

RIDEAU VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY WATERSHED BRIEFS

July 2011

A newsletter for municipal councillors

2011 Board of Directors

Andy Jozefowicz *Athens*

Lee Armstrong *Augusta*

John Campbell *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*

David Crowley *Perth*

Rob Dunfield *Rideau Lakes*

Ken Graham, RVCA Vice-Chair

Smiths Falls

Gary Davison *South Frontenac*

John H. Miller *Tay Valley*

Bradley Wing *Westport*

City of Ottawa

Alan Arbuckle, RVCA Chair

David Chernushenko

Steve Desroches

Ed Hand

two vacant seats

Four Millionth Tree Planting Celebration

The RVCA celebrated a major milestone on July 12 — the planting of its four millionth tree. Thanks to our member municipalities and the many community-minded funding partners who made it all possible. Over \$5 million has been raised to support tree planting in our watershed since the program started back in 1983. The total value of these reforestation efforts, including landowner contributions, is closer to \$6.5 million. On-the-ground, this means 4,500 acres of idle or marginal land have been reforested. Special thanks to Kent and Dawn Daniels for hosting this special event. The Daniels have participated in two RVCA tree planting projects — greening six hectares with 12,000 tamarack, white spruce, white pine and other native species (dan.cooper@rvca.ca).

Interested in planting trees? Our generous incentive grants can reduce land owner costs by up to 90 percent and includes costs on tree seedlings, site preparation, planting and tending costs.



Biocriteria Project

This summer, the RVCA is monitoring 20 sites across the watershed for aquatic species at risk in south-eastern Ontario. This means staff are conducting steam surveys at 20 sites to find and inventory mussels, fish and invertebrates that are species at risk. A detailed habitat description and threats inventory will be provided for all sites. Once all data is collected and analyzed, a summary report will follow. This work is being done in collaboration with South Nation Conservation, City of Ottawa, Mississippi Valley Conservation, Cataraqui Region Conservation, Quinte Conservation, Ontario Ministry of Environment and Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. Contact JENNIFER for more at jennifer.lamoureux@rvca.ca.

Septic Smart 2 — Understanding Advanced Treatment Systems

All the guidance you need on a conventional septic system is available in *Septic Smart — A Homeowner's Guide to Septic Systems*, but what about advanced treatment systems? More and more homeowners are trying new technology offered in advanced treatment systems, but what does it all mean? The Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs and the technical and design staff at the RVCA have once again teamed up to produce a new booklet for landowners. *Septic Smart! Advanced Treatment Systems — Alternatives to Conventional Septic Systems*, is a twelve page booklet that introduces various treatment systems, how they work and what they offer. To get your free copy, contact the RVCA's LandOwner Resource Centre at 613-692-3571 ext. 1126 or ext. 1132 or you can download a copy at www.rvca.ca under "What's New" (diane.downey@rvca.ca).

Royal Visit and the RVCA

RVCA staff and volunteers were invited to attend a ceremonial tree plant hosted by the Right Honourable David Johnston Governor General and Mrs. Sharon Johnston at Rideau Hall on July 2. What was especially exciting about this event was part of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge's inaugural Royal Tour of Canada. Less than one hundred guests were invited, making it an opportunity to meet and greet the Duke and Duchess (diane.downey@rvca.ca).

Board of Director's Meetings

Thursday, August 25, 2011
Location to be announced

Now Available online

@ www.rvca.ca
under "What's New:"

- *Septic Smart! Advanced Treatment Systems — Alternatives to Conventional Septic Systems*
- Otter Lake Regulatory Flood Level Report
- 2010 Jock River Subwatershed Report

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Electrofishing at RVCA

RVCA Watershed Science and Engineering staff use electrofishing to gather information on fish communities. It helps determine the various species in a watercourse. Electrofishing uses electricity to temporarily stun fish in order to allow them to be netted. When performed correctly, electrofishing results in no permanent harm to fish. Once the fish are measured and weighed they are live released and are returned back to the watercourse. Staff recently held a electrofishing demonstration for RVCA Board Members to show them how it is done (jennifer.lamoureux@rvca.ca).



1



2



3



4

1. RVCA staff demonstrate electrofishing.
2. smallmouth bass
3. pumpkinseed sunfish
4. Board members check out an invasive species.

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Did you know the RVCA . . .

- . . . **raised over \$160,000 through special funding agreements to support watershed Conservation Areas?**
Special enhancement projects include wheelchair accessible washrooms, new education platforms for wetland pond studies, interpretive signs and more.
- . . . **has over 60,000 visitors to watershed Conservation Areas?**
- . . . **owns over 2,365 hectares of public land including nine developed Conservation Areas?**
- . . . **offers an economical \$45 annual pass (per vehicle) to RVCA developed Conservation Areas?**
Call us at extension 1100 to get your annual pass today!