

# AROUND the Rideau



May | June 2019



## Lieutenant Governor visits RVCA headquarters

The Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, paid the RVCA a very special visit on Friday, May 31. The Lieutenant Governor met with top staff and heard from local landowners, residents and businesspeople who have used RVCA's many services and programs. The Lieutenant Governor then visited nearby Chapman Mills Conservation Area to see for herself the authority's efforts to promote outdoor recreation and conservation, habitat protection and shoreline restoration. For more information contact DIANE at ext. 1126 or [diane.downey@rvca.ca](mailto:diane.downey@rvca.ca).

**Back row:** Glen McDonald, RVCA; Pieter Leenhouts, RVCA Chair; Jason Kelly, RVCF Chair; Diane Downey, RVCA

**Front row:** Dan Cooper, RVCA; Sommer Casgrain-Robertson, General Manager, RVCA; Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario; Anne Robinson, BOD RVCA; Megan Dunster, RVCA

## THE RIVER REED

LIFE IN THE RIDEAU WATERSHED

### New blog – follow along!

Looking for ways to green your backyard? Need inspiration from your most dedicated neighbours? Want the scoop on river-friendly development trends? The RVCA invites you to subscribe to its new blog, *The River Reed*. The blog will focus on the people, projects and policies making our watershed a healthy, liveable place for all – people and wildlife included. Visit [www.rvca.ca/blog](http://www.rvca.ca/blog) to read more and subscribe. For more information contact EMMA at ext. 1184 or [emma.jackson@rvca.ca](mailto:emma.jackson@rvca.ca).

### Wolfe Lake walleye habitat to be restored

The Wolfe Lake Association, Westport Area Outdoor Association, and the RVCA will install a walleye spawning bed in Scanlan Creek, thanks in part to a grant to the Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation from the TD Friends of the Environment Foundation. Together, staff and community partner volunteers will install 100 tonnes of river stone on the creek bed to help improve the lake's walleye population. Walleye return to the same spawning site each year and this site is a critical spawning area for the Wolfe Lake walleye population. The lake is a favorite walleye fishing spot, but recent netting studies have found the population lacks mature, reproducing fish, particularly females. The restoration work will begin in late August when water levels on Scanlan Creek are low. For more information contact JENNIFER at ext. 1108 or [jennifer.lamoureux@rvca.ca](mailto:jennifer.lamoureux@rvca.ca).

### New, accessible dock coming to Chapman Mills

Everyone wants a nice, quiet spot where they can get away from it all, and that will become a reality at Chapman Mills Conservation Area this summer thanks to a generous donation from Cabela's Canada Outdoor Fund. Installation of a new, accessible dock will improve the south end's favourite place to catch fish, launch a canoe or just dip your toes in the mighty Rideau River. Installation will take place in early July. For more information contact MEGAN at ext. 1179 or [megan.dunster@rvca.ca](mailto:megan.dunster@rvca.ca).

RVCA's Megan Dunster, RVCF Exective Director Diane Downey and RVCF Chair Jason Kelly accept a cheque from Cabela's Canada Outdoor Fund for Chapman Mills Conservation Area's new, accessible dock.





Nepean High School students plant 500 trees at MacSkimming Outdoor Education Centre.

**Student walk-out benefits Valley forests**

On May 3 a group of Nepean High School students walked out of class to protest climate change policies. They were going to join the #FridaysForFuture climate strike on Parliament Hill but decided to put their protest in action another way. This 14-strong crew donned rain gear, grabbed shovels and put protest into action by planting 500 trees in a field at the MacSkimming Outdoor Education Centre in Cumberland. Most of the students were in Grade 11 or 12 and part of the school's environmental Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) program. Trees and training were provided by RVCA and the seedlings paid for by the Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation. Kudos to this group of motivated students. For more information call DIANE at ext. 1126 or [diane.downey@rvca.ca](mailto:diane.downey@rvca.ca).

