

RIDEAU VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY WATERSHED BRIEFS

November 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

Hazard Maps Open Houses

Ottawa River — RVCA has just completed a review of the existing hazard maps (flood plain and steep slopes) along the Ottawa River from Shirley's Bay to Cumberland. This update has resulted in a few minor changes.

Cardinal Creek — new 1:100 year flood lines and regulation limits for Cardinal Creek have been prepared. The maps will support land use planning and development along Cardinal Creek.

- *Open House 1 — Tuesday, December 2 from 4 to 8 p.m. at the Queenswood Heights Community Centre in Orleans.*
- *Open House 2 — Tuesday, December 9 from 4 to 8 p.m. at the Ron Kolbus Lakeside Centre in Ottawa.*

These updates are part of RVCA's and the City of Ottawa's work to expand and update its collection of flood hazard and regulation limits mapping. The public is invited to view and comment on the maps and learn how they may affect shoreline management and development. You can view the Ottawa River and Cardinal Creek hazard maps at www.rvca.ca (ferdous.ahmed@rvca.ca).

Your CA's Aquatic Monitoring Programs

Monitoring lakes, rivers and streams in the Rideau watershed provides a wealth of information on the health of our watershed's aquatic environments. This information is used to steer restoration, mitigation, rehabilitation and enhancements projects and further science development. It also guides planning, CA and municipal household decision-making, setting policy and much more. You can find the results of our monitoring projects in our subwatershed report cards, catchment sheets, City Stream Watch reports and on the RVCA website (jennifer.lamoureux@rvca.ca).



Ontario Benthos Biomonitoring Program samples bottom dwelling bugs (benthic invertebrates) to determine water quality and habitat conditions. Each year two lakes and 45 streams are sampled in the spring and fall.

City Stream Watch Program gathers, records and manages valuable information on the physical and biological characteristics of streams and creeks within the City of Ottawa. It relies on community volunteers, guided by the RVCA City Stream Watch coordinator, to conduct stream survey assessments. Fish communities are sampled and restoration and rehabilitation projects are undertaken. To date 1,668 stream surveys have been completed on 25 creeks in the city.

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Upcoming Board of Director's Meetings —

November 27, 2014
7:00 p.m. at the RVCA
Conservation Centre
in Manotick

Stream Characterization collects information on physical and biological features (habitat surveys, fish sampling, thermal regime) by sampling 100-metre sections of area streams. Information collected includes: adjacent land use patterns, riparian conditions, bank stability, bank and instream vegetation, fish and wildlife, invasive species, garbage and pollution, etc. The program identifies areas that can be restored and enhanced. 3,427 stream surveys have been completed on the Jock River, Tay River, Kemptville Creek, Middle Rideau and Rideau Lakes watersheds.

Headwater Monitoring measures headwater drainage features. A "headwater" is the area of a stream or river that forms its source. Measurement includes the amount of water, sediment movement and water storage capacity. RVCA works with partners to provide standard data that supports science development, monitoring and mitigation strategies. Since 2011, 600 sites have been sampled.

Thermal Regime Classification of Streams seeks to understand the thermal (temperature) classification for streams and creeks — they can be warm, cool or cold water — each with their own particular species of fish, animals and plants. Many things can affect water temperature such as springs, tributaries, precipitation runoff, discharge pipes and stream shading. And, some changes in temperature can alert us to potential problems. A total of 200 sites have been sampled to date.

Municipal Drain Classification Protocol was developed by Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Conservation Authorities and other partners to strike a balance between the requirements of the Federal *Fisheries Act* and the Provincial *Drainage Act* by streamlining the review and approval process related to how drain maintenance can affect fish habitat. RVCA has used this protocol to assess municipal drains in the watershed since 1999. 415 municipal drains have been classified in our watershed — a useful municipal tool.

Local Climate Change Study

A ground-breaking scientific report assessing how rivers, lakes and wetlands in the Mississippi and Rideau watersheds may be affected by climate change has been completed by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR) and the Mississippi and Rideau Valley Conservation Authorities. Entitled *Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment for Aquatic Ecosystems in the Mississippi and Rideau Conservation Authority Watersheds*, it is the first of a series of studies that will become the foundation for the Mississippi-Rideau Climate Change Adaptation Strategy. To read the report go to mvc.on.ca, click the "Water Management & Quality" drop down menu and select "Climate Change and MVCA" (jackie.oblak@gmail.com).

Source Protection Plan Approved!

The Ontario Minister of Environment and Climate Change approved the *Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Plan*. Under Ontario's *Clean Water Act*, the plan sets out policies to keep contaminants out of municipal drinking water sources. The policies in the plan apply in the small vulnerable areas close to a municipal well or upstream of a water treatment plant. The policies range from those that encourage positive actions at the household level to mandatory policies such as those that prohibit future undesirable land uses like landfills. No residential or agricultural activities are prohibited under the plan; however some activities such as storing a large amount of fuel will require a Risk Management Plan to demonstrate that the activity is being done safely. Municipalities and conservation authorities are working together to contact affected people and helping them meet the new requirements (allison.gibbons@mrsourcewater.ca).



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