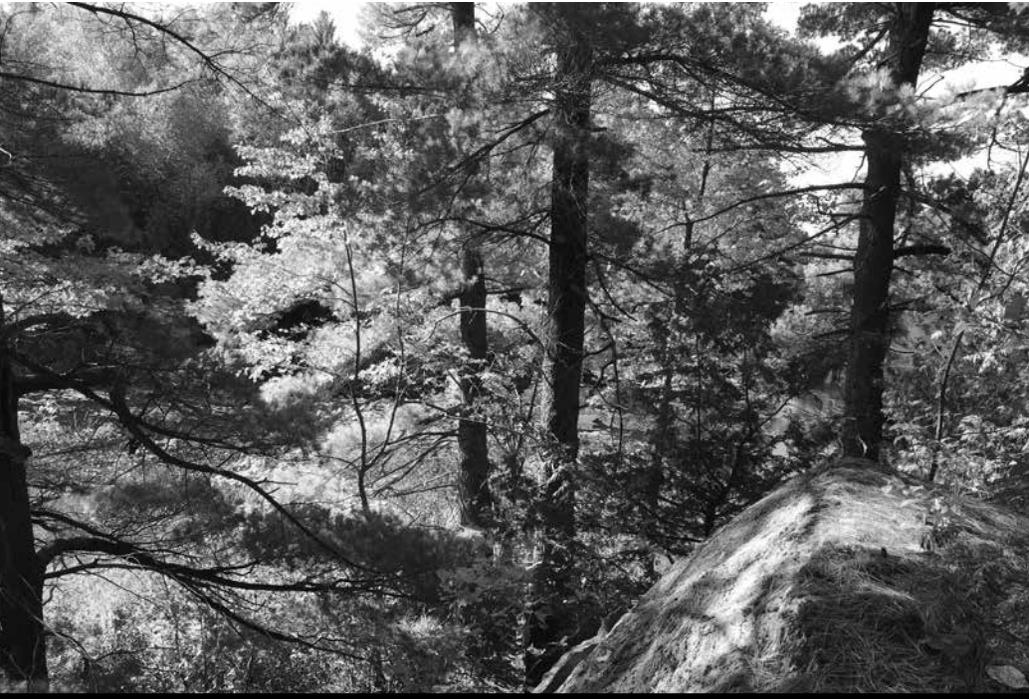


AROUND the Rideau



November | December 2020



New Conservation Land

An absolutely stunning 1.55-acre parcel on Long Lake has been added to the conservation lands fold! This property abuts Mica Mines and is part of the North Shore Big Rideau Lake provincially significant wetland. It's home to important species at risk like whip-poor-wills and butternut trees. This thoughtful and generous donation from the von Mirbach family ensures this land will remain undeveloped and in its natural state in perpetuity. To support the maintenance and continued protection of our important conservation lands, donate to the Steve Simmering Conservation Land Endowment Fund. For more information contact DAN at dan.cooper@rvca.ca.

Hazard and Wetland Mapping

RVCA has been mapping vulnerable areas in the Rideau watershed for years. These mapping studies are important because they recognize hazards or vulnerable areas such as floodplains, slopes, and wetlands that need to be considered before development occurs. In Ottawa, the mapping studies are done through a collaboration known as the *Review and Maintenance of Flood Plain Mapping within the City of Ottawa*. The city has partnered with local conservation authorities for several studies, including:

- Mud Creek (Prince of Wales Drive to Rideau River)
- Stevens Creek (North Gower)
- Mosquito Creek (Riverside South)
- Monahan Drain (Kanata South)

More hazard and wetland mapping work is also ongoing throughout the rest of the watershed. These studies include:

- Middle Rideau River (Burritt's Rapids to Smiths Falls)
- Upper Jock River (Beckwith Township)
- Wolfe/Sand Lake system

The studies help the RVCA and municipalities make sound development decisions in order to keep people and property safe. The mapping study process also welcomes input from the public in the form of open houses before the studies are finalized. You can learn more at www.rvca.ca/mapping-studies.

Winter Forest School

Baxter and Foley Mountain Conservation Areas will be offering their successful forest school programs this winter. It's a wonderful opportunity to get the kids outside and hands-on with nature! This child-centered learning model supports diverse learning opportunities in literacy, math, science, art, social studies, physical education, and more, all with nature as the classroom. Staff and students will follow COVID-19 guidelines at all times to keep everyone healthy and safe. Pre-registration is required. Winter dates will be announced soon — keep an eye on our webpages: Baxter at www.rvca.ca/baxter-forest-school and Foley Mountain at www.rvca.ca/foley-forest-school.

Butternuts on the Blog!

