

# AROUND the Rideau



September | October 2020



## Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation Turns 50!

Established in 1970, the Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation (RVCF) has been working hard to protect and conserve the land and water of the Rideau River watershed. This year the RVCF celebrates a milestone — its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary! RVCF is a registered environmental charity and prides itself on its partnerships with individuals, corporations, and groups caring for the local environment. It has been instrumental in raising funds and supporting in-the-field work of the Rideau Valley

Conservation Authority. Since 1994, \$6.6 million has been raised to support a broad spectrum of work — from tree planting to boardwalk building, water quality monitoring to land acquisition and, so much more. The Foundation thanks its partners, supporters, donors, staff, and its board of director members for their help, dedication, and support over the years and looks forward to the next 50 years of philanthropy and conservation work. To learn more contact DIANE at [diane.downey@rvcf.ca](mailto:diane.downey@rvcf.ca).



The RVCF gratefully acknowledges Mary Bryden, former RVCF Chair who retired from volunteer service after 25 years as an active RVCF Board member. Mary was instrumental in updating the RVCF By-laws in 1995. In 2000, she was elected as Chair of the Foundation —

a seat she held for ten years. This is just a small part of Mary's commitment to conservation. Mary has been involved in watershed conservation efforts for over well over 40 years. Mary became an accredited member of the RVCA Board of Directors in January 1980 as an appointed member of the Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton where she held leadership roles until 2002. Thank you to Mary for her passion and dedication. We wish you well.

### RVCF 2020 Board Members

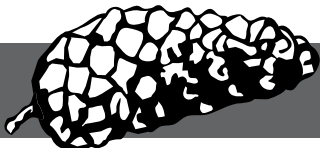
- Jason W. M. Kelly, Chair
- Andrew Harkness, Vice Chair
- Kathy Dallaire, Secretary-Treasurer
- Allison Brown
- Matthew Frye
- Allison Gibbons
- Gary Howard
- Bob Ryerson
- Tom Scott
- Anne Simmering
- R.E. (Bob) Smith
- Kathy Thomas
- Cynthia Wagner
- Richmond Wilson

### Remic Rapids Wetland Lookin' Good

RVCA partnered with the National Capital Commission (NCC) to design and construct a small wetland adjacent to the Ottawa River close to Remic Rapids along the Sir John A. Macdonald Parkway. The project was expanded to the west by NCC last year and it included additional removal of invasive buckthorn and honeysuckle and replacement with a wide variety of native trees, shrubs, and plants. The project created a rare wetland in a mostly urban area. And, with five years under its belt, the wetland is growing well and looking lush! For more information, contact JENNIFER at [jennifer.lamoureux@rvca.ca](mailto:jennifer.lamoureux@rvca.ca) or visit [www.rvca.ca/remic-rapids-wetland-project](http://www.rvca.ca/remic-rapids-wetland-project).

### CA Plan Review & Permitting Streamlined

Since April 2019 Conservation Ontario and Ontario's conservation authorities (CAs) have been making improvements to CA plan review and permitting processes through the Conservation Ontario Client Service and Streamlining Initiative. The initiative supports actions and identifies areas to improve client service and accountability, increase speed of approvals and reduce red tape in order to help the Province address the lack of housing supply. These new streamlining processes will improve things without jeopardizing public health and safety or the environment. Contact GLEN for more information at [glen.mcdonald@rvca.ca](mailto:glen.mcdonald@rvca.ca).



# Baxter & Foley Mountain Forest Schools

## New Baxter Forest School already a success!

Baxter Conservation Area launched its new Forest School on September 14, and already the program has filled up fast! The forest school caters to kindergarten (ages 3 to 5) and school-age kids (ages 4 to 10) following strict COVID-19 protocols. The forest school is an alternative education program where kids spend most of their time outside learning through hands-on activities that promote curiosity in an active, authentic learning environment. It is a superb option for those who benefit from being outside in an inquiry based-education setting. Keep your eye out for Baxter's winter and spring sessions, dates still to be determined. Contact ANDREA at 613-489-3592 or [andrea.wood@rvca.ca](mailto:andrea.wood@rvca.ca) for more information or visit [www.rvca.ca/baxter-forest-school](http://www.rvca.ca/baxter-forest-school).

## Full on Foley Mountain Forest School

Foley Mountain Forest School is offering Kindergarten, school-age, and family drop-in programs for its second year in operation. Fall programs filled up quickly; however, there are openings for the winter and spring programs for both Kindergarten and school-age sessions. Foley Mountain is also offering FREE family drop-in programs on Saturdays — October 17, November 21, and December 19 from 10–11:30 a.m., thanks to the Township of Rideau Lakes. All adult-accompanied children are welcome. To sign up for the family drop-in programs or to register for the winter or spring forest school sessions, visit [www.rvca.ca/foley-forest-school](http://www.rvca.ca/foley-forest-school) or call REBECCA at 613-273-3255 or [rebecca.whitman@rvca.ca](mailto:rebecca.whitman@rvca.ca).



## Baxter Vandalized

On the weekend of September 12–13, Baxter Conservation Area was senselessly vandalized. The river cabin, storage building, and group campsite suffered broken windows, smashed canoes, torn off siding, snapped paddles, wrecked picnic tables, and a damaged woodstove. It's unfortunate because not only does this hurt Baxter, but it hurts school groups, day camps, and community groups that use this area. The silver lining has been the amazing community response. It's been wonderful to see the support Baxter has received and just how much Baxter means to the community — for that, we thank you. If you'd like to help, the Baxter River Cabin Improvement Fund has been set up through CanadaHelps.org at [www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/11994](http://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/11994). For more information on Baxter, contact ANDREA at [andrea.wood@rvca.ca](mailto:andrea.wood@rvca.ca).

## Nature For All Project

The boardwalk at Baxter Conservation Area is being re-imagined. Plans are to substantially upgrade Baxter's boardwalk system to make it more accessible to everyone. Making the viewing platforms and boardwalk accessible to adults, kids, wheelchairs, walkers, strollers is the goal for the new boardwalk. A fundraising campaign will be launched to help with project costs. Keep your eye out for updates on this exciting project or learn more about the Nature for All Project at [www.rvcf.ca/ways-to-give/nature-for-all-project](http://www.rvcf.ca/ways-to-give/nature-for-all-project). Contact DAN for more information, [dan.cooper@rvca.ca](mailto:dan.cooper@rvca.ca).

## 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Lake Links goes Virtual

On Saturday, October 24, the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Lake Links will be hosting three virtual workshops running from 10 a.m until noon. This year's theme is *Effective Engagement for Positive Action*. Three different webinars will be offered with RVCA's Rebecca Whitman, Foley Mountain Conservation Area Supervisor, presenting "What Families can do to stay connected to nature and the lake." Registration is free at [watersheds.ca/lake-links-2020](http://watersheds.ca/lake-links-2020). Contact MIKE at [michael.yee@rvca.ca](mailto:michael.yee@rvca.ca).

If you need us, we're here! — We're still doing business as usual, with a few twists. For full details on how the RVCA is responding to COVID-19 and modifying the delivery of our programs and services, visit [www.rvca.ca/covid-19](http://www.rvca.ca/covid-19).



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)

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