



2013

Annual **Report**

Rideau Valley Conservation Authority



Board of Directors

Athens	Andy Jozefowicz
Augusta	Lee Armstrong
Beckwith	Sharon Mousseau
Central Frontenac	Tom Dewey
City of Ottawa	Alan Arbuckle
.....	David Chernushenko
.....	Steve Curtis
.....	Ed Hand
.....	Magda Kubasiewicz
.....	Scott Moffatt
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Drummond/North Elmsley	Ray Scissons
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Merrickville-Wolford	Jim Anderton
Montague	Vince Carroll
North Dundas	Gerry Boyce
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Rideau Lakes	Rob Dunfield
Smiths Falls	Ken Graham
South Frontenac	Pat Barr
Tay Valley	John H. Miller
Westport	Bradley Wing

Your Rideau Valley Conservation Authority

We are a community-based environmental protection agency that works to maintain and improve the natural resources in the Rideau watershed. These efforts are done in partnership with municipal, provincial and federal governments, landowners and other organizations — all at a shared cost well below what they would pay on their own. The RVCA builds resilient communities by promoting an integrated watershed approach — one that balances human, environmental and economic needs.

Our ongoing priorities:

1. IMPROVE water quality
2. PROTECT water supplies
3. MANAGE flood risk and erosion hazards
4. RESTORE watershed habitats
5. INCREASE conservation lands

For a more detailed picture of our work, including a list of staff, partners, programs and services, visit www.rvca.ca. Like us on facebook or follow us on Twitter (RideauValleyCA).



Message from our Chair and General Manager

We are pleased to present our 2013 Annual Report celebrating highlights of another remarkable year in the history of the RVCA. This report looks back at the results of our innovative and successful programs and services, and prepares us for new challenges and opportunities.

2013's success stories are a tribute to RVCA's long-standing General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer Dell Hallett. Dell's impressive 24 years of dedicated service built important partnerships and inspired outstanding contributions from staff. He has left a lasting legacy of capacity and competency allowing for significant environmental projects throughout the Rideau valley. Thank you Dell.

With over forty years of science-based information and knowledge of the Rideau watershed, the RVCA's next challenge is to ensure continuing relevance and value to member municipalities, partners and watershed residents. With strong, creative leadership, we will continue to impact and influence conservation while providing relevant, cost-effective, high impact programs that work towards a healthy and sustainable watershed.

Thank you to our member municipalities and board members for your tremendous support and direction.

Thank you to our enthusiastic and dedicated staff who strive to achieve the critical balance between the need for people to work, live and play, while ensuring a sustainable, healthy watershed for all to prosper in and enjoy.

To all of those who have partnered with us to assist us in fulfilling our conservation mission, we cannot thank you enough. Our ongoing success is driven by our many strong, creative partnerships.

We are on the right path but there is always more to do! We invite you to join us in protecting our great Rideau watershed and we look to new opportunities to serve you better in 2014 and beyond.

Ken Graham, Chair
Sommer Casgrain-Robertson, General Manager



Conservation Land Services

The RVCA manages conservation areas for strategic protection of vulnerable habitats and valuable natural resources. Over 2,300 hectares of sensitive natural environments are available for public use and enjoyment — providing local communities with affordable recreation, education and tourism opportunities.

Land Management

- **\$132,000** in donations raised in partnership with RVCF to offset land acquisition, conservation area development and stewardship activities
- **\$75,000** in capital infrastructure improvements
- **2,760** hectares of conservation land protected in the Rideau watershed
- **33** natural areas
- **12** management agreements operated, maintained and serviced
- **1,300** trees planted at three conservation areas
- **7** wildlife habitat features (turtle platforms/bird boxes) installed at two conservation areas
- **3** buckthorn management techniques used to pilot an invasive species program at Perth Wildlife Reserve

Conservation Areas

- **9** developed conservation areas
- **60,000** visitors
- **42** kilometres of trails maintained for public access
- **13** kilometres of hiking trails upgraded at 10 conservation areas

