

RIDEAU VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY WATERSHED BRIEFS

March 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*
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Steve Desroches
Ed Hand, RVCA Vice Chair
Magda Kubasiewicz

Out of Sight, Out Of Mind: RBC Study Finds Majority of Canadians Believe Their Local Water Infrastructure Is Good Enough for Now



Interesting information courtesy RBC about Canadians' views on water and related infrastructure. Excerpts below from a recent RBC news release tell a conflicting story between what people believe, what they do and how much they are willing to invest in drinking water.

"Canadians believe that maintaining our drinking water supply is one of the most important areas for government funding (behind hospitals and tied with schools). Yet, more than 80 per cent feel there is no need for major and immediate investment in their community's drinking water/wastewater facilities, which they believe to be in good condition, and in need of only minor investment for upkeep. Ironically, more than a third of Canadians (37 per cent) who use municipal water are not very aware of the condition of the water and sewage infrastructure serving their own home."

"We have been polling on water issues for 25 years. This survey is a tale of romance between Canadians and their treasured water. But there's a significant gap between romance and reality. We found a troubling lack of awareness not only about water conservation but also the very pressing need for investment in infrastructure. Mobilizing the political will to deal with these issues will be a challenge." Chris Coulter, GlobeScan's president.

For the full story, visit www.rbc.com/newsroom/2012/0322-water-study.html

Spring Flood Forecasting and Warning

This year's peak was measured at the flow monitoring station at Carleton University on March 16 at 6:00 p.m. at a mere 222 cubic metres per second (cms). This is the second lowest since 1970 and is 63 percent of the average spring peak of 366 cms (1970-2012). How fast flows decline depends on those infamous April showers. Precipitation has been a scarce commodity all winter so there may be a quick move from the spring freshet to low water conditions. (patrick.larson@rvca.ca).

And the Award Goes to . . .

Find out who will get their 2011 Tri-Valley Conservation Award at the Tri-Valley Gala on April 18 at the Rideau Valley Conservation Centre. Join us at 6 p.m. for our meet and greet. Kattfish Morgan from LIVE 88.5 will kick things into high gear at 7 p.m. when our award winners will be announced (charles.billington@rvca.ca).

Shoreline Work Restrictions

A reminder to waterfront property owners, cottagers and construction project managers that there are restrictions for in-water work in various waterways and lakes in our area. These timing windows restrict construction activity in or near the water to allow an appropriate time and stress-free environment for fish to spawn and raise their young in our local lakes and streams. To avoid potential conflict with provincial and federal legislation, delay your in-water work until after the restrictions have passed (jennifer.lamoureux@rvca.ca).

Restriction Schedule:

- Warm water fish communities from March 15 to June 30 (e.g. Jock River)
- Mixed fish communities from October 1 to June 30 (e.g. Big Rideau Lake)
- Cold water fish communities from October 1 to May 31 (e.g. Crow Lake)
- Ottawa River March 15 to July 15

RVCF Rain Barrel Pickup

Saturday, April 14, 2012
from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Tri-Valley Conservation Awards Gala

Wednesday, April 18, 2012
RVCC — Meet and Greet at 6 p.m.
Awards Ceremony at 7 p.m.

Board of Director's Meetings

Thursday, April 26, 2012
RVCC at 7 p.m.

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Outdoor Education Programs — Value-Added Programming Thanks to Great Sponsors!

TransCanada Corporation Supports Baxter's Eco-fit Project

TransCanada Corporation has donated an additional \$5,000 to support the completion of the Baxter River Cabin "eco-fit" project. The TransCanada gift goes towards the installation of an alternative heating/lighting system to give year-round access to this valuable environmental classroom. TransCanada has supported this community facility since 2002 providing much needed funds for the outfitting of the River Cabin for outdoor education use. TransCanada has also been a major partner in the purchase of seven new acres of natural land during the expansion of the Baxter Conservation Area.

Keeping Kids Safe

The RVCA interpreters were visiting watershed schools this March presenting the free Spring Water Awareness Program (SWAP). The SWAP program is all about keeping kids safe from cold, fast-moving water at this time of year. This interactive program offers an experiment, discussion and video that help students in grade 4 stay safe. This year, our two interpreters delivered the message of "Stay Away!" to approximately 650 students. Teachers who were unable to take advantage of this special service could access SWAP's online resources (www.rvca.ca/careas/swap). This special program is made possible thanks to the generous support of the Ontario Power Generation.

Winter Day Camps

PA Day Winter Day Camps at Baxter Conservation Area, Foley Mountain and the Rideau Valley Conservation Centre were loaded with fun and outdoor education. Children, aged six to 12, had an active day where they learned how to snowshoe, erect shelters, build campfires, cook outdoors and orienteer. Special thanks to the Rideau Lakes Environmental Foundation for their support of our Foley Mountain winter programs.



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