



Municipal Information Sheet **2017** **Elizabethtown-Kitley**

RVCA is one of Ontario's 36 Conservation Authorities. Since our formation in 1966, we have partnered with our local municipalities, residents, businesses, service clubs, schools, environmental and lake associations, community groups and provincial and federal governments to deliver programs and services that protect and manage the natural resources we all value and count on in the Rideau watershed.

As one of our 18 member municipalities, the Township of Elizabethtown-Kitley is a valued partner. We thank you for supporting 50 years of conservation in the Rideau watershed and look forward to working with council and residents on the next 50.

Our Vision

A thriving watershed with clean abundant water, natural shorelines, rich forests and wetlands, diverse habitat and sustainable land use that is valued and protected by all.

Our Mission

To understand, manage, protect, restore and enhance the Rideau watershed through science, stewardship, education, policy and leadership.



Watershed Science and Engineering Services

- *Middle Rideau Subwatershed Report* released in 2016 along with detailed data sheets for its ten catchments.
- *Kemptville Creek Subwatershed Report* released in 2014 along with detailed data sheets for its six catchments. We will reassess this subwatershed's health in 2019.
- *Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Plan* came into effect on January 1, 2015. The plan, required under Ontario's *Clean Water Act*, focuses on policies to protect municipal sources of drinking water. The *Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Plan* contains only non-legally binding policies (recommendations) for Elizabethtown-Kitley to implement as resources permit. We provided policy interpretation, implementation tools and other support to municipal staff.
- 2 sites tested annually as part of RVCA water quality baseline monitoring in the municipality.
- 2 stream sites sampled (Irish and Hutton Creek) in the spring and fall for the Ontario Benthic Biomonitoring Network.
- 4 water level loggers have been installed along the Kemptville Creek. This will be useful in monitoring the watershed condition and beaver activities.
- Irish Creek, Hutton Creek, Otter Creek and Barbers Creek catchments assessed for fish community, thermal regime and instream conditions. This work is being done in support of the second round of reporting for the Middle Rideau watershed.
- Irish Creek, Hutton Creek, Otter Creek and Barbers Creek sampled to characterize the amount of water, sediment transport, and storage capacity within valuable headwater drainage features. It also identifies opportunities for stewardship and restoration.
- 92 square kilometres of hazard mapping (floodplain, steep slopes, unstable soils, wetlands, shorelines and valley lands) is complete in Elizabethtown-Kitley. This mapping is used by municipalities and the RVCA to ensure sound development that protects people, property and the environment.
- Decommissioning of the Motts Mills Dam and construction of an earthen berm.
- Operation and maintenance of the Bellamy Lake Dam.
- Monitoring and forecasting of flood or drought conditions allowing municipalities to respond to watershed conditions and implement emergency response plans.

Science-based information is critical for long-term watershed management. It must be the basis of decision-making, program development and policies.

By sharing RVCA technical staff (engineers, biologists, geoscientists), planning advice costs are much lower than if municipalities were to retain these services individually.

Flood Forecasting protects public safety and helps minimize damage while Low Water Response ensures optimal management of scarce resources.



Planning Advisory and Regulatory Services

- 1 *Conservation Authorities Act* application received in Elizabethtown-Kitley in 2016 — 287 applications received watershed-wide in 2016. Under Section 28 of the *Conservation Authorities Act*, the RVCA is required to regulate development on hazard lands (floodplains, steep slopes, unstable soil) and in environmentally sensitive areas (wetlands, shorelines, valley lands). Over 90 percent of applicants receive approval each year.
- 7 property inquiries for properties in Elizabethtown-Kitley — 962 property inquiries and 133 clearance letters issued watershed-wide in 2016.
- 10 *Planning Act* reviews were undertaken in 2015 in Elizabethtown-Kitley — 1,332 undertaken watershed-wide in 2016 (including zoning by-law amendments, occurrences/ complaints, severances, minor variances, subdivision and site plan control). The Province requires RVCA to provide advice to municipalities on *Planning Act* applications that pertain to regulated areas (hazard lands and environmentally sensitive areas). We also review applications for the protection of natural heritage features and water. Our input includes policy advice and technical reviews of site-specific studies looking at stormwater management, environmental impact, setbacks and aquatic habitat.
- RVCA provides a simplified approvals process for municipal drain maintenance and repairs under the provincial DART protocol established by MNR and OMAFRA for municipal drain maintenance and repairs.
- RVCA reviews and approves private septic systems under Part VIII of the *Ontario Building Code* at no cost to municipalities. RVCA currently provides this service to the City of Ottawa and Tay Valley Township in partnership with MVCA and SNC. We also provide septic re-inspection services which are currently used by Central Frontenac, Drummond/ North Elmsley, North Frontenac, Rideau Lakes and Tay Valley.