**Flood prevention cheaper than clean-up**

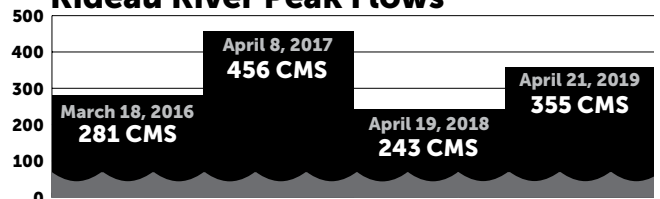
The RVCA's recent op-ed in the Ottawa Citizen argued that preventing floods through sound planning policies, better mapping and improved wetland and

forest conservation is ultimately cheaper than asking flood victims and taxpayers to pay for recovery efforts. Flood prevention through current regulations means less development in the floodplain, fewer buildings damaged and fewer people affected. Ottawa's conservation authorities are a key part of prevention efforts, as they're responsible for mapping flood-prone areas, monitoring flood conditions, giving municipalities and residents advance warning, keeping infrastructure like berms, dikes and dams in good working order, and prohibiting new development in flood zones. They also require homeowners in the floodplain to flood-proof their homes and septic systems when they rebuild, to prevent future damage. For more information contact SOMMER at ext. 1214 or [sommer.casgrain-robertson@rvca.ca](mailto:sommer.casgrain-robertson@rvca.ca).

**2019 spring Rideau River conditions**

This year the Rideau River dodged the flood that both the Ottawa and Mississippi rivers suffered. Early in the spring, the potential was high for Rideau Valley flooding from the above-average snowpack. Luckily, a slow, prolonged thaw without excessive rain or snowfall helped mitigate the risks. However, levels remain high in the reservoir lakes at the upper end of the watershed. The Ottawa River was not so lucky. Extreme flooding affected communities all along the river, due to a high snowpack and extreme rainfall which caused water levels to reach historical highs – well above records set in 2017. Contact BRIAN for more information at ext. 1141 or [brian.stratton@rvca.ca](mailto:brian.stratton@rvca.ca).

**Rideau River Peak Flows**



**What is CMS?** *CMS (cubic metres per second) is a derived international standard unit of volumetric flow rate equal to that of a cube with sides of one metre in length exchanged or moving each second. It is popularly used to describe water flow, especially in rivers and streams.*



**Successful planting season across the watershed**

Our stewardship and forestry staff braved the cold, soggy spring to plant thousands of trees and restore shorelines all across the watershed.

**This season, our landowner forestry program...**

- planted **134,520** new trees on **58** private properties and planted another **64,600** trees to fill gaps in previous projects. Staff also tended to 21 sites that needed maintenance.

**Our shoreline naturalization program...**

- planted **11,500** trees, shrubs and native plants on **63** waterfront properties across the watershed. Shoreline naturalization helps reduce erosion and runoff and improves the health of the "ribbon of life" riparian zone that many plants, animals and birds depend on for survival.

Staff are now conducting site visits to plan for next spring. To book a forestry visit contact SCOTT at ext. 1175 or [scott.danford@rvca.ca](mailto:scott.danford@rvca.ca). To book a shoreline naturalization visit contact MEAGHAN at ext. 1192 or [meaghan.mcdonald@rvca.ca](mailto:meaghan.mcdonald@rvca.ca).

**AROUND the Rideau** is made possible thanks to our generous sponsors

**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](http://www.rvca.ca)  
 RideauValleyConservationAuthority  
 RideauValleyCA  
 rideauvalleyca

**Bell Baker, Barristers and Solicitors** — 613-237-3444 | [www.bellbaker.com](http://www.bellbaker.com)  
 Effectively providing quality legal services in Eastern Ontario for over 50 years

**Bird Richard, Lawyers for Employers** — 613-238-3772 | [www.lawyersforemployers.ca](http://www.lawyersforemployers.ca)  
 Representing management in labour and employment law across Ontario

**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.