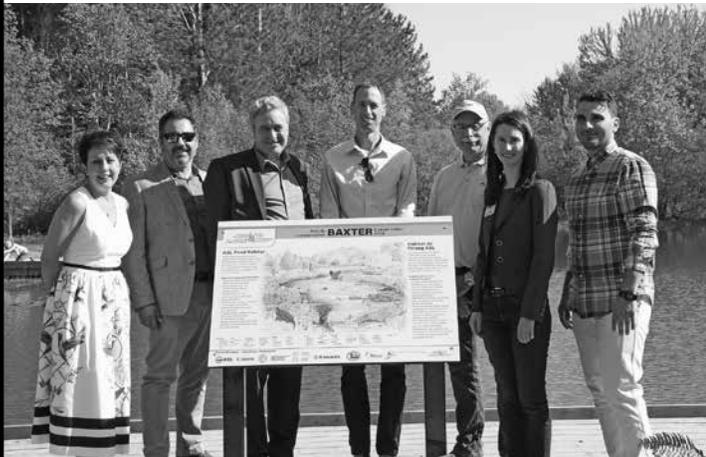
# Around the Rideau

ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION FOR MUNICIPALITIES IN THE RIDEAU VALLEY

May/June 2018

## Baxter Pond Restoration Celebrated

The sun was shining on Baxter Conservation Area as it celebrated the opening of its refreshed, rehabilitated ASL Pond on May 24. Funding partners, staff and over 60 guests gathered to enjoy the event. Baxter is visited by over 7,000 students annually, 5,000 of which visit the pond, ranging from kindergarten to university level. The pond is the perfect spot for them to learn about freshwater pond ecology. Highlighted features of the pond are new, underwater slopes that allow for more diverse plant growth, sunken trees and inverted tree root balls that provide habitat and safe rest areas for pond residents and a shiny new turtle basking platform, to name a few. New viewing platforms with interpretive signs have been installed. The restoration was made possible by ASL Agrodrain, the Canadian Armed Forces Fish and Game Club, Canon Canada, City of Ottawa, Don Maciver Memorial Fund, Kiwanis Club of Manotick, Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters Zone F, TD Friends of the Environment, along with the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority and Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation. DAN can tell you more at ext. 1124, dan.cooper@rvca.ca.



(Left to right) Jeanine Maciver (Don Maciver Memorial Fund), Michael Poliwoda (RVCA Executive Director), Adrian Smith (Manager TD Bank, Manotick), Ryan Polkinghorne (Project Manager Surface Water Engineering Support Services, City of Ottawa), Bill McShane (ASL Agrodrain President), Sommer Casgrain-Robertson (RVCA General Manager), Sandro Ricci (ASL Agrodrain Vice President of Business).



Kids learning about pond life on one of Baxter ASL Pond's new viewing platforms.

### Open House — Nichols Creek Hazard Maps

RVCA has recently completed a hazard mapping study for Nichols Creek from Montague Boundary Road to the Jock River. The maps are available for public review at an open house on Tuesday, June 26. Hours are from 4:30 to 8:00 p.m. at the Rev. Gillissie Parish Hall, St. Phillip Catholic Church, 127 Burke Street in Richmond. These hazard maps, also called flood risk maps, are used by the City of Ottawa when updating its Official Plan and Zoning Schedules and in the review of development applications under the *Planning Act*. The RVCA also uses them in the administration of regulations made under *Ontario Regulation 174/06 — Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses Regulation*. To learn more, visit [www.rvca.ca/nichols-creek](http://www.rvca.ca/nichols-creek) or contact MEGAN at [development@rvca.ca](mailto:development@rvca.ca) or extension 1193.