RVCA staff adhere to professional standards and provincially approved procedures.

Sound, professional planning and regulations services avoid expensive fixes and costly liability that can result from bad decision-making.





Stewardship Services

- Stewardship staff use RVCA monitoring results to guide targeted stewardship activities for maximum impact.
- 39 Rural Clean Water projects approved in Elizabethtown-Kitley between 2002 and 2016 — \$56,500 allocated to projects valued at \$209,139; 1,295 clean water projects approved watershed-wide between 2002 and 2016 — \$2,116,649 allocated to projects valued at \$10,202,390.
- 109 Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program projects approved in the Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Region while the program was active between 2007 and 2014 — \$521,000 allocated to projects valued at \$853,770.
- 492,246 trees planted in Elizabethtown-Kitley since 1983 with fundraised dollars totaling \$646,219 for total project value of \$1,006,332; 27,100 trees planted in Elizabethtown-Kitley in 2016 with fundraised dollars totaling \$39,500 for total project value of \$58,335.
- 5.68 million trees planted watershed-wide on public and private land since 1984; 225,865 trees were planted watershed-wide in 2016.
- 430 trees and shrubs planted along 120 metres of shoreline at Bellamy Park in 2009 through the Shoreline Naturalization Program with project value \$1,068; 62,801 seedlings planted since 2009 watershed-wide thanks to 300+ landowners/partners and 1,200+ volunteers. Total project value is \$687,628.
- 828 butternut seedlings planted in Elizabethtown-Kitley. In total, over 20,000 butternut seedlings planted in eastern Ontario. RVCA collects seeds each year from healthy butternut trees that are endangered because of the butternut canker disease. The seedlings are also supplied to clients who have compensation requirements under permits to harm or kill butternut trees.
- 199 beaver have been removed and 39 dams have been breached or removed on Kemptville Creek since 2003. This work was done in partnership with the municipalities and local landowners to reduce flooding caused by nuisance beaver activity.
- 30+ landowners contact RVCA annually to register their concern and ask for advice on best management practices relating to nuisance beavers. Staff provide information packages and can produce imagery maps to help landowners identify beaver dam locations and property ownership in program areas. RVCA may be able to assist municipalities with beaver dam surveys in difficult access areas if it is unclear where the problem dams are and who owns the land.

Stewardship staff use RVCA monitoring results to pursue targeted stewardship activities on key areas for maximum impact.

Grant programs and stewardship advice help property owners, businesses and municipalities restore and improve the health of our watershed.

Conservation Land Management Services

- Approximately 3,000 hectares of sensitive natural areas maintained and protected, including 11 developed conservation areas that are open to the public.
- Motts Mill Conservation Area (formerly 1.28 hectares) located in Elizabethtown-Kitley expanded in 2015 to a total of 81 hectares, includes Ducks Unlimited berm to replace failing dam and improvements to parking lot. A trail was constructed and signs erected detailing the history of the site.
- Species at risk monitoring at Motts Mills Conservation Area.
- Nearby developed conservation areas include:
 - Rideau Ferry (4.3 hectares) — shoreline property providing a public day use recreation area with access to Lower Rideau Lake that includes a public beach, boat launch, and picnic area at this popular summer park
 - Mill Pond Conservation Area (544.65 hectares) — six kilometres of wilderness trails, covered picnic shelter and boat launch (car top only)
- Portland Conservation Area (2.2 hectares) — a simple, lakeside picnic area along Big Rideau Lake
- 10,000 students enjoy conservation education programs at Baxter and Foley Mountain Conservation Areas.
- All areas operate in accordance with site-specific management plans, which include input from the public, development plans, annual maintenance and capital responsibilities.

Elizabethtown-Kitley Levy 2017: **\$37,161.87**

For every levy dollar our municipalities invest, the RVCA provides two dollars worth of service. We are able to double this municipal investment by maximizing other sources of funding enabling us to do more work in the watershed.