



RIDEAU VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY WATERSHED BRIEFS

August 2014

A newsletter for municipal councillors

2014 Board of Directors

Andy Jozefowicz *Athens*

Lee Armstrong *Augusta*

Sharon Mousseau *Beckwith*

Tom Dewey *Central Frontenac*

No appointment

Clarence-Rockland

Ray Scissons

Drummond/North Elmsley

Lyle Pederson

Elizabethtown-Kitley

Jim Anderton

Merrickville-Wolford

Vince Carroll *Montague*

Gerry Boyce *North Dundas*

Barclay Cormack *North Grenville*

Jim Boldt *Perth*

Rob Dunfield *Rideau Lakes*

Ken Graham, RVCA Chair

Smiths Falls

Pat Barr *South Frontenac*

Brian Campbell *Tay Valley*

Bradley Wing *Westport*

City of Ottawa

David Chernushenko

Steve Curtis

Ed Hand, RVCA Vice Chair

Rick Henderson

Magda Kubasiewicz

Scott Moffatt

Highlight on Habitat *building healthy, resilient communities . . .*

RVCA is involved in several unique and innovative habitat improvement projects. Although identified as projects that generally improve fish habitat, the improvements are always well beyond just one benefit. The benefits include improved erosion control, runoff protection, bird and mammal habitat, public education and more — small steps to improving municipal health and making communities resilient.

Rideau River & Brewer Park Pond — Together Again!

The formerly land-locked Brewer Park Pond will be reunited with the Rideau River after an almost fifty-year separation. The pond will undergo an ecological face lift and return to being a naturally-functioning habitat for all kinds of wildlife. The project will increase biodiversity by creating a vibrant wetland and pond with shoreline plantings that will become homes for birds, amphibians, turtle nesting beds and basking logs all connected to the main channel of the Rideau River. Work will take about eight weeks beginning this fall. There will be a community shoreline planting day in spring 2015. This innovative restoration is part of a compensation project where local developers are covering costs and improving Rideau habitat. It is the result of numerous partners and community input and support (jennifer.lamoureux@rvca.ca). Thanks to project partners including MINTO, Richcraft, the City of Ottawa, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Muskies Canada, the Institute of Environmental Science at Carleton University and the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority. Hats off to the Ottawa South Community Association which was vital in bringing the residents and the partners together to ensure a project with environmental and social benefits acceptable to the community.

Special note: This project was highlighted at the International Muskellunge Symposium hosted in Ottawa on August 15.

Otty Lake — the Results Are in and They're Great!

In October 2013 Phase I of the Otty Lake Fish Habitat Enhancement Project installed 92 gravel spawning beds 40 feet apart and spread out across almost a kilometre on the bottom of Otty Lake. The team also submerged and anchored 150 recycled Christmas trees on the bed of the lake (over 4.5 metres deep) in several designated areas. This underwater material will provide areas where fish can rest, find shelter and feed. Recent monitoring of the project is showing impressive results. Of the 43 visible nests, 38 were in use with a male bass guarding the nest. The remaining nests were in deeper water and could not be confirmed.

Phase II of the project is scheduled for this September when more gravel spawning beds and another 150 Christmas trees will be added. In addition, boulders at various nests will be installed to provide cover for the guarding male bass and his offspring. Everyone is thrilled with the early successes of Phase I and look forward to similar results for Phase II. Another great partnership between the Otty Lake Association and the RVCA (jennifer.lamoureux@rvca.ca).

Upcoming Board of Director's Meetings

Thursday, September 25, 2014
7:00 p.m. at the RVCA
Conservation Centre
in Manotick

More Good Reading:

- *Municipal World*, August 2014
- Is Your Municipality Storm Ready?
- When Opportunity Splashes
"Water flows across municipal, provincial, and international lines without regard for our maps — or politics . . . watershed governance has important implications for the future."

Jock River Fish Habitat Embayment Creation Project

What was once a grassed park area is being transformed into a small wetland embayment along the shore of the Jock River. Located at the Richmond Conservation Area, this new wetland feature will create 1,000 m² of new spawning, nursery, rearing and feeding for the 40 species of fish that side in the Jock River. Great partners make it all possible: Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Environment Canada, National Defence Fish and Game Club, Community Foundation of Ottawa, Fendock and the Ottawa Flyfishers Society.



Reforestation 2014

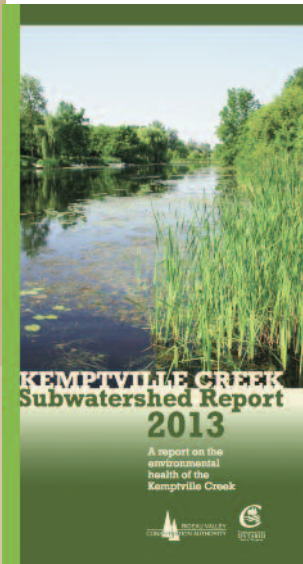
300,000 trees were planted this spring — 70,000 within the City of Ottawa. The remaining 230,000 were planted in rural areas throughout the watershed.

OUR SERVICES ARE YOUR SERVICES

The RVCA, on behalf of its watershed municipalities, offers a number of services directly to municipal residents.

We are always looking to reach-out to your residents to get more participation. Want to help? Contact SCOTT at ext. 1175 or scott.danford@rvca.ca.

Good Reading: Kemptville Creek Subwatershed Report



A concise report summarizing the health of the Kemptville Creek subwatershed looking at five indicators — water quality, water levels, forests, shorelines and wetlands is available. Residents and subwatershed municipalities, including Augusta, Elizabethtown-Kitley, Merrickville-Wolford and North Grenville, now have a reliable set of baseline information for tracking future trends and a tool to enable sound decision-making about local natural resources.

The Kemptville Creek Subwatershed is the third largest tributary of the Rideau River. Kemptville Creek is formed by the confluence of two forks, the North Branch and the South Branch. Together they drain a fairly flat farming district of 456 square kilometres with many large wetlands, healthy woodlands and fertile crop lands. Although in relatively good shape, the report calls for increased attention to water quality concerns in Barnes Creek, continued beaver management and the protection of forests and wetlands. Data shows that Kemptville Creek is enviable with its lush, green, natural shorelines. The goal is to simply keep things as natural as possible and let natural features and functions do what they do best.

This report is the fifth in a new series for each of the Rideau Valley's six subwatersheds which include Middle Rideau (2009), Jock River (2010), Tay River (2011) and Lower Rideau (2012). This coming year will see the completion of the sixth and final report on the Rideau Lakes subwatershed which will be ready for release in February 2015.

More detailed "Catchment Sheets" are also available for smaller parts of the subwatershed. Kemptville catchments include the Town of Kemptville, Barnes Creek, Oxford Mills, North Branch, South Branch and Mud Creek. These catchment sheets are available online with the larger subwatershed report at www.rvca.ca under "Watershed Information." (martin.czarski@rvca.ca)

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