### Season Summary — Flood Forecasting & Warning

This spring has been relatively dry and has resulted in a subdued flood forecasting and warning season. Peak flow was reached on April 19 at 242.92 CMS (cubic metres per second) which is well below normal. 17 Watershed Conditions Statements (WCS) were issued beginning on January 12. This is in sharp contrast to 2017 when 31 Statements were issued and prolonged and significant flooding occurred in parts of the Rideau and Ottawa Rivers. Of the 17 WCS this season, four water safety messages were posted, eight flood outlook messages (two for the Ottawa River) indicating that a below average spring freshet was expected and one flood warning with five updates issued for Bobs and Christie Lakes. The lakes did reach flood level and a flood warning was issued on April 28. By May 15 the warning was terminated as levels returned to below flood thresholds. To learn more about RVCA's Flood Forecasting and Warning Program or to learn about this spring's water levels call PATRICK at ext. 1210 [patrick.larson@rvca.ca](mailto:patrick.larson@rvca.ca).

### Congratulations Eric!

Congratulations to RVCA Regulations Inspector Eric Kohlsmith who received the Industry Steward Award at the Ontario Onsite Wastewater Association's Annual Conference. Eric is being recognized for his exceptional work at promoting the onsite industry and providing onsite education to Ontario residents. Eric has been a Part 8 Building Official for RVCA since 2008 working in Tay Valley Township. Over the last 10 years he has administered a sewage system re-inspection program and is a member of the Ontario Building Officials Association (OBOA) Golden Triangle Chapter Part 8 Committee. Eric is also an instructor with the Ontario Rural Wastewater Centre delivering courses related to onsite sewage systems and was a member of the Technical Advisory Committee for the last round of proposed code changes for Part 8. TERRY can tell you more at [terry.davidson@rvca.ca](mailto:terry.davidson@rvca.ca) or ext. 1107.

### Spring Tree Plant — Done!

Great news for the Rideau Valley — 275,000 native, healthy tree seedlings were planted this spring. These all count towards RVCA's goal of planting 6.5 million trees by 2020. Congratulations to Scott and his team for overseeing this program that improves watershed health. The new trees will increase forest cover, improve wildlife habitat, increase biodiversity, protect soil from erosion, improve water quality and so much more. Anyone with one+ acres of land who is willing to plant 500 or more trees can sign up for the program. Free site visits, forestry expertise, planting plans, site preparation and post planting visits and follow-up operations are all part of the service. And, landowners willing to plant over 2,000 trees are eligible for incentives that will keep costs as low as \$0.15 per tree! Call SCOTT at ext. 1175 or [scott.danford@rvca.ca](mailto:scott.danford@rvca.ca).



If you believe healthy families and healthy communities start with clean water and a healthy watershed, *give where you live* — donate to the Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation today so our work can continue! The funding you provide goes towards: conservation areas where you and your family can connect with



nature, outdoor education programs to teach the next generation the importance of the natural environment, improving water quality, planting trees to create new forests, cleaning local streams, naturalizing shorelines, removing harmful invasive species, protecting species at risk, restoring natural habitats, protecting conservation lands and so much more! Call MICHAEL at ext. 1184 or michael.poliwoda@rvca.ca.

## Special Funding helps RVCA provide additional programs and services

Without special grants and funds, RVCA wouldn't be able to do all the work we do throughout the watershed. Our partners see the value in what we do and trust us to do it right. Here are just some of the amazing RVCA programs and their awesome funding partners!

### Busing Costs Subsidized

Busing costs can sometimes be the barrier to whether or not a class can visit Foley Mountain Conservation Area and participate in their famous outdoor programs. But, thanks to the **Friends of Foley Mountain (FOFM)**, subsidies are available to help schools with busing costs for 2018. More funds are available this fall too! If parents and teachers know of schools that could use a hand with transportation costs give REBECCA a call at 613-273-3255 or rebecca.whitman@rvca.ca. To learn more about becoming a FOFM visit [www.friendsoffoley.ca](http://www.friendsoffoley.ca).

