



Around the Rideau

ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION FOR MUNICIPALITIES IN THE RIDEAU VALLEY

January/February 2018

2018 Flood Preparation

Looking Back On a Wet 2017 — With Environment Canada calling 2017 “the big wet,” last year was a record-breaking year of water for eastern Ontario. Totals measured at the Ottawa Airport put precipitation at 144 percent of normal. In May, multiple days of significant rainfall led to flooding across parts of eastern Ontario and Quebec causing significant property damage. And, with climate change, we can expect more severe weather and increased chances of flooding.

What Property Owners Need To Do — Assess their personal emergency plan for minimizing flood-related property damages. Should flooding occur, the *first response is up to the individual homeowners*. If the flood is beyond the capability of the homeowner, the municipal Emergency Response Plan kicks in. To get up-to-date information on watershed conditions, property owners should sign up for RVCA flood forecasting and warning emails —subscribe at www.rvca.ca — look for “Get RVCA News.”

What Municipalities Do — They are responsible for emergency response services during serious flood events. Please contact your local municipality should you have local flooding issues where assistance is needed. Property owners, especially in vulnerable areas need to have these emergency phone numbers handy.

What RVCA Does — Maintains a *flood forecasting and warning system* that aims to reduce danger to people and property by providing local agencies and the public with advance notice and information.

How RVCA Does It — RVCA uses stream gauges, weather stations, surveys of snow conditions, meteorological forecasts and computer models to determine the potential for flooding. When spring melt or severe storms are anticipated, RVCA estimates the severity, location,

and timing of possible flooding and warns accordingly based on the *Flood Warning Index* (below). PATRICK can tell you more at patrick.larson@rvca.ca or ext. 1210.

RVCA Flood Forecasting and Warning and Low Water Response System operates 12 months a year

The RVCA provides member municipalities and local residents advance notice and information about potential flooding

Flood Warning Index

Our flood warning index has four stages:

1. **Normal** — no flood conditions exist
2. **Awareness** — be informed and aware
 - **Water Safety Statements** —high flows, unsafe banks, melting ice or other factors that could be dangerous for recreational users such as anglers, canoeists, hikers, children, pets, etc. Flooding is not expected
 - **Flood Outlook Statements** — Early notice of the potential for flooding based on weather forecasts calling for heavy rain, snow melt, high wind or other conditions that could lead to high runoff, cause ice jams, lake shore flooding or erosion
3. **Flood Watch** — be prepared to activate your flood response plans, if it becomes necessary. Flooding is possible in specific watercourses or municipalities. Municipalities, emergency services and individual landowners in flood-prone areas should prepare
4. **Flood Warning** — Activate your flood response procedures now! Flooding is imminent or already occurring in specific watercourses or municipalities

Do You Live in a Vulnerable Community?

There are developed areas that are prone to flooding — it’s important to know if you live in a flood-vulnerable area.

Rideau River — in the area between Rideau Falls and Cummings Bridge, in the vicinity of Brantwood, Windsor and Brewer Parks in the City of Ottawa; parts of the rural area of the City of Ottawa including; in the vicinity of the Carleton Golf & Yacht Club, parts of the Village of Kars; Lorne Bridge Road; in the vicinity of James

Island; Reevecraig; Fairmile Subdivision; Mapleshores, Little Chesterville and Arcand developments, Hilly Lane, Cedar Beach, Rideau Glen and Becketts Landing in North Grenville Township

Jock River — parts of the Village of Richmond including areas on the tributaries (Van Gaal Drain, Flowing Creek, Bypass Drain)

Stevens Creek— parts of the Village of North Gower and areas downstream

Kemptville Creek — parts of the Township of North Grenville between Kemptville and the Rideau River

Tay River— within the Town of Perth and areas upstream to Glen Tay



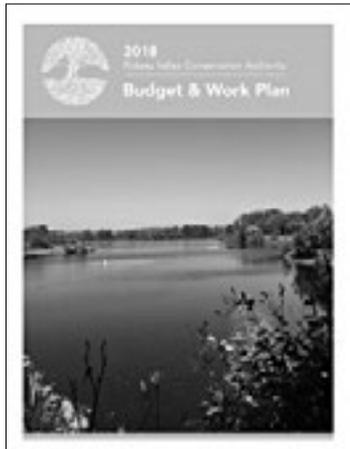
Perkins Road, North Gower
July 25, 2017

Fish and In Water Work Restrictions

The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry has updated its guideline for work in water. These timing restrictions are to protect fish during spawning and other critical life stages. Additional timing guidelines may apply to endangered and threatened species. If you are planning to work in or around water contact OMNR to ensure you aren't working in a restricted time. Contact Joffre Côté, Management Biologist 613-258-8214, joff.cote@ontario.ca or Monique Charette, Management Biologist 613-531-571, monique.charette@ontario.ca.

