



**2011** Rideau Valley  
Conservation Authority  
**ANNUAL REPORT**

## 2011 RVCA Board of Directors

- Jim Anderton, Merrickville-Wolford
- Lee Armstrong, Augusta
- Gerry Boyce, North Dundas
- John Campbell, Beckwith
- Vince Carroll, Montague
- Barclay Cormack, North Grenville
- David Crowley, Perth
- Gary Davison, South Frontenac
- Tom Dewey, Central Frontenac
- Rob Dunfield, Rideau Lakes
- Ken Graham, RVCA Vice-Chair  
Smiths Falls
- Andy Jozefowicz, Athens
- John H. Miller, Tay Valley
- No appointment, Clarence-Rockland
- Ray Scissons, Drummond/North Elmsley
- Lyle Pederson, Elizabethtown-Kitley
- Bradley Wing, Westport
- **City of Ottawa Appointees**
- Alan Arbuckle, RVCA Chair
- David Chernushenko
- Steve Curtis
- Steve Desroches
- Ed Hand
- Magda Kubasiewicz



Collecting and counting butternut nuts.



Local residents at Chapman Mills Conservation Area



Butternut scion collection



City Stream Watch Program



Planting and tending are services offered through the *Trees for Tomorrow* and *Green Acres* Programs



## A Message from our Chair and General Manager

2011 was another exciting and productive year for the RVCA. The year started with a move from a twelve member Board of Directors to full representation — a 22 member board with one member from each of our 16 municipalities and six representatives from the City of Ottawa (Clarence-Rockland declines appointment, but are always welcome to participate). We are delighted to say that this expanded representation has increased the RVCA's ability to provide local, grassroots, municipally-driven services.

We are fortunate to enjoy many partnerships that make our work exceptionally positive and productive. Thank you to all levels of government, NGOs, educational groups, businesses, foundations and the general public for your involvement and support of our work — work that supports our vision for clean water, natural shorelines and sustainable land use throughout the Rideau Valley watershed.

Thank you to our Board of Directors and staff. We are proud to be part of this dedicated group who strive to make the Rideau Watershed a healthy place in which to live, work and play.

We are pleased that our efforts support our member municipalities and watershed residents. We are at your service — providing reliable watershed information, experienced advice and cost-effective services in water and related land conservation. Working together we can do more and continue on our journey to achieve the critical balance between the needs of human activity while ensuring a healthy, sustainable watershed.

This is but a summary of our achievements. If you would like to learn more, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Alan Arbuckle, RVCA Chair  
Dell Hallett, RVCA General Manager



Beaver dam inventory at Scott's Snye, part of the Tay River

## 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

# Numbers and Sense — a summary of our achievements

## Watershed Science and Engineering Services

- **1,575** hours from **222** volunteers invested in Ottawa's City Stream Watch program; Pinecrest, Stevens and Becketts Creeks were sampled this year
- **59** sampling events on Pinecrest, Stevens and Becketts Creeks for fish community using various methods (electrofishing, seine netting, hoop netting, etc.)
- **3** invasive species removals on Graham, Stillwater and Greens Creeks
- **3** stream cleanups on Pinecrest, Sawmill and Graham Creeks
- **13** water temperature probes installed on Pinecrest, Stevens and Becketts Creeks
- **538** sections (53.8 kilometres) of watercourses sampled through the Macro Stream Assessment Program (**435** sections on Kemptville Creek, **75** section on North Branch and **28** sections on Barnes Creek)
- **13** headwater feature sampling locations in Barnes Creek subwatershed in the spring and summer
- **73** sampling events on Kemptville Creek, North Branch and Barnes Creek for fish community using various methods (electrofishing, seine netting, hoop netting, etc.)
- **13** water temperature probes installed on Kemptville Creek, North Branch and Barnes Creek
- **42** stream sites (spring and fall) and **15** lake (spring) sites sampled for water quality conditions using the Ontario Benthos Biomonitoring Network methodology (biology)
- **20** sites sampled in the Biocriteria Project which studies invertebrates, fish, mussels and dragonflies
- **10** municipal drains sampled for temperature profiling and **10** municipal drains sampled for fish and fish habitat
- **8** flood related Watershed Conditions statements, **3** Flood Advisory statements, **4** low water related Watershed Conditions statements
- **17** monitoring wells across the watershed sampled for **43** parameters that include nutrients and metals. These sites are also monitored for hourly water levels
- **14** volunteers taking water level and/or precipitation readings
- surveyed Long Lake outlet, Rosedale Creek and a tributary of the Rideau River for beaver dams
- established 100 year flood level for Otter, Otty, Bobs and Big Rideau Lakes; revisions completed on Kemptville Creek and Blueberry Creek

## Source Water Protection

Over the past six years valuable technical work showed us where our local drinking water comes from and where we should protect it. Throughout 2011, the Source Protection Committee worked closely

with all municipalities, key industry sectors, impacted property owners and the general public to draft policies that will keep contaminants out of our local sources of drinking water. Strong policies

will protect sources of municipal drinking water, while softer policies will help protect regional groundwater. This work is being done under the *Clean Water Act* and is funded by the province.