- **7** new visitor features (benches/maps/interpretive signs) added to three conservation areas
- **5,000** people used rental facilities at Foley Mountain and Baxter Conservation Areas' Interpretive Centres, Baxter River Cabin and group camping areas (more than double from 2012)
- **170** hazardous trees removed in public areas
- **5** docking structures installed, upgraded or maintained for RVCA and township partners

Education

- **5,000** students enjoyed Baxter's Outdoor Education Programs
- **3,100** people enjoyed Foley Mountain's year-round education and summer programs
- **280** children enjoyed Summer Day Camps at Baxter and Foley Mountain

*New pedestrian bridge opens at Chapman Mills on May 21, 2013.
Left to right: Ottawa City Councillor Steve Desroches, RVCF Chair Jason Kelly,
RVCA Chair Ken Graham and Molson Coors Representative Kyle Robertson*



Corporate Services

Corporate Services supports the authority, allowing it to perform its functions in an efficient and cost-effective manner. The department is responsible for strategic planning, budgeting, business improvement, human resources management, communications, member services, foundation support and administration.

2013 Highlights:

- **\$9** million dollar budget
- **65** staff to support
- **22** board members representing **17** member municipalities
- **325** hours of board members time invested in meetings
- **1** new General Manager recruited
- Communications tools (media releases, newsletters, brochures, municipal information sheets, displays, web and social media postings)

Planning Advisory and Regulatory Services



The RVCA believes that sound planning is a critical part of protecting our land and water. Our staff bring watershed science, provincial policies and guidelines and individual municipal needs together to meaningfully assist municipal decision-makers in building and sustaining local communities. The RVCA also acts as an approval authority for development on hazard lands affected by flood, steep slopes or unstable soil. We regulate construction in environmentally sensitive areas such as in and around wetlands and along shorelines and waterways. Experienced and well-trained RVCA staff also approve the construction, enlargement or alteration of septic systems throughout the City of Ottawa and Tay Valley Township. Septic re-inspection services are also performed in several “lake country” municipalities.

Section 28 Conservation Authorities Act

- **249** Section 28 applications
- **95** percent of applications approved with 10 applications outstanding
- **3** hearings before the Executive Committee —
 - 1** approved, **2** denied, (**2** appealed to the Minister of Natural Resources, **1** appeal withdrawn by the appellant)
- **47** percent of all applications related to “development” on hazard lands, **48** percent related to “alteration to waterway” and **5** percent of all applications related to “wetland Interference”
- **49** percent of all applications on Rideau River between Smiths Falls and Rideau Falls
- **17** percent of all applications on Ottawa River and tributaries
- **69** percent of applications within the City of Ottawa (**27** percent within Rideau Ward, **19** percent within Nepean Ward, **14** percent in Gloucester Ward and **10** percent in Goulbourn Ward)
- **51** Complaint/Occurrence reports filed which either resulted in immediate resolution or determined not a violation under regulatory jurisdiction
- **1** charge and conviction under Section 28 which resulted in fine and removal order
- **152** written responses on property transactions/legal inquiries
- **680** general inquiries
- **12+** municipal drain maintenance authorizations issued under new Provincial Standard Compliance Protocol process

Planning Advisory Reviews

- **1,143** zoning amendments
- **599** consent to sever
- **450** minor variances
- **266** lawyer/general inquiries
- **128** site plan control applications
- **27** official plan amendments
- **22** condominium applications
- **21** subdivision applications
- **14** *Environmental Assessment Act* Technical Advisory Committee input
- **10** environmental assessments for MOE Permits to Take Water
- **1** official plan review (City of Ottawa)

Septic System Approvals

- **579** applications for new or replacement septic systems, **523** in Ottawa, **56** in Tay Valley
- **66** Part 10 Renovation applications in Ottawa and Tay Valley
- **431** septic re-inspections completed in Drummond/ North Elmsley (**3**), North Frontenac (**62**), Rideau Lakes(**100**) and Tay Valley Township (**201**)
- **42** Part 11 Occurrence Reports in Ottawa and Tay Valley
- **322** file search requests through the OSSO
- **16** Part 10/11 Renovation applications and Occurrence Reports through the MRSSO

RVCA's Rural Clean Water Program at work, invasive plant removal
Each year the RVCA plants 238,450 healthy, native trees





Stewardship Services



RVCA strives to protect and enhance the Rideau Valley watershed's natural resources. We undertake environmental protection programs that will leave a healthy and sustainable environment for future generations. Programs such as reforestation, landowner incentive programs, landowner information services, shoreline restoration, wetland enhancement and species at risk support help us achieve this goal. We are delighted to work with private landowners, lake associations, NGOs, Friends of groups, businesses, government agencies and the general public to make direct improvements to the health of the watershed. Working with others, we divide the task and double the success!

