

RIDEAU VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY WATERSHED BRIEFS

July 2015

A newsletter for municipal councillors

2015 Board of Directors

Andy Jozefowicz *Athens*

Dale McLenaghan *Augusta*

Sharon Mousseau *Beckwith*

Victor Heese *Central Frontenac*

No appointment *Clarence-Rockland*

Ray Scissons *Drummond/North Elmsley*

Lyle Pederson *Elizabethtown-Kitley*

Anne Barr *Merrickville-Wolford*

Vince Carroll *Montague*

Gerry Boyce *North Dundas*

Barclay Cormack *North Grenville*

Erin Greco *Ottawa*

Ed Hand *Ottawa*

Pieter Leenhouts *Ottawa*

Scott Moffatt *Ottawa*

Ralph Pentland *Ottawa*

Tom Scott *Ottawa*

Judy Brown *Perth*

Jeff Banks *Rideau Lakes*

Joe Gallipeau *Smiths Falls*

Pat Barr *South Frontenac*

Brian Campbell *Tay Valley*

Gerald Schwinghamer *Westport*

RVCA Plants Five Millionth Tree

RVCA, along with its valued funding, administrative and planting partners, celebrated the planting of their five millionth tree. This special tree is hidden among the over 240,000 seedlings planted this spring throughout the watershed — somewhere in the over 4,000 square kilometres of ground between the City of Ottawa and South Frontenac Township north of Kingston.

This achievement was celebrated with a memorial tree being selected and dedicated on RVCA's Memory Lane. Memory Lane trees recognize significant achievements or special people in the local conservation movement. Ottawa Councillor Scott Moffatt representing Mayor Watson, and Rob Keen, CEO from Forests Ontario joined RVCA Chair Lyle Pederson and Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation Chair Jason Kelly, along with Live 88.5 (Canada's first and only carbon neutral radio station and a major sponsor of local tree planting) morning show host Dave Schellenberg.

A thanks to the many, community-minded funding partners, over \$4.7 million has been raised to support tree planting since 1983 — much of these funds coming through the hard work of the RVCF. The total value of the local reforestation effort including the landowner contributions is closer to \$8.3 million and has resulted in over 21 square kilometres (2,100 hectares) of idle land being converted back into thriving, treed landscapes (scott.danford@rvca.ca).

"We are grateful to our watershed municipalities for investing in our green infrastructure.

The additional commitment from landowners and our business community is a reflection of our shared desire for a healthy, green sustainable watershed."

*RVCA Chair,
Lyle Pederson*



RVCA Board Members and staff along with special guests celebrate a job well done.

ENVIRONMENTAL EXPERTISE • WATERSHED EXPERIENCE • MUNICIPAL INTEGRITY •
ADVICE AND SERVICE MUNICIPALITIES CAN COUNT ON!

Upcoming Board of Director's Meetings —

Thursday, July 23, 2015
7 p.m. at the RVCC in
Manotick, ON

Water Condition Statements

RVCA monitors water conditions year round. With changing weather patterns, flood warnings are no longer just something you are likely to see in the cold, wet spring just as low water statements are no longer for the hot, dry summer months. Be sure to watch for various "Water Condition Statements" year round.

Daily flow and water level data in the Rideau River watershed are updated daily and are available online at www.rvca.ca. There are two ways to view the online information:

- 1) **standard graph** is a static image that has the flow and/or the water level information
- 2) **interactive graph** has the same information as the standard graph, but the user also has the ability to choose the desired date range

New Wetland Feature for Ottawa

RVCA and the National Capital Commission are teaming-up to transform a low-lying grassed area into a fully functioning wetland. Although a tiny site (.15 hectares), its proximity to the nearby Ottawa River (Remic Rapids) will make it a valuable safe haven for local waterfowl, amphibians, reptiles and aquatic plants. Volunteers will help with site prep and installation of special features such as logs and tree wads for amphibians and a sand/pea stone nesting area for turtles (jennifer.lamoureux@rvca.ca).

EcoAction Supports Healthy Watersheds

Thank you to Environment Canada's EcoAction Community Fund Program for supporting the Rideau Valley Healthy Watershed Project. EcoAction provided a generous \$99,000 grant for the three-year stewardship initiative which included shoreline naturalization, tree planting, stream clean-ups, invasive species removals, bioengineering, fish habitat enhancement and migratory fish obstruction removals. Livestock restriction/alternative watering systems and land retirement projects were also completed. Projects were carried out in areas identified as vulnerable or threatened based on RVCA monitoring data and assessment reports (andrea.klymko@rvca.ca).

Invasive Species Removal

RVCA's City Stream Watch Program will remove three invasive plant species from Ottawa urban waterways this summer. Himalayan balsam, Japanese knotweed and European water chestnut will be targeted for removal efforts. The City Stream Watch will host eight invasive species removal events on four city creeks and the Rideau River. Thanks to the Community Foundation of Ottawa for helping fund these events (citystreamwatch@rvca.ca).

Volunteers Help Make Our Work Possible

RVCA is grateful to the many volunteers who make our programs and projects possible.



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



613 692 3571
800 267 3504



613 692 0831



postmaster@rvca.ca



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Brewer Park Pond planting



Flowing Creek shoreline planting



Himalayan Balsam removal