

# AROUND the Rideau



November / December 2023

## ALUS Lanark launched in Montague

RVCA and its partners gathered at Milkhouse Farm + Dairy in Montague on Oct. 21 to officially launch ALUS Lanark, an on-the-ground sustainable agriculture program delivered jointly by the RVCA and the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority. The program offers financial support to create environmental services on marginal farmland. Milkhouse was one of the program's first projects, creating two new wetlands in low-lying areas of the family sheep farm. Contact DEREK at [derek.matheson@rvca.ca](mailto:derek.matheson@rvca.ca) to learn more.



ALUS Lanark partners and participants gathered at Milkhouse Farm + Dairy on Oct. 21 to celebrate the new program's early accomplishments.

## Another 528 acres of natural land protected

Thanks to recent generous donations from several Rideau Valley landowners, another 528 acres of sensitive forests, wetlands and shorelines are now under the protection of the RVCA and its charitable partner, the Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation (RVCF). Between the two organizations, more than 8,200 acres of critical green infrastructure have been set aside for perpetual protection! Thank you to the many donors who have made this possible by donating land or supporting the Simmering Endowment for land maintenance. Visit [www.rvcf.ca](http://www.rvcf.ca) or contact DIANE at [diane.downey@rvcf.ca](mailto:diane.downey@rvcf.ca) to learn more.



## Register for Winter Forest School!

Baxter and Foley Mountain conservation areas are both accepting registrations for their winter forest school sessions, which begin in January 2024. These weekly child-led, nature-based programs offer your child a chance to take risks, solve problems and be a leader in a familiar outdoor environment. Contact ANDREA at [baxter.supervisor@rvca.ca](mailto:baxter.supervisor@rvca.ca) to learn more about Baxter's programs or REBECCA at [rebecca.whitman@rvca.ca](mailto:rebecca.whitman@rvca.ca) for info about Foley Mountain's.





## Dreaming of a green Christmas?

The Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation offers some great green gift ideas that are meaningful, local, long lasting and sustainable. Order online and have your gifts delivered right to your inbox. It's faster and more eco-friendly than any box store!

- 1. Plant a tree:** Stumped for gift ideas? Put some trees under the Christmas tree! We'll plant locally-grown, native seedlings right here in the watershed on behalf of your loved ones. Beautiful and symbolic, this is truly the gift that keeps on giving.
- 2. Adopt An Acre:** It's hard to wrap a wetland for Christmas, but when you adopt an acre it's easy to put a brighter future under the tree. Protect local natural spaces and a better future for your friends and family.
- 3. Go carbon neutral:** Feeling guilty about all that online shopping? Offset your family's holiday emissions with local, native trees that will capture and store your excess carbon for the next 80 years or more. Green Christmas, indeed!
- 4. Memorial trees:** The holidays can be hard when you're missing someone special. Consider gathering the family to plant a grove of memorial trees right here in the watershed. Their legacy and memory will live on while providing critical natural services for the Rideau Valley.

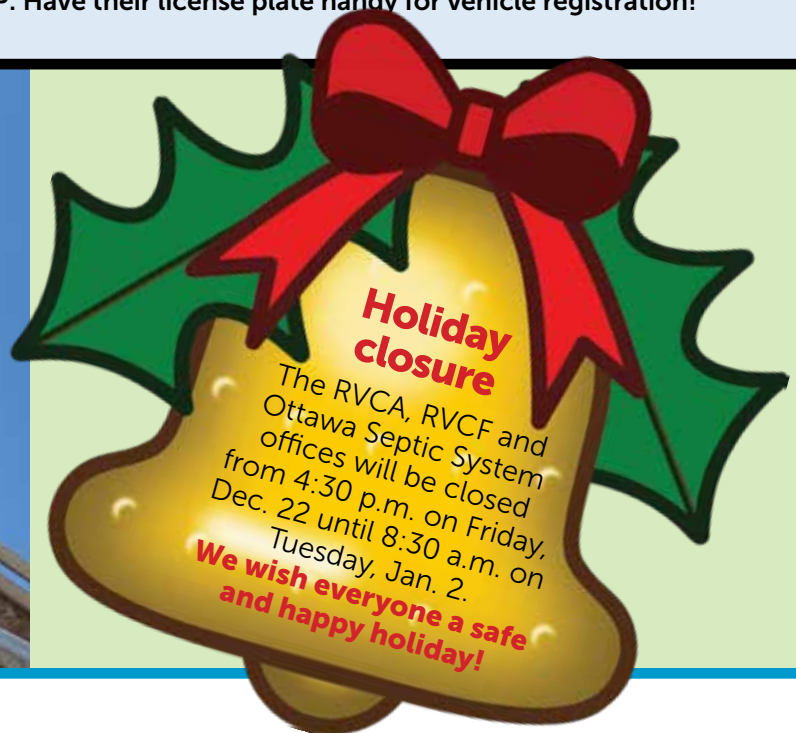
Visit [www.RVCF.ca](http://www.RVCF.ca) to learn more and order your eco gifts today. Each gift comes with a customizable e-card to send to your loved ones. For more information contact DIANE at [diane.downey@rvcf.ca](mailto:diane.downey@rvcf.ca).

## A nature pass for nature nuts!

Got a Nature Nut on your holiday shopping list? Why not give them an annual pass to our conservation areas? The \$55 parking pass covers access to boat launches, beaches, and trails at our five paid parking sites – offering infinite opportunities to get outside all year long. Order at [www.PayByPhone.com](http://www.PayByPhone.com) using location code 5222 or contact CHELSEY at [chelsey.ellis@rvca.ca](mailto:chelsey.ellis@rvca.ca) for more information. **TIP: Have their license plate handy for vehicle registration!**

## Get ahead on project planning

Got a project lined up for 2024? Give us a call! It's never too early to chat with our resource specialists about your vision – in fact, you'll save time and headaches if you talk to us before making anything official. We encourage you to call ahead and book a virtual or in-person appointment with staff. Call 613-692-3571 to get started or email [development@rvca.ca](mailto:development@rvca.ca).



AROUND the Rideau is made possible thanks to our generous sponsors

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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.