

RIDEAU VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY WATERSHED BRIEFS

June 2012

A newsletter for municipal councillors

2012 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*
 David Crowley *Perth*
 Rob Dunfield *Rideau Lakes*
 Ken Graham, RVCA Chair
Smiths Falls
 Mark Tinlin *South Frontenac*
 John H. Miller *Tay Valley*
 Bradley Wing *Westport*

City of Ottawa

Alan Arbuckle, RVCA Past Chair
 David Chernushenko
 Steve Curtis
 Steve Desroches
 Ed Hand, RVCA Vice Chair
 Magda Kubasiewicz

Are your Municipal Residents using our Services?

Simple answer — YES! The RVCA, on behalf of its watershed municipalities, offers a number of services to municipal residents. Over the next few issues of *Watershed Briefs*, we'll look at some of our services, their use and benefits within our watershed municipalities.

Reforestation Program

Our Private Land Reforestation Program offers a full service, professional tree planting program to all landowners in the watershed. Since 1983, over 4.4 million trees have been planted. The cost to landowners is nominal — sometimes free! The program is heavily supported by fundraising and sponsorship dollars — which means your municipality is getting greener and healthier for a very low cost. And even if your municipal residents aren't able to participate in this program (two to five acres of suitable land in our villages and towns can be a challenge), rest assured they benefit from the actions of their upstream neighbours.

The program is looking to plant 300,000 trees in spring 2013 — we just need the landowners. Please help spread the word about this exceptional opportunity to reforest idle or marginal land.

Our tree planting program is proud to be *your* municipal tree planting program — our services are your services!

| Municipality | Number of trees planted in 2012 | Number of trees planted 1983 to 2012 |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Athens | 0 | 0 |
| Augusta | 0 | 3,000 |
| Beckwith | 8,900 | 80,250 |
| Central Frontenac | 0 | 4,800 |
| City of Ottawa | 81,450 | 2,615,227 |
| Clarence-Rockland | 3,200 | 5,200 |
| Drummond/North Elmsley | 13,910 | 301,585 |
| Elizabethtown-Kitley | 34,550 | 321,480 |
| Merrickville-Wolford | 0 | 17,700 |
| Montague | 4,500 | 412,385 |
| North Dundas | 0 | 8,380 |
| North Grenville | 15,800 | 63,700 |
| Perth | 0 | 0 |
| Rideau Lakes | 9,400 | 58,778 |
| Smiths Falls | 0 | 500 |
| South Frontenac | 4,300 | 47,230 |
| Tay Valley | 19,100 | 298,510 |
| Westport | 0 | 0 |
| Mississippi Valley Planting | 37,790 | 191,905 |
| TOTAL: | 232,900 | 4,430,630 |

RVCA Board of Directors Meeting

TBA
Contact michelle.paton@rvca.ca
for details.

**Mississippi - Rideau
Source Protection
Committee Meeting**

Thursday, July 26, 2012
1:00 p.m.

Recommended Reading

*Think Like A Watershed — How
would watershed governance change
if we made decisions from an
ecosystem perspective?*
WATERCANADA, May/June 2012

Reforestation Highlights:

- ▶ 232,900 trees planted in 2012
- ▶ \$481,901.81 in project value (land owner cash and in-kind work, fundraising, RVCA project delivery)
- ▶ \$276,497.81 of fundraised or non-land owner money used to complete the projects.
- ▶ 5:1 return on municipal levy invested in the program.
- ▶ Average cost is 15 cents per tree or \$600 for five acres.
- ▶ The RVCA's program is quickly becoming the guiding model for other private land reforestation programs across the province.

Want to learn more about this program? Call us, we'd be more than happy to visit your council and tell you all about it.

Dan Cooper, Forestry Program Manager
ext. 1124 or dan.cooper@rvca.ca

Why Plant Trees?

- Soil and water conservation
- Stabilized slopes, erosion control
- Enhanced wildlife habitat
- Increased biodiversity
- Visual and noise barriers
- Valuable winter windbreaks for people, livestock and wildlife
- Reduced heating and cooling costs — less wind, more shade
- Practical "hands-on" way to reduce greenhouse gasses (CO₂) and produce oxygen (O₂)
- Wood products: lumber, sawlogs, firewood, nuts, fruit, maple syrup
- Recreational areas
- Increased crop yields (windbreaks/shelterbelts)
- Increased property values
- Economically viable land use for abandoned or unused fields
- Tax incentive programs
- Aesthetic beauty and distinctive character to rural landscapes
- Maintain a healthy watershed

Healthy environment, healthy economy, healthy communities!

"Even in Canada — where the majority of people still believe in the myth of water abundance — realization of the crucial role water plays for social, economic, and ecological prosperity is fostering new ideas. Mounting concern about the sustainability of our water future, coupled with a growing interest from communities and citizens, is driving the demand for more local engagement in decisions.

Ontario's CA network is one of Canada's oldest established watershed-based organizations — clearly and deliberately organized on a watershed scale. For more than 50 years, CAs have been promoting an integrated watershed focus that balances human, environmental, and economic needs.

Like many successful long-lived institutions, CAs have changed and adapted over time. In the early days, flood control was their primary focus. Over time though, they have evolved to build successful partnerships within and across Ontario's watersheds, while actively and sustainably managing water resources. Most recently, they have broadened their focus to include source water protection and an increased priority around conservation. In other areas, such as Alberta, Quebec and Canada's North, the emergence of watershed-scaled governance is a much more recent trend. Each of these regions will offer valuable insights, best practices, and lessons as their various "experiments" to address the water challenges of the 21st century continue to develop and evolve."

Excerpts from *Think Like a Watershed — How would watershed governance change if we made decisions from an ecosystem perspective?*
WaterCanada, May/June 2012
Oliver M. Brandes and Laura Brandes

Box 599
3889 Rideau Valley Dr.
Manotick ON
K4M 1A5

613 692 3571
800 267 3504

613 692 0831

postmaster@rvca.ca

www.rvca.ca

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