



RIDEAU VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY WATERSHED BRIEFS

April 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

Spring 2011 Water Levels — Rideau River

We have hopefully seen the last of the fast, high water for the spring. The peak flow on the Rideau at Ottawa was very close to the long-term average flow for the past 40 years. The same held true for the Tay River. The Jock River peaked slightly below average and the Kemptville Creek was slightly above average.

Flow Comparison

River	2011	Long-term Average
Rideau	359 cms	364 cms
Jock	79 cms	92 cms
Kemptville	57 cms	49 cms
Becketts Landing	86.42 masl	86.12 masl

cms = cubic metres per second
masl = metres above sea level

LandOwner Resource Centre

RVCA's LandOwner Resource Centre offers personalized, specialized information and support to residents of the watershed for specific projects (building a dock, shoreline protection) or specific properties (am I in the flood plain?). You and your residents are invited to call 613-692-3571 or 1-800-267-3504 ext 1128 or ext. 1132 or info@lrconline.com for one-stop answers to your land and water questions. (kellie.adams@rvca.ca)

Urban Well Decommissioning Eligible for Funding

With the launch of the new Ottawa Rural Clean Water Grants Program comes news that funding will now be provided for urban well decommissioning. The City of Ottawa has committed an additional \$50,000 to the current annual program budget, which is dedicated to addressing these projects. This change will provide a greater opportunity for the residents of Ottawa to participate in the program, and to help protect local water quality. For more information visit ottawa.ca/cleanwater, or to register, contact the LandOwner Resource Centre at 613-692-3571 or 1-800-267-3504 ext 1128 or 1132 or info@lrconline.com. (derek.matheson@rvca.ca)

Britannia Village Flood Control Project

The Rideau Valley Conservation Authority, in cooperation with the City of Ottawa, has started the planning and design process for the Britannia Village Flood Control Project. This project will protect parts of the Britannia Village community that would otherwise be affected by flooding during future Ottawa River floods. Its purpose is to reduce expected property damages, public safety risks and inconvenience in this existing community during flood events up to and including the 1:100 year flood.

In September 2007, City of Ottawa Council approved a funding arrangement for a remedial flood control project. The Rideau Valley Conservation Authority has agreed to undertake the design, construction and long-term management of the flood control system.

A Community Liaison Committee has been formed with the support of Ward Councillor Mark Taylor and his staff. For more information, visit www.rvca.ca/britannia. (bruce.reid@rvca.ca)

Next Board of Director's Meeting

Thursday, May 26, 2011
Foley Mountain Conservation Area
in Westport at 7:00 pm

Special Event

Foley Mountain Community
Conservation Celebration
May 26, 2011
4:30 to 5:00 pm — Meet & Greet
5:00 to 5:30 pm — Presentations
5:30 pm — Barbecue
6:00 pm — Friends of Foley AGM
7:00 pm — RVCA BOD

Now Available:

- City Stream Watch Report 2010
@ www.rvca.ca — Under
"What's New"

Coming Soon:

- 2010 Ontario Benthos
Biomonitoring Network
Summary Reports
- Jock River Watershed
Report Card
- Who To Call in the Lower Rideau
— Information Sheet

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Macro Stream Assessment

This summer, aquatic habitat staff will be surveying Kemptville Creek, North Branch and Barnes Creek. The Macro Stream Assessment program collects information on the physical and biological attributes of surveyed streams. Each assessment involves staff surveying 100 metre sections of the stream from the top of the watercourse to the bottom. The information collected includes adjacent land use patterns, riparian conditions, bank stability, bank vegetation, instream vegetation and structure, fish and wildlife, invasive species presence, garbage and pollution. Restoration and habitat enhancement opportunities are also identified. The fish community structure and thermal regime will be assessed at various locations on each system. The information collected will support the catchment data sheets and the subwatershed reports that are produced. (jennifer.lamoureux@rvca.ca)

RVCA Aquatic Habitat Staff have surveyed over 675 kilometres of tributaries throughout the watershed.



Keeping an Eye on City Streams

The City Stream Watch Program

The 2011 City Stream Watch Program is in full swing. This year, the program is resurveying Beckett's Creek, Pinecrest Creek and Steven's Creek. The popular program relies on volunteer scientists to survey the natural features of our Ottawa streams. Volunteers also help with stream clean-ups and rehabilitation projects. The work being done is incredible with 216 volunteers contributing 1,422 hours to the program in 2010. For 2010 results, download a copy of the *City Stream Watch Annual Report* at www.rvca.ca under "What's New." Thanks to our many keen volunteers and our program partners for their continued support: City of Ottawa, Heron Park Community Association, Ottawa Flyfishers Society, Ottawa Stewardship Council, Rideau River Roundtable and National Defense HQ – Fish and Game Club. (julia.sutton@rvca.ca)

Bugs Help Monitor Health of Local Watercourses

Ontario Benthos Biomonitoring Network (OBBN)

Bugs are great barometers of pollution. Some can tolerate pollution while others are very sensitive to instream pollution. By sampling stream-bottom invertebrates (caddisflies, mayflies, crayfish, snails, beetles, aquatic worms, etc.) the RVCA can determine, over time, changes in stream water conditions and levels of pollution. The RVCA has been sampling stream-bottom invertebrates since 2003. This biological method complements the RVCA's water chemistry sampling programs.

Sampling is done once in May and once in October using a standard "kick and sweep method" with a D-net. Three samples are taken at each sample site. They are preserved and brought back to the lab for identification.

The data from 2003 to 2010, along with previous summary reports, will be on the RVCA's website by the end of May. (jennifer.lamoureux@rvca.ca)

In 2010, RVCA staff sampled 38 streams in the spring and fall and 15 lake sites in the spring throughout the watershed.