

AROUND the Rideau



September | October 2019

Conservation 2020

Fundraising campaign to protect local, natural spaces

The Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation is excited to launch Conservation 2020: a major campaign to raise \$125,000 toward keeping our natural areas in public hands forever.

The Foundation, which turns 50 next year, maintains more than 1,259 hectares of crucial habitats — forests, wetlands and shorelines — that perform important “green infrastructure” work like reducing flood risk and erosion, cleaning our water and storing carbon to keep our communities resilient in the face of climate change.

But paying for property taxes, insurance or trail maintenance requires a steady stream of income to protect these green spaces in perpetuity. Donations will be invested in the Steve Simmering Conservation Land Endowment Fund, which marks its 10th anniversary next year.

The fund was established in 2010 in memory of Steve Simmering, an active outdoorsman and vice chairman of the Foundation. Today, his wife Anne Simmering is an active board member and the Simmering family continues to support and promote this exceptional fund. The Foundation is seeking any and all investments, whether your family has \$25 to spare or you lead a large corporation looking to make a lasting, local impact.

To donate visit www.rvcf.ca or contact DIANE at ext. 1126 or diane.downey@rvcf.ca.



RVCF Chair Jason Kelly and Anne Simmering

Hutton Marsh makeover coming thanks to grant

A provincially significant wetland will get a makeover this winter, thanks in part to a \$55,000 grant from Wildlife Habitat Canada.

The Hutton Creek Marsh near Lombardy has become a mono-culture: choked and overgrown with cattails, only 10 per cent of the marsh is now open water. Crews will construct three 0.5 acre ponds and 500 metres of channels to help return the wetland to a healthier hemi-marsh state (50 per cent vegetation and 50 per cent open water).

These improvements will provide new fish passages and areas for spawning and feeding, and will support critical life stages for amphibians, turtles and other wildlife. This healthier water-to-vegetation ratio is also ideal for waterfowl and will support the greatest biodiversity. Construction could begin as early as November. Crews will wait until the marsh has frozen to keep impacts to wildlife and water quality low.

This project is possible thanks to Ducks Unlimited Canada, Leeds and Grenville Stewardship Council and the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville (UCLG), which owns the property where the work will take place. Support of local residents has also been key to the project's success.

Contact DAN for more information at ext. 1124 or dan.cooper@rvca.ca.



Generous grants help underprivileged kids get back to nature

We're making sure all students can access our outdoor education programs at Baxter and Foley Mountain Conservation Areas, thanks to several more generous grants for bus and tuition fees through the Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation.

BOGS Boots Canada has committed to \$30,000 over three years to help low-income schools in Eastern Ontario access our curriculum-based programs. It will also replenish our collection of waterproof boots so students can stay warm and dry while they chase frogs and romp in the woods during their outdoor lessons.

The North Face Canada Explore Fund has provided a \$5,000 grant for tuition and transportation costs and the Starbucks Foundation's Greener Apron Fund is providing \$3,048 toward the

program, as well. Earlier this year, the Ottawa Community Foundation and Friends of Foley Mountain also committed funding to the initiative.

Baxter and Foley Mountain's outdoor education programs encourage students to be confident explorers, nature-lovers and good environmental stewards. But it's not all fun and games: there's a growing body of evidence that outdoor, active play provides significant positive effects on children's physical, emotional and intellectual health. A win for students and a win for the environment!

Contact DIANE for more information at ext. 1126 or diane.downey@rvcf.ca.



Volunteers show Wolfe Lake fish some TLC

RVCA staff teamed up with several volunteer groups in August and September for two fish habitat projects on Wolfe Lake.

Volunteers from the Wolfe Lake Association and the Westport Area Outdoors Association helped create two new walleye spawning beds on Scanlan Creek, with help from a generous grant from the TD Friends of the Environment Fund.

Road culverts installed 30 or 40 years ago cut the walleye off from their traditional spawning beds on Scanlan Creek. To fix this, RVCA aquatic biologist Jennifer Lamoureux designed two new spawning beds. RVCA staff teamed up with local volunteer groups in August and September for two fish habitat projects on Wolfe Lake.

Volunteers relocated nearly 1,200 fish and other aquatic creatures from the construction zone before placing 70 tonnes of six-inch round river stone in the creek.

The following week, Christmas came early for other Wolfe Lake fish populations, as RVCA staff and volunteers sunk bundles of old Christmas trees into the water. In shallow areas, the sunken brush will become nursery habitat for "young of the year" fish. In deeper water, the trees will become post-spawning recovery zones for adult fish.

Lamoureux said underwater wood structures like dead trees and fallen wood are often missing from developed shorelines, because there is



a tendency sometimes for people to remove them when they fall, instead of letting them become habitat.

Staff will monitor the bundles over the next few years. For more information contact JENNIFER at ext. 1108 or email jennifer.lamoureux@rvca.ca.



Registration open for Lake Links Workshop

Citizen science will take the spotlight at this year's Lake Links workshop in Perth, with keynote speaker Kat Kavanagh of Water Rangers leading the discussion. Local lake associations will also present the projects and initiatives they've taken on to keep their lakes clean and healthy. The 18th annual event is Saturday, October 26 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. at the Perth Civitan Hall in Perth. Learn what others are doing on their property, how it affects our lakes and how you can get involved. Tickets are \$25 and include lunch. To register contact Melissa Dakers at dakers@watersheds.ca or 613-264-1244. Don't forget to bring non-perishable food items for The Table Community Food Centre. For more information contact MEAGHAN at ext. 1192 or meaghan.mcdonald@rvca.ca.

Ultimate Aquatics Workshop tackles fly fishing, insect ID

Don't miss this pretty fly event! RVCA's City Stream Watch program and the Ottawa Flyfishers Society will pair up for an exciting aquatic insect, fish and flyfishing workshop on Saturday, October 26. This popular event runs from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the Jock River landing. In the morning, RVCA will teach participants how to sample and identify aquatic bugs and fish. In the afternoon, the Flyfishers Society will give hands-on fishing demos. Equipment is provided. The event will be held just off Prince of Wales Drive at Lodge Road. The session is limited to 30 people, so register early at citystreamwatch@rvca.ca.



Let's get social!

Not following us on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram? Not subscribed to our blog? You might be missing out on the RVCA's latest news, photos and stories!

Connect with us online for regular updates and information about our programs, events, volunteer opportunities and watershed conditions. Subscribe to *The River Reed* blog for stories about our

most dedicated staff, volunteers and landowners working hard to keep the watershed clean and healthy!

- Facebook:** @RideauValleyConservationAuthority
- Twitter:** @RideauValleyCA
- Instagram:** @RideauValleyCA
- Youtube:** @RideauValleyCA
- Blog:** *The River Reed*, www.rvca.ca/blog

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
 RideauValleyConservationAuthority
 RideauValleyCA
 rideauvalleyca

Bell Baker, Barristers and Solicitors — 613-237-3444 | 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
 Representing management in labour and employment law across Ontario

Ramada Ottawa on the Rideau — 613-288-3500 | www.ramadaottawa.com
 Offers 87 fully renovated rooms with balconies overlooking the Rideau River, banquet facilities, full service restaurant and outdoor pool. Pet friendly.