Tree Planting

- **238,450** trees planted (the most since 1992)
- **\$497,600** in project value
- **\$296,400** fundraised to offset planting costs for landowners

Shoreline Naturalization

- **36** shoreline naturalization projects completed through the Shoreline Naturalization Program
- **\$90,070** total project value; **(\$32,685)** external fundraising for project dollars
- **8,837** native plants planted including **2,210** potted plants
- **1.9** kilometres of shoreline naturalized
- **711** volunteer hours by **261** volunteers (in partnership with City Stream Watch)

- **1,360** landowners directly contacted
- **2** Shoreline Naturalization Program community presentations

Clean Water

- **74** projects were approved through the Rideau Valley Rural Clean Water Program, allocating \$139,761; **40** of these approved projects were completed, and the remaining are expected to be completed in 2014; total grants of \$58,472 were delivered to projects valued at \$299,643
- **39** projects were approved through the Ottawa Rural Clean Water Program, allocating \$149,738; **20** of these approved projects were completed, and the remaining are expected to be completed in 2014; total grants of \$63,026 were delivered to projects valued at \$441,847
- **29** projects were approved through the Ontario Drinking

*Abbott Point of Care/NCC Shoreline Naturalization Project
Restricted livestock access with a riparian buffer*

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Water Stewardship Program in the Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Region from 2012 to 2013, allocating \$130,630; 20 of these approved projects were completed; total grants of \$65,193 were delivered to projects valued at \$156,502

Habitat

- 3 bioengineering and 4 wildlife habitat enhancement projects (in partnership with City Stream Watch) including turtle nest installments, bird boxes and fish habitat enhancement with in-water woody debris

Beaver Management

- 24 landowners received advice on beaver management best management practices
- Beaver dam surveys were carried out on Cranberry Creek and South Branch of Kemptville Creek
- RVCA continued a partnership with landowners to manage beavers and dams on North Branch of Kemptville creek and at the outlet of Otter Lake
- RVCA carried out beaver and dam removal at the Motts Mill dam to protect the water control structure and Jebbs creek at Perth Wildlife Reserve to prevent high water levels in Otty Lake

Volunteer measuring water temperature and oxygen levels



RVCA staff sampling a headwater drainage feature site on Ramsay Creek



Otty Lake fish habitat enhancement





Watershed Science & Engineering Services



Water Science and Engineering team collects, monitors and analyses watershed information. Understanding our watershed helps us to better manage and protect our resources. Failure to adequately recognize and incorporate the value of our natural services into decisions about the use and management of watershed resources will reduce the net benefits that societies receive from watersheds. RVCA provides these services watershed-wide for its member municipalities at a shared cost. It avoids duplication and allows for effective, efficient and expert products for municipalities.

Floodplain Mapping

- **60** kilometres of Ottawa River flood mapping
- **18** kilometres of Tay River flood mapping (Glen Tay to Rideau Lakes)
- **15** kilometres of Rideau River flood mapping (Hogs Back to Rideau Falls)