RVCA summer staff electrofish to determine the fish community in the watercourse

Newly constructed fish habitat at Chapman Mills Conservation Area — March and July 2011





Brown bullhead, a common Rideau fish species



Boardwalk at Chapman Mills Conservation Area



The Silversides log barn moves to Foley Mountain Conservation Area

- ongoing efforts to update flood mapping for Upper Rideau and Cardinal Creek (slated for completion in early 2012)
- started flood mapping Tay River from Glen Tay to Rideau Lake
- completed preventive maintenance to extend the service life of the Rideau River Lane Flood Control Wall
- published the Jock River Watershed Report Card and associated internet-accessible *Jock River Subcatchment Reports*
- launched the Hydrology Information System — RVCA's centralized, water quality data archives; available online at <http://his.rvca.ca>
- ongoing development of a science-based decommissioning and river rehabilitation project at Hearts Desire Weir on the Jock River
- completed an updated engineering evaluation of the condition of the Motts Mills Dam
- continued with the development of the *Hutton Marsh and Motts Mills Dam Restoration Project Plan*
- initiated the final design work for the first phase of the reconstruction of the Haggart Island Dams on the Tay River at Perth (construction to begin in fall 2012)

### Planning Advisory and Regulatory Services

- **1,353** planning applications, (minor variances, official plan amendments, zoning bylaw amendments, subdivision plans, etc.) reviewed and advice given to municipal approval authorities
- **299** applications processed under Section 28 of the *Conservation Authorities Act (Ontario Regulation 174/06 — Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses)*
- **650** general inquiries through the LandOwner Resource Centre by prospective purchasers looking for information on development constraints and environmental conditions on watershed properties
- **146** property clearance letters
- **132** fish habitat reviews completed under Section 35 of the federal *Fisheries Act*
- **12** years working in partnership with Fisheries and Oceans Canada under Section 25 of the *Fisheries Act* to protect fish habitat
- **707** permits processed at the Ottawa Septic System Office for new and replacement septic systems; **287** file searches for septic system information; **63** responses to septic complaints;
- **16** decommissioning applications processed

- **418** septic re-inspections completed by the Mississippi-Rideau Septic Office Central Frontenac (87), North Frontenac Township (81), Rideau Lakes Township (100), Tay Valley Township (131), Drummond/North Elmsley (19)
- **73** permits processed at the Mississippi-Rideau Septic System Office for new and replacement systems

### Conservation Land Services

- close to **\$100,000** raised through special funding agreements to reconstruct the historic Silversides barn at Foley Mountain
- **\$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
- **6,000** students enjoyed Baxter's Outdoor Education Programs
- **3,000** children enjoyed Foley Mountain's year-round education and summer programs
- **7** kilometres of hiking trails upgraded at two conservation areas
- **2,760** hectares of conservation land including **32** natural areas, **9** developed Conservation Areas and **11** management agreements are operated, maintained and serviced
- **1,000** children received in-school Spring Water Awareness Programming
- **1,750** people over-night at Foley and Baxter's interpretive centre, River Cabin and Foley and Baxter's group camping areas
- **500** trees planted at Baxter
- **685** summer visitors to the Foley Mountain Interpretive Centre
- **700** square feet of new platform installed for a lookout
- **200** children participated in Baxter's Children's Water Festivals
- **150** children enjoyed Baxter's Summer Day Camp
- **14** acres of newly acquired conservation land — protecting a portion of an important Provincially Significant Wetland
- **6** buildings renovated/refurbished as part of ongoing capital infrastructure improvements
- **2** draft Management Plans completed for the Perth Wildlife Reserve and Richmond Conservation Area
- **4** natural areas management plans completed

## Stewardship Services

- **4 MILLIONTH** tree was planted and celebrated in 2011
- **203,420** trees planted in 2011— highest annual planting since 1992; **\$369,191** in total value; **\$204,442** in non-landowner support money
- **20,000** trees planted for the Ontario Ministry of Transportation
- **\$37,000** raised in partnership with the Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation
- **21** financial sources for tree planting program
- attended a ceremonial tree plant with the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and the Governor General and his wife at Rideau Hall
- **779** sites visited to search for healthy butternuts; **421** healthy trees identified in database for seed collection; **19,500** seeds collected from DNA tested, healthy, pure butternut trees; **17** trees showing the signs of resistance in database
- **1,000** butternut seedlings planted throughout eastern Ontario in 2011; over **12,000** since 2006
- **150** grafts completed from 30 scions collected from five trees showing signs of resistance
  - **50** projects were approved through the Rideau Valley Rural Clean Water Program allocating **\$89,156**; **44** of these approved projects completed; total grants paid equal **\$78,061** to projects valued at **\$343,649**
  - **32** projects were approved through the Ottawa Rural Clean Water Grants Program, allocating **\$82,789**; **29** of these approved projects were completed; total grants paid equal **\$60,289** to projects valued at **\$207,599**
  - **19** projects were approved through Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program in the Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Region, allocating **\$102,066**; **17** of these approved projects were completed; total grants paid equal **\$96,151** to projects valued at **\$172,762**
  - **29** shoreline naturalization projects completed through the Shoreline Naturalization Program and Making Shorelines Natural Program; **7,639** bareroot trees and shrubs and **774** potted plants planted along **4.4** kilometres of shoreline with a project value of **\$42,524**; **54** site visits
  - **84** landowners contacted our Beaver Management Advisory Program in 2011 to register their beaver concerns and receive advice on beaver best management practices
  - **13** kilometres of the North Branch of Kemptville Creek managed for beaver (removal of beaver and breaching of dams) completed in partnership with local landowners and the municipalities of North Grenville and Merrickville-Wolford
  - surveyed Long Lake outlet, Rosedale Creek and a tributary of the Rideau River for beaver dams; anticipate future management in these areas in 2012