2018 Budget & Work Plan

The 2018 Rideau Valley Conservation Authority Budget & Work Plan



is now available. Since RVCA's formation in 1966, we have worked with our municipal partners to provide programs and services that move towards our shared vision for a thriving watershed — one with clean abundant water, natural shorelines, rich forests and wetlands, diverse habitat and sustainable land use that is valued and protected by all. In 2018, we continue on this course of action as we work to conserve our watershed and ensure our future. The workplan can be viewed at www.rvca.ca, under "Publications."

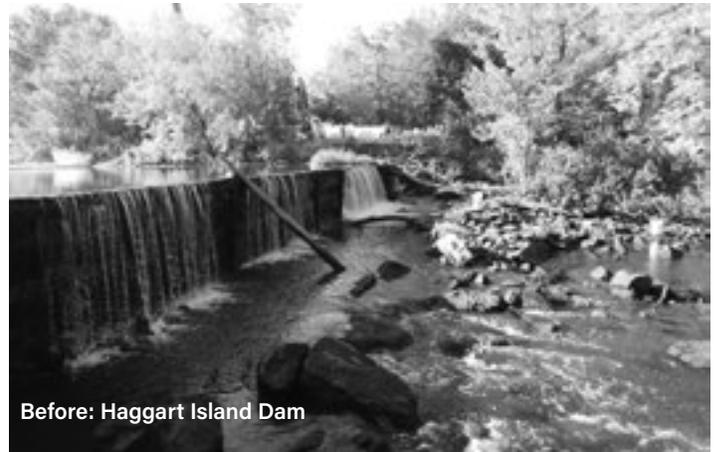
RVCA Board of Directors

Congratulations to Lyle Pederson who has been re-elected as Chair at RVCA. The new Vice Chair is Pieter Leenhouts, who represents the City of Ottawa and is President of the Lower Ottawa Valley Chapter of the Ontario Woodlot Association. He is also a former member of the Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Committee. Thank you to Ed Hand who served as Vice Chair for the last six years — we look forward to his continued support on the Board. For more Information call SOMMER at ext. 1214 or sommer.casgrain-robertson@rvca.ca.



Volunteers Wanted for Headwater Sampling

RVCA is looking for volunteers to help with headwater drainage feature sampling early this spring. Sampling takes place Monday to Friday, typically between 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.; however, some days may go longer. Volunteers need to be comfortable around water, wearing chest waders, wading through streams and dealing with cold temperatures and inclement weather. Volunteers will also need to arrange their own transportation to the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority office located at 3889 Rideau Valley Drive in Manotick. Tentative dates are March 1 through to April 20. Contact ROSARIO at ext. 1155, rosario.castanon.escobar@rvca.ca.



Tay River Rocky Ramps Completed

Congratulations to the Town of Perth for the successful construction of the second rocky ramp on the Tay River. Both rocky ramps replace the weirs known as the Haggart Island Dams. The benefits of rocky ramps are that they maintain historic water levels that the community wants while still allowing for the river's natural processes. They are ecologically friendly and cost less than the building traditional weirs and dams. Congratulations to all the partners who worked with the Town of Perth including, RVCA, Friends of the Tay, Department of Fisheries and Oceans through the Recreational Fisheries Conservation Partnerships Program (RFCPP) along with the on-site construction and engineering undertaken by Matrix Solutions Inc/Parish Aquatic Services and G. Tackaberry & Sons Construction Company Limited. The partners worked cooperatively to build the second rocky ramp. Input and support from residents of Harvey Street and Mill Street were also critical to the success of the project and are greatly appreciated. MIKE can tell you more at ext. 1176 or michael.yee@rvca.ca.

City Stream Watch 2018

This year the City Stream Watch program will focus on Nepean Creek, Taylor Creek, Mud Creek (Greens Creek), Black Creek, Ottawa East tributary (near Cardinal Creek). Volunteers are a main staple of the program and will have the opportunity to inventory stream habitats, identify aquatic benthic invertebrates; participate in fish sampling sessions; monitor stream temperatures; remove invasive species; assist in stream rehabilitation and shoreline restoration projects; and clean up streams to remove garbage. To volunteer for the City Stream Watch visit www.rvca.ca and choose "volunteer." For more information or to volunteer contact CHELSEY at ext. 1179 or citystreamwatch@rvca.ca.



Around the Rideau



THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS!

Rideau Valley Conservation Authority

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