



Rideau Valley Conservation Authority
Annual Report 2010



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- **Steve Desroches** – City of Ottawa
- **Clive Doucet** – City of Ottawa
- **Ed Hand** – City of Ottawa
- **Maria McRae** – City of Ottawa

2010 Board of Directors

- **Alan Arbuckle**, Chair
- **Glenn Brooks**
- **Barclay Cormack**
- **David Crowley**
- **Steve Desroches**
- **Clive Doucet**
- **Ken Graham**, Vice-Chair
- **Ed Hand**
- **Andy Jozefowicz**
- **Michael McEwen**
- **Maria McRae**
- **John H. Miller**





A Message from our Chair and General Manager

2010 was another busy year and we are delighted to share our accomplishments. This is but a snapshot of all the work we do – work made possible through strong partnerships, knowledgeable staff and creative program delivery.

Thank you to our Board of Directors, Advisory Board Members and staff for their dedication to making the Rideau Watershed a healthy place to live, work, play and visit. But most of all, thank you to our member municipalities who see the value in the work we do. The RVCA is honoured to be your best source of reliable information, experienced advice and cost-effective services in water and related land conservation. We know the Rideau watershed and we are at your service.

Working together – we can do more. And more importantly, by investing in good resource management today, we can avoid more costly fixes in the future.

Enjoy this brief tour of our accomplishments and rest assured . . . there's more to come.

Alan Arbuckle – RVCA Chair

Dell Hallett – General Manager

What We Do

The RVCA delivers services to manage water and other natural resources. These efforts are done in partnership with municipal, provincial and federal governments, landowners and other like-minded organizations – all at a shared cost well below what they would pay on their own. The RVCA promotes an integrated watershed approach – one that balances human, environmental and economic needs.

We aim to:

- improve water quality
- protect water supplies
- reduce flood risk and erosion hazards
- improve watershed habitats
- increase conservation lands

A snapshot of our 2010 achievements ...

Watershed Science and Engineering Services

- **1,708** samples taken on 39 lakes through the RVCA's Watershed Watch Program – that adds up to over 5,081 samples since 2001
- **1,442** hours from 216 volunteers invested in Ottawa's City Stream Watch program; Graham Creek, Green's Creek and Brassill's Creek were re-sampled in 2010 and McEwan Creek was added to this growing program
- **566** sections of watercourses sampled through the Macro Stream Assessment Program (402 sections on the Tay River, 126 sections on Grants Creek and 38 sections on Jebbs Creek)
- **392** water quality samples taken at 56 sites as part of the RVCA's Baseline Stream Water Quality Program
- **320** samples taken at 10 sites across the watershed as part of the Provincial Water Quality Monitoring Program – that adds up to 124,563 pieces of data collected since 1966
- **198** sections surveyed on Kemptville Creek and 61 sections completed on North Branch as part of the Species at Risk Fish Habitat Mapping Project
- **123** fish habitat reviews completed under Section 35 of the federal *Fisheries Act*
- **121** hours from 21 volunteers spent restoring a 14-metre section of Graham Creek using bioengineering methods of soil wrapping, fascine and live cuttings of willows and dogwoods
- **70** participants at the 9th Annual Lake Links Workshop, planned and hosted in collaboration with eastern Conservation Authorities, Stewardship Councils, NGOs and Lake Associations
- **50** groundwater samples analyzed for quality and quantity
- **42** sampling events on the Tay River, Grants Creek and Jebbs Creek for fish community using various methods (electrofishing, seine netting, hoop netting, etc)
- **36** stream sites (spring and fall) and 15 lake (spring) sites sampled for water quality conditions using the Ontario Benthos Biomonitoring Network methodology (biology)
- **20** kilometres of new flood mapping along Tay River – from Christie Lake to Glen Tay
- **20** sites sampled in the Biocriteria project which studies invertebrates, fish, mussels, and dragonflies
- **15** monitoring wells across the watershed sampled for geo-chemistry and daily water level measurements
- **13** municipal drains sampled for temperature profiling and 4 municipal drains sampled for fish and fish habitat
- **9** sites surveyed on the Tay River Watershed using the Ontario Stream Assessment protocol (5 sites on Tay River, 3 sites on Grants Creek and 1 site on Jebbs Creek)
- **4** school field demonstration days and one cleanup with 4th Orleans Venture Scout Group

Source Water Protection

Source water protection reached a milestone in December when the Mississippi-Rideau Source Water Protection Group's Assessment Report was submitted to the Ontario Ministry of the Environment. This report is the product of five years of technical studies. It characterizes the Rideau watershed, looks at how much water we have available, and shows where our drinking water comes from and where it needs protection. This information will now be used to develop land use policies to prevent chemicals and bacteria from getting into water in areas where it could pollute municipal drinking water.