### Super Summer Students

RVCA is pleased to welcome 17 fresh, new faces that swell RVCA ranks this summer. Thanks to the **Canada Summer Jobs** and the **Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry Summer Experience Program** costs will be covered for student positions that include camp counselors/life guards, stewardship labourers, park technicians, water resource technicians and regulations assistants. Many of the students are from watershed communities including Barrhaven, Dunrobin, Kemptville, Lanark, North Gower, Perth, Richmond and Stittsville. If you see one of our students working out in your part of the watershed, be sure to say hello.

### Hazard Mapping Receives Federal Funding

Hazard mapping for Mud Creek and Steven's Creek in Ottawa received special funding through the **National Disaster Mitigation Program**. Hazard mapping studies identify areas prone to flood risk, slope stability risk and wetland boundaries, as delineated by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry. The maps are used by watershed municipalities when updating their Official Plans and zoning schedules that are used to review development applications under the *Planning Act*. Maps are also used by the RVCA for the administration and enforcement of regulations under the *Conservation Authorities Act*. BRIAN has details at [brian.stratton@rvca.ca](mailto:brian.stratton@rvca.ca) or ext. 1141.

### Hydrogeological Geodatabase

The **City of Ottawa** and the RVCA have renewed their funding partnership to deliver the Ottawa Harvested Hydrogeological Information Geodatabase (OHHIG). Between the City and partner CAs, a wealth of groundwater information exists in various formats that has not been fully catalogued. As a result, the data could not be accessed, summarized, mapped or analysed together. Nonetheless, this critical information is needed to support decision-making related to development applications, policy and guidance development and source water protection initiatives, amongst other uses. To address this shortcoming, RVCA and the City of Ottawa partnered to design, build, populate and fully document a hydrogeological information geodatabase. Phase 2 of the project is expected to be completed mid-2019. For more information call CLAIRE at ext. 1217 or [claire.milloy@rvca.ca](mailto:claire.milloy@rvca.ca).

### Forest School Comes to Foley

Thanks to special seed money from **Friends of Foley Mountain**, RVCA staff have been busy developing a new Forest School Program for use at the Foley Mountain Conservation Area. Forest School is an innovative educational approach to outdoor play and learning that looks to encourage and inspire individuals of any age through positive outdoor experiences. **Country Roads Community Health Centre** have also been a supportive community partner by providing input and expertise.

Foley Mountain staff are currently hosting 12 free forest school morning programs thanks to special funding made possible by **Healthy Kids Community Challenge**. Both parents and children can experience nature hands-on as a family and connect personally with nature. Although theme-based, the outdoor learning experienced is directed by the participants under the watchful eye of experienced outdoor interpreters. The experience may start with a simple hike that leads to exploring rocks and trees, collecting supplies for an art project or building forts, climbing trees and much more! Program hours run from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Contact LEAH for full details at [leah.roberts@rvca.ca](mailto:leah.roberts@rvca.ca) or 613-273-3255.



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### Funding for Children to Experience the Outdoors

Baxter and Foley Mountain Conservation Areas will welcome some 2,400 additional children in 2019 thanks to special funding through the **Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation**, the **Ottawa Community Foundation** and **TD Friends of the Environment**. Subsidies are available to priority schools who need assistance covering program and busing costs — because everyone should have a chance to enjoy our interactive, curriculum-based programs. Teachers who are interested are invited to contact Baxter and Foley Mountain Conservation Areas directly or visit the RVCA website at [www.rvca.ca](http://www.rvca.ca) to access the online application. ANDREA can tell you more 613-489-3592, [andrea.wood@rvca.ca](mailto:andrea.wood@rvca.ca).



Thanks to special funding more kids can visit Baxter or Foley Mountain Conservation Areas. Here kids meet a pond resident at Baxter.



# Around the Rideau



THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS!

#### Rideau Valley Conservation Authority

Box 599, 3889 Rideau Valley Drive  
Manotick, ON K4M 1A5  
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