Making Shorelines Natural Program is planting native trees and shrubs along degraded shorelines

## Financing Conservation (unaudited)

### 2011 Expenses



### 2011 Revenue



2011 RVCF  
Board of Directors

- Mark Andrews
  - Bryan Baker
  - Mary A. Bryden, Vice Chair
  - Angela Deguire,  
Secretary-Treasurer
  - Dorothy Hearty
  - Lynn Kaplansky
  - Jason W.M. Kelly, Chair
  - Patricia MacGregor
  - Robert E. Smith
  - Donrey Anne Tirado
  - Rich Wilson
- 
- Charles Billington,  
Executive Director

# Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation

**R**ideau Valley Conservation Foundation is a registered environmental charity dedicated to supporting on-the-ground conservation projects right here in the valley of the Rideau River. For the comfort and satisfaction of our many donors, the Conservation Foundation is a proud member of Imagine Canada's Ethical Code Program and the Ontario and Canada Land Trust Alliance. These respected Canadian philanthropic groups provide training, guidance and certification in fair accounting, fundraising and land acquisition practices.

We have three main areas of interest called RiverCare, LandCare and Land Donations. The LandCare program was particularly active in 2011.

It is a pleasure to acknowledge and to thank the many hundreds of generous and community-minded donors who made a gift to conservation in 2011. We are very conscious of our responsibility to invest and to wisely use their valuable donations for the benefit of present and future generations of valley residents. We remain dedicated to improving the excellent quality of life we all enjoy through conservation work in the valley. The Board of the Foundation sincerely appreciates their continuing confidence in our programs.

## Highlights for 2011

- we launched the amazing Steve Simmering Conservation Land Endowment in 2011 with a matching gift program set up by a long time great friend of Steve; the financial results (thanks to Steve's remarkable legacy) far exceeded our expectations; the Simmering Fund is well on the way to becoming the most substantial land management endowment in Eastern Ontario
- we joined the good people at [canadahelps.org](http://canadahelps.org) website allowing our supporters to make secure online donations with speed, confidence and great success
- we were honoured with the continuing support of over 25 local businesses all of whom are recognized on the famous Partners in Conservation donor wall in the new Rideau Valley Conservation Centre in Manotick
- we are proud to join with planting and funding partners to help plant over 200,000 trees this year including our four millionth tree since 1983

RVCA Four Millionth Tree Planting Celebration at the Daniels property — July 12, 2011





## Foundation Highlights for 2011

- the new Memorial Tree Planting program was a very popular choice for people commemorating the loss of a family member or friend
- local business Kudrinko's Grocery, Rideau Valley Hearth & Home, Hudson-Burnbrae Foundation and Friends of Foley Mountain worked a miracle with a new fireplace insert for cold weather events on the mountain
- the Tri Valley Conservation Awards celebrated the voluntary achievements of 12 groups, families and businesses in the Mississippi, Rideau and South Nation watersheds with the valuable support of sponsors Mountain Equipment Co-op, AECOM, TD Friends of the Environment Foundation, Ottawa Regional Media Group and Rogers TV
- we were delighted to welcome some very generous gifts from the Rideau Lakes Environmental Foundation, Community Foundation of Ottawa, Community Foundation of Kingston & Area, Environment Canada's EcoAction program and Natural Resource Canada's Science Horizons Internship program
- we received the good news that the Conservation Foundation will be a recipient charity for the 2012 30th anniversary edition of the HOPE Summerfest Volleyball extravaganza to be held Saturday, July 14, 2012 on the shores of the Rideau River at Mooneys Bay, Ottawa; watch for more news as the plans unfold
- our biggest supporter of all and our major conservation partner is the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority who recognizes the value of investing in our long term objectives
- thanks to the generosity of the people of the Rideau Valley, the Foundation again surpassed our fundraising goal in 2011.



RIDEAU VALLEY  
CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

Love this beautiful, old valley like we do? We would be pleased to talk to you about a gift to conservation whether of property, funds or in-kind services ... please call or write for confidential advice and opportunities.

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## Rideau Valley Conservation Authority — How to Reach Us

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