Over the past two years, 15 open houses were co-hosted with our municipalities to solicit public input on our technical study findings. Municipalities are now playing a big role in developing source protection policies and public consultation will continue to be an important part of the process. Source water protection work is a result of the *Clean Water Act* and is funded by the province.



Kemptville Creek at Oxford Mills



Stream restoration on Graham Creek



Young northern pike, Green's Creek



Volunteer monitoring, Brassill's Creek

- **1** Middle Rideau Subwatershed Report and ten Middle Rideau Catchment Data sheets were completed
- Support offered to many Lake Associations and communities in their lake planning efforts.

Planning Advisory and Regulatory Services

- **1,074** planning applications (minor variances, official plan amendments, zoning bylaw amendments, subdivision, etc.) reviewed and advice given to municipal approval authorities
- **821** applications at the Ottawa Septic System Office for new or replacement septic systems
- **708** property inquiries through the LandOwner Resource Centre by prospective purchasers seeking information on development constraints and environmental conditions on watershed properties
- **457** septic re-inspections completed by the Mississippi-Rideau Septic Office in Central Frontenac (25), Drummond North Elmsley (31), North Frontenac Township (100), Rideau Lakes Township (100) and Tay Valley Township (201)
- **300** file searches for septic system information
- **335** applications processed under Section 28 of the *Conservation Authorities Act (Ontario Regulation 174/06 – Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses)*
- **67** applications at the Mississippi-Rideau Septic System Office for 40 new and 27 replacement septic systems
- **32** Section 28 violations investigated (20 resolved), 7 subject to Court action
- **11** years working in partnership with Fisheries and Oceans Canada pursuant to Section 35 of the *Fisheries Act* to protect fish habitat

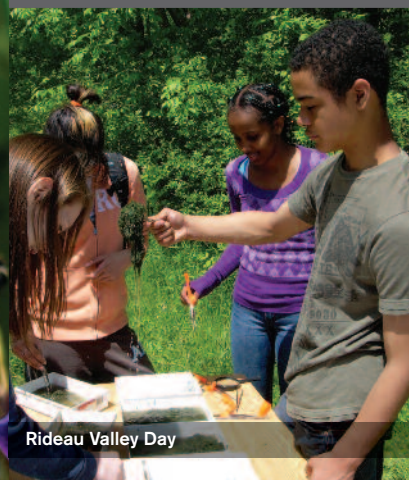
Conservation Land Services

- **\$160,000+** dollars raised through special funding agreements to support Conservation Area enhancement projects including Foley Mountain's wheelchair accessible washrooms, new education platform for wetland and pond studies, interpretive signs along trails and Baxter Conservation Area's Energy Cabin's new windmill
- **\$130,000** in donations were raised in partnership with RVCF to offset land acquisition, conservation area development and stewardship activities
- **60,000+** visitors to Rideau Valley Conservation Areas
- **5,800** students enjoyed Baxter's Outdoor Education Programs (including 550 students who enjoyed Duck Unlimited's Project Webfoot)
- **3,000** children enjoyed Foley Mountain's year-round education and summer programs
- **2,500** metres of 2 hiking trails upgraded at 2 conservation areas
- **2,369** hectares of public land and nine developed Conservation Areas are operated, maintained and serviced
- **950** children (9 schools and 1 Scout Troop) enjoyed our third year of free, in-school Spring Water Awareness Programming
- **1,200+** people over-night at Baxter's interpretive centre, River Cabin and Foley and Baxter's group camping areas
- **800** trees planted at Baxter by 5 elementary school classes to naturalize areas and improve shoreline buffer zones – bringing the total number of trees planted to over 3,500 in the last 5 years
- **540** summer visitors to the Foley Mountain Interpretive Centre
- **264** square feet of docking facilities replaced or extended
- **175** children participated in Foley Mountain's Children's Water Festivals
- **160** children enjoyed Baxter's Summer Day Camp
- **115** acres of newly acquired conservation land – protecting a variety of sensitive areas throughout the Rideau watershed

Conservation Authority Biennial Tour 2010

The Mississippi and Rideau Valley Conservation Authorities were the proud hosts of the provincial Biennial Tour from September 19 to 21. Close to one hundred senior managers, Directors, municipal councillors and Chairs from Conservation Authorities enjoyed three days of tours, talks and demonstrations of local conservation projects and down east hospitality.