Check out our latest blog post at www.rvca.ca/blog. We're highlighting RVCA's very own Rose Fleguel, Eastern Ontario resident butternut expert. Rose's mission is to find living, healthy butternut trees to save the rapidly disappearing endangered tree. Check it out and learn more about our wonderful butternut expert and this iconic Ontario tree.



TD Foundation Keeps Kids in Nature

TD Friends of the Environment Foundation is making sure our watershed kids get outside and learn all about nature. They support our Forest School programs at Baxter and Foley Mountain Conservation Areas. A big thank you to TDFEF for their support so our kids can get out in the woods! For more information, contact DIANE at diane.downey@rvcf.ca

Give the gift of conservation!

Conservation Areas have never been so important

Fresh air. Open space. A mental balm. Or perhaps just somewhere — anywhere — to take the kids. Yes, outdoor spaces have been the saviours of 2020. The research is right: spending time in nature does indeed reduce stress, improve mental health, and encourage physical fitness. Kids who regularly spend time in the woods focus better on schoolwork, sleep more soundly, and have less anxiety. This is why it's so important to keep our conservation lands going for everyone to enjoy! A small donation to our Foundation goes a long way towards maintaining these spaces. Make a donation in someone's name this holiday at www.rvcf.ca. Contact DIANE at diane.dowey@rvcf.ca.

Double up on Giving Tuesday!

December 1 is Giving Tuesday, and what better gift that keeps on giving than a donation to the Foundation's Simmering Fund supporting the protection of natural lands! Plus, you can double your impact this giving season as Enbridge Gas matches donations up to \$5,000. This is an extremely generous gift, as it helps the Fund cover costs like property taxes, trail maintenance, and more — crucial to preserving donated land in perpetuity, as promised to the families who left the land in the Foundation's care. Visit www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/11994 to make a donation — and a lasting impact.

All I want for Christmas is ... an acre of wilderness!

Looking for a great gift for that special someone who has everything? Why not adopt an acre and give them the gift of knowing they're protecting a piece of our wonderful wilderness! When you adopt an acre, your symbolic gift protects land right here in the Rideau Valley — and all the plants, animals, wetlands, shorelines and forests that call it home. One acre is \$25, but there's no limit to how many acres you can adopt. You'll get a charitable tax receipt and an e-card to send to the lucky recipient. www.rvcf.ca/ways-to-give/adopt-an-acre. Contact DIANE at diane.dowey@rvcf.ca

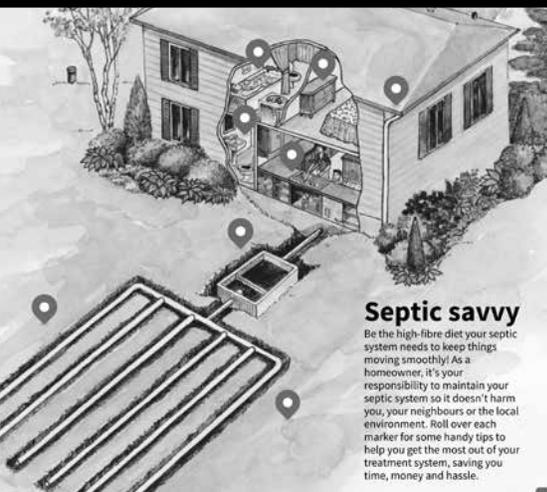
The gift of family time: the Conservation Areas Annual Pass

For \$50 you can purchase an Annual Pass that will give you access to all fee-based conservation areas and boat launches across the watershed! Treat your family to the gift of quality time as you enjoy access to beaches, boat launches and docks, year-round trails, awe-inspiring lookouts, wildlife sightings, and the splendour of our great outdoors. Visit www.rvca.ca/conservation-areas/purchase-a-pass.



We'll be posting lots of fantastic conservation gift ideas on our social media accounts this holiday season. Let's all have a "Conservation Christmas": consider adopting an acre, planting a tree, or going carbon neutral!

 @RideauValleyConservationFoundation
 @RVCFoundation



Be septic savvy!

Check out this interactive image at <https://bit.ly/3etu5UK> to find out how you can be septic smart. With so many of us working from home, we don't want to overtax our septic systems. This is a fun, interactive way to get the scoop on poop with tips on how to maintain your septic system and keep it happy and functioning.

Zoom Seminars

Friends of the Tay Watershed, with RVCA, is hosting a series of Zoom seminars this winter. The first one on Nov. 18 at 2:30 p.m. will cover Trees and Climate Change, presented by RVCA's very own Ian Cochrane, Forestry Technician. Seminar topics over the season will include conservation areas, land donation and shoreline planting. For more information or to register, please contact Glenn Tunnock at 613-464-8805 or friends@taywatershed.ca. Future seminar dates and presenters will be posted on RVCA's calendar, on our social media, and at www.taywatershed.ca.

AROUND the Rideau is made possible thanks to our generous sponsors

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