Monitoring

- **1,167** hours of volunteer work by **329** volunteers for the City Stream Watch program
- **360** hours donated by **25+** lake steward volunteers to help monitor and sample Watershed Watch Lakes
- **111** drainage feature assessments sites in the Rideau Lakes watershed
- **79** headwater drainage feature assessments on City Stream watch streams
- **55** sites sampled for the RVCA Baseline Monitoring Program which monitors the water chemistry on major tributary streams each month from April to November
- **45** stream sites (spring and fall) and **4** lake sites (spring) sampled for water quality conditions using the Ontario Benthos Biomonitoring Network methodology (biology)
- **39** lakes monitored 4 times each from May to November to sample nutrients, *E. coli* and key physical parameters through the Watershed Watch Program
- **15** water temperature probes installed
- **29** fish sampling sites on Cranberry, Borthwick, Ramsay, Hunt Club and Voyageur Creeks
- **16** provincial groundwater monitoring wells maintained — recording hourly groundwater levels and temperature; regular manual water levels are measured; and over 50 water quality parameters are analysed annually
- **10** lakes mapped for littoral zone habitat in the Rideau Lakes watershed
- **8** sites sampled in the Biocriteria Project which studies water quality, benthic invertebrates, and fish

Electrofishing

City Stream Watch volunteers sampling for fish in Ramsay Creek

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- **6** water temperature probes installed and **13** fish sampling sites on Barr, Sicklers and Adrains Creeks in Rideau Lakes subwatershed
- **2** demonstration events (Ultimate Aquatic Workshop and Tay Discovery Day)

Water Control Infrastructure

- Memorandum of Agreement between RVCA and Ducks Unlimited Canada approved by the RVCA Board of Directors for the design and construction of a new water control structure to replace the existing dam at Motts Mills
- On-going development of a science-based decommissioning and river rehabilitation project at Hearts Desire Weir on the Jock River

Reporting

- **14** Tay River Catchment Reports completed
- **1** Lower Rideau Subwatershed Report completed
- **16** Lower Rideau Catchment Reports completed

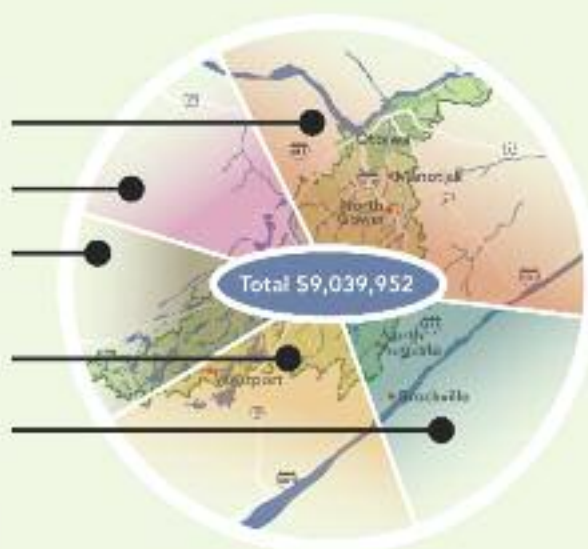
Enhancements

- **8** invasive species removals on Graham, Stillwater, Taylor, Nepean, Stevens and Greens Creeks
- **5** stream cleanups on Taylor, Sawmill, Bilberry and Greens Creeks (**2.5** kilometres of streams cleaned)
- **1** bioengineering project completed at Graham Creek
- **1** fish enhancement project Stillwater creek
- **1** fish habitat enhancement project Otty Lake
- Collaborative work with lake associations, lake/river dwellers and users, municipalities, other conservation authorities to find funding and resources to deal with excessive algae and plant growth

Financing Conservation

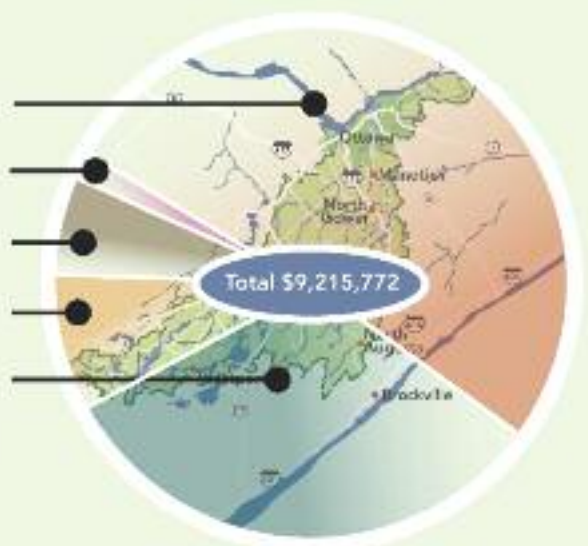
2013 Expenses

Watershed Science and Engineering Services	\$3,085,862
Corporate Services	\$1,203,523
Conservation Land Management Services	\$1,203,518
Stewardship Service	\$1,969,228
Planning Advisory and Regulatory Services	\$1,577,821
Total Expenses	\$9,039,952