Photo © Simon Lunn – blue flag Iris



Rideau Valley Day



Foley Mountain Conservation Area

A snapshot of our 2010 achievements ...

- **12** turtle platforms installed at local conservation areas for species at risk research
- **9.65** acre floodplain/shoreline property acquired in the City of Ottawa along the Rideau River
- **7** buildings renovated/refurbished as part of ongoing capital infrastructure improvements
- **5** interpretive signs developed to promote and educate visitors about local species at risk and on-going RVCA protection efforts
- **1** Management Plan completed for the Baxter Conservation Area
- **0.8** acre island acquired in Upper Rideau Lake

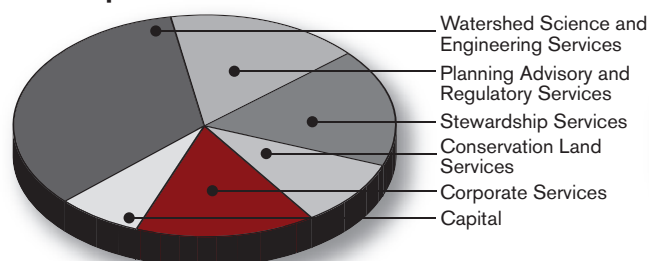
Stewardship Services

- **1,000,000th** tree planted in 2010 in downtown Ottawa as part of the Green Acres Program with partners: City of Ottawa, SNC, MVC, and the Ottawa Stewardship Council
- **172,000** trees planted (107,000 Trees for Tomorrow and 65,000 in Ottawa's Green Acres Program) providing a total value of \$292,500, \$155,770 in fund-raised money provided
- **\$126,500** grant dollars distributed to 65 landowners for projects through the Ottawa Rural Clean Water Program – when combined with landowner contributions, it amounts to \$1,989,500 invested in water protection projects
- **\$78,500** grant dollars distributed to 68 landowners for projects through the Rideau Valley Rural Clean Water Program – when combined with landowners' contributions, amounts to \$535,000 invested in water protection projects
- **\$6,900** of grant money distributed to landowners and community organizations as part of the RVCA's Shoreline Naturalization Program

- **2,500** butternut seedlings planted by volunteer landowners throughout eastern Ontario for the RVCA Butternut Recovery Program in 2010 – this brings the total number of butternut seedlings planted in our program to 11,055 on over 780 public and private sites since the program began in 2006
- **486** healthy seed source butternut trees identified in the RVCA geo database; 96 are exceptional in health and seed production potential but fewer than 20 meet the criteria for supposed resistance
- **150** butternut scions from five supposedly resistant parent trees were grafted onto black walnut rootstock in 2010; 11 possibly resistant butternut trees have been grafted since 2008; the first 10 butternut grafts were outplanted into the Eastern Ontario Butternut Archive in spring 2010
- **90** properties visited by the Butternut Recovery Technician to search for butternut trees showing signs of resistance; 734 sites have been visited since the program began in 2006
- **63** stewardship projects approved through the Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program from 2007-2010, with approximately \$338,000 in grant dollars distributed to landowners in the Source Protection Region
- **17** years of excellent customer service through the LandOwner Resource Centre
- **1.3** kilometres of shoreline naturalized with 4,050 bareroot native shrubs planted by 192 volunteers through the Shoreline Naturalization Program

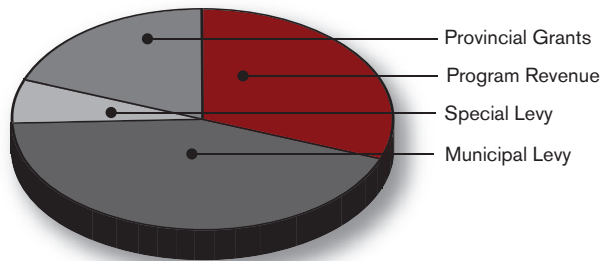
Financing Conservation

2010 Expenses



	Watershed Science and Engineering Services – \$3,228,177
	Planning Advisory and Regulatory Services – \$1,555,363
	Stewardship Services – \$1,623,091
	Conservation Land Services – \$916,859
	Corporate Services – \$1,419,959
	Capital – \$673,039
	Total: \$9,416,488

