

AROUND the Rideau



May / June 2022

New stewardship opportunities for Lanark farmers

A new stewardship program through ALUS Canada will help Lanark County farmers complete a range of ecosystem projects, including reforestation, windbreaks, riparian buffers, wetland projects, tallgrass prairie, pollinator habitat and more. Staff from RVCA and our neighbour Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority will administer the ALUS projects alongside the RVCA's established Rural Clean Water Program. For more information contact DEREK at derek.matheson@rvca.ca or visit www.rvca.ca/stewardship-grants.



We're open!

As of May 2, our headquarters in Manotick has reopened to the public. Regular office hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. While walk-ins are welcome, we suggest making an appointment to ensure the right staff person is available to help you. See you there!

Ottawa River Peak Flows



Rideau River Peak Flows



Flood season dry, not high

Mother Nature went easy on the Rideau Valley and Ottawa Valley watersheds this spring, with a slow snowmelt and normal precipitation allowing the freshet to spread evenly over March, April and May. Rideau River flows peaked on March 26, while Ottawa River flows peaked on April 30 – at nearly half the levels of the record-breaking 2019 floods. The charts on the left show how this year's peak water levels compare to 2019 (which were record-breaking for the Ottawa system but normal on the Rideau).

You can find real-time streamflow and water level data at www.rvca.ca/watershed-conditions. For more information contact BRIAN at brian.stratton@rvca.ca.

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.

Mosquito Creek hazard mapping

RVCA engineering staff have completed a hazard mapping study for Mosquito Creek in Riverside South. Once approved, these flood and hazard maps will be used by the City of Ottawa when updating their Official Plan and Zoning Schedules, and while reviewing development applications under the Planning Act. RVCA will also use the mapping to review development applications under Section 28 of the Conservation Authorities Act. A public consultation is underway, with an in-person open house planned for **June 28 – 4:30 to 8 pm, Rideauview Community Centre, 4310 Shoreline Drive, Ottawa.** Consultation Period will run June 6 to July 29, 2022.

11 new weather stations offer live climate data

The RVCA has installed 11 new weather stations across the watershed, with climate data such as temperature, dew point, air pressure, solar radiation and precipitation populating hourly on our website at www.rvca.ca/watershed-conditions. This data will help staff better monitor and prepare for floods and droughts, and to better understand new trends in climate patterns. For more information contact JUSTIN at justin.robert@rvca.ca.





Living Legacy at Hulse, Playfair & McGarry chapel

A new tree now lives at Hulse, Playfair & McGarry's Kemptville Chapel, a daily reminder of the 30,000 trees the funeral services organization has helped plant across the watershed in honour of the families they have served. These trees live on in memory of loved ones no longer with us, to support a thriving watershed for generations to come. From left: Sharon McGarry, president of Hulse, Playfair & McGarry Inc, and Andrew Harkness, board chair of the Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation.

To learn more about the RVCF's Memorial Tree Program visit www.rvcf.ca.

Welcome, summer students!

The RVCA is thrilled to welcome back a full complement of students this summer after two years of reduced programming. Our 15 students will help run day camps, collect critical field and water quality data, complete stewardship projects, maintain our conservation lands and assist with records and administration work, thanks in part to the Canada Summer Jobs Program. We wish our students a safe and happy summer!

Successful planting season across the watershed

Since April, our stewardship teams have been busy planting thousands of trees and restoring shorelines all across the watershed.

This season, our landowner forestry program...

- planted **207,715** new trees on 119 private properties and planted another **34,600** trees to fill gaps in previous projects. Staff also tended to 22 sites that needed maintenance.

Our shoreline naturalization program...

- planted **6,494** 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.

These programs offer generously subsidized stewardship opportunities for watershed landowners. While tree planting is fully booked for 2023, site visits for 2023 shoreline naturalization projects are underway. To book a site visit contact MEAGHAN at meaghan.mcdonald@rvca.ca.

Give Dad the world this Father's Day

Your dad would give you the world if you asked, and now you can do the same for him. This Father's Day, adopt an acre of pristine natural land right here in the Rideau Valley watershed. Your donation helps support maintenance and land care costs so these lands can remain protected in perpetuity. Visit www.rvcf.ca to get your gift or contact DIANE at diane.downey@rvcf.ca.

RVCA trail maps now available on Avenza

No cell service? No problem! Visitors to RVCA's conservation areas can now navigate even our most remote trails with confidence thanks to a new partnership with Avenza Maps. The mobile app allows users to download GPS-enabled maps that can be used offline and without cell service to keep your bearings even in the deepest woods. Instructions to get started can be found at www.avenzamaps.com. QR codes for the RVCA's new Avenza maps have also been installed at the trailheads of eight conservation areas. For more information contact CHELSEY at chelsey.ellis@rvca.ca.

Boom! Capital Pyrotechnics joins Carbon Neutral family

Capital Pyrotechnics is blasting off as the Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation's latest Carbon Neutral partner. The fireworks display company will plant 168 trees to offset approximately 6.5 tonnes of carbon emissions from its 2021 transportation-related activities – including attendee transportation – over the next 20 years. Ready to go carbon neutral? Contact DIANE at diane.downey@rvcf.ca.

is made possible thanks to our generous sponsors

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