2013 Revenues

Municipal Levy	\$4,770,000
Capital Projects	\$124,055
Provincial Grants	\$552,784
Special Levy	\$790,979
Program Revenue	\$2,977,954
Total Expenses	\$9,215,772





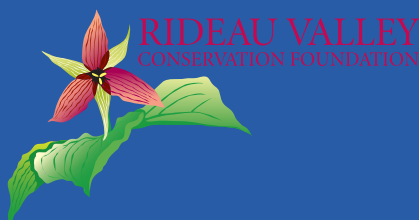
Rain Barrel sale Smiths Falls — May 11, 2013



Naturalizing Stillwater Creek — May 10, 2013

2013 RVCF Board of Directors

- Mark Andrews (to Sept. 2013)
- Bryan Baker
- Mary A. Bryden (Vice Chair)
- Angela Deguire (Secretary Treasurer)
- Andrew Harkness
- Dorothy Hearty
- Lynn Kaplansky
- Jason W.M. Kelly (Chair)
- Mike Lascelles
- Anne Simmering
- R.E. (Bob) Smith
- Katherine Thomas (from Sept. 2013)
- Donrey Anne Tirado (to Sept. 2013)
- Rich Wilson



Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation

We are a local, accountable, registered environmental charity dedicated to supporting on-the-ground conservation projects right here in the valley of our own Rideau River. For the comfort and confidence of our many donors, the Conservation Foundation is a proud and practicing member of Imagine Canada and the Ontario and Canada Land Trust Alliances. These respected philanthropic groups provide training, guidance and certification in fair accounting, fundraising and land acquisition practices.

It is a pleasure to acknowledge and thank the many hundreds of generous and community-minded people who made a gift to conservation in 2013. We sincerely appreciate your continuing confidence in our conservation programs.

Highlights for 2013:

- We continue to enjoy the confidence of several land development companies who use the Foundation's Species at Risk Compensation Program services to compensate for the unavoidable loss of Butternut or Bobolink during their business activities
- We are fortunate to have the continuing support of over 25 local businesses all of whom are recognized on our famous Partners in Conservation wall in our Manotick office
- Rain barrels were big business in 2013 with successful sales in Manotick, Smiths Falls and Westport; thanks to the Town of Smiths Falls and the Westport In Bloom Committee for being our local conservation partners at those sales
- We were proud to join our planting and funding partners to help put over 225,000 young new trees in the ground throughout the valley last year
- Foundation endowment funds continue to grow providing some very welcome revenue streams for land and water conservation work throughout the valley
- We are proud to report that Foundation Chair, Ottawa businessman and philanthropist Jason Kelly was appointed to Imagine Canada's Advisory Council, the national charitable organization which supports and strengthens charities across Canada
- We were delighted to work with Abbott Point of Care and the National Capital Commission to improve and naturalize a long section of Stillwater Creek in western Ottawa and look forward to other cost-effective conservation work in and around Ottawa's Greenbelt

- We are pleased to welcome Nav Canada and Capital Junk Inc. as these two important corporate citizens made parts of their local operations "carbon neutral" in 2013 through tree planting
- The Foundation Board of Directors would like to thank the staff and Board of the Conservation Authority for all of their generous support and encouragement in 2013; we are honoured to recognize the RVCA as our biggest supporter and our major conservation partner
- And thanks to the generosity of the people of the Rideau Valley, the Foundation again surpassed our fundraising goal in 2013!

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. We can match your gift objectives with some very meaningful and long lasting conservation projects that all will enjoy ...

Contact us

Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation
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Tel. 613-692-3571 ext. 1116 or 1-800-267-3504 ext. 1116
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info@rvcf.ca | www.rvcf.ca



over 225,000 young new trees were planted in 2013

How to reach us

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Otty Lake