2010 Revenue



	Municipal Levy – \$4,190,000
	Special Levy – \$605,207
	Provincial Grants – \$1,831,027
	Program Revenue – \$2,929,318
	Total: \$9,555,552

Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation

RVCF Board of Directors

- | | |
|--|---|
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Mary Bryden cuts the RVCF 40th Anniversary Cake

The Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation (RVCF) is a registered environmental charity that raises funds and accepts gifts to support conservation in the Rideau River watershed. The main focus of the Foundation's fundraising work is:

- the RiverCare Program (City Stream Watch, Stewardship programs, Williams Water Endowment Fund), and
- the LandCare Program (Conservation Areas Fund, Environmental Land Fund, Steve Simmering Conservation Land Endowment, Tree Planting).

The Foundation also accepts gifts of land from families that wish to have their properties remain in a natural state in perpetuity. Currently, the Foundation takes care of 14 key environmental properties donated by thoughtful individuals throughout the valley.

All of this outstanding community conservation work is possible because of the many generous and conservation-minded people and businesses in and outside the watershed of the Rideau River. We are very conscious of the responsibility to invest their funds wisely in conservation work that will bring benefits to the people of the valley for generations to come. The Board of the Foundation thanks them all for their continuing confidence in our programs.

Highlights for 2010

- a total of \$179,000 in funds and services was donated by the generous people of the valley for our conservation work
- celebrating 40 years of Foundation efforts at the RVCF 40th Anniversary Reception which included the unveiling of a new website and historic photos of Foundation Chairs
- a lovely new property, Sister Island in Upper Rideau Lake, was donated by Dr. Eva Furesz for future conservation use
- RVCF became a member of Imagine Canada, the Canadian Land Trust Alliance and the Ethical Code Program (a set of standards for members to manage and report their financial affairs responsibly and fairly)
- a large gift from the EcoAction program of Environment Canada allowed the startup of the innovative Making Shorelines Natural project on tributaries in the City of Ottawa
- a timely grant from the HIVA Foundation supported the creation of an education teaching platform at the Beaver Pond at Foley Mountain
- the third annual Tri-Valley Conservation Awards Gala highlighting the achievements of volunteers in the Mississippi, Rideau and South Nation valleys was held in Finch with the support of our loyal sponsors AECOM, TD Friends of the Environment Foundation, Ottawa Regional Media Group, Mountain Equipment Co-op and Rogers TV
- Sobeys Ontario and the Helen McCrea Peacock Foundation sponsored the ever-popular City Stream Watch activities
- RBC Foundation chose to again sponsor our water quality protection activities with a very generous contribution

Continued, next page ...



Red Trillium

Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation — Highlights for 2010

- a large gift from the Snack Bar Tip Fund at the Bytowne Cinema was invested in our conservation endowment fund to keep on working forever
- Foley Mountain Road received some major and long-overdue restoration work thanks to the Federal Economic Development Agency
- the Monterey Inn Resort and the 30 private sector sponsors who helped us build the new Rideau Valley Conservation Centre continued to provide gifts of cash, services and products as a community service
- we are very grateful to the Ministry of Natural Resources for CFWIP grants and for Species at Risk funding to allow targeted work on aquatic species habitat improvement in the valley
- RVCA staff provide continuous support and encouragement in many areas
- our biggest supporter of all and our major conservation partner is the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (office space, staff time and access to professional staff for advice). RVCA manages all donated lands under contract to the Foundation as well as many of our conservation projects; hats off to a long and fruitful partnership for the community!

How to Reach the Conservation Foundation

P.O. Box 988, 3889 Rideau Valley Drive, Manotick ON K4M 1A8

Tel: 613-692-3571 or 1-800-267-3504 ext. 1116

Fax: 613-692-0831

info@rvcf.ca | www.rvcf.ca

Rideau Valley Conservation Authority — How to Reach Us

✉ Rideau Valley Conservation Authority

3889 Rideau Valley Drive, P.O. Box 599, Manotick ON K4M 1A5

☎ Tel. 613-692-3571

📠 Fax. 613-692-0831

@ postmaster@rvca.ca

🌐 www.rvca.ca

