



# Municipal Information Sheet North Grenville 2017

## Who we are and what we do:

**R**VCA 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 Municipality of North Grenville 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 ongoing priorities are:

- 1. Improve water quality
- 2. Protect water supplies
- 3. Manage flood risk and erosion hazards
- 4. Restore watershed habitats
- 5. Increase conservation lands

### • We achieve these priorities through our:

- 1. Watershed Science and Engineering Services
- 2. Planning Advisory and Regulatory Services
- 3. Stewardship Services
- 4. Conservation Lands Services



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### Watershed Science and Engineering Services

- The *Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Plan* came into effect on January 1, 2015. The plan, required under the *Ontario Clean Water Act*, focuses on policies to protect municipal sources of drinking water. We provided policy interpretation, implementation tools and other support to municipal staff to ensure the legally binding policies are well understood and undertaken in time to meet compliance deadlines. In addition, at the request of the municipality, we provided a specially trained Risk Management Official and Inspectors that are required to enforce the *Clean Water Act* Part IV policies within the municipality. North Grenville received provincial Source Protection Municipal Implementation Funding to cover most costs associated with source protection plan implementation.
- The *Middle Rideau Subwatershed Report* will be issued in 2016 along with detailed data sheets for its ten catchments. The report is a compilation of water quality, forest cover, wetland cover and riparian cover data shows the health of the subwatershed and if its health is improving or declining. This is the second reporting cycle for the Middle Rideau following the 2010 report. Municipalities and RVCA use these reports to make policy and program decisions and to focus resource management and stewardship actions where they are needed most.
- The *Kemptville Creek Subwatershed Report* was issued in 2014 along with detailed data sheets for six catchments that flow into the creek. We will be able to assess watershed health in 2019 and target projects for improvement.
- 16 water quality monitoring sites located in North Grenville. They are monitored each month from April to November for water chemistry as part of RVCA's baseline monitoring program. One of the sites is also tested as part of the Provincial Water Quality Monitoring Network and 6 of the sites are sampled for water quality conditions in the spring and fall for the Ontario Benthic Biomonitoring Network.
- 1 Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network well located in North Grenville which measures water levels hourly.
- Fish sampling completed at 30 sites along Kemptville Creek and 17 sites along Barnes Creek. A total of 198 sections of Kemptville Creek have also been surveyed and mapped for species at risk fish habitat.
- Macro Stream Assessment completed on the entire length of Kemptville Creek, North Branch, Mud Creek and Barnes Creek. This looks at aquatic bugs, fish, channel structure, thermal stability and site features to determine stream health and potential impacts on fish and water quality.
- 12 Headwater Drainage Feature assessments conducted on streams in the Barnes Creek catchment.
- 40 kilometres of hazard mapping (floodplain, steep slopes, unstable soils, wetlands, shorelines and valley lands) completed in North Grenville. This mapping is used by municipalities and the RVCA to ensure sound development that protects people, property and the environment.
- RVCA monitors and forecasts hydrometric conditions to be able to warn municipalities and residents about rising waters and where flooding may occur locally. This information is used by municipalities to initiate their emergency response plans.
- RVCA also monitors and forecasts hydrometric conditions to be able to warn municipalities and residents about low water conditions. This information is used by municipalities and the province to respond accordingly to the conditions at hand. Science-based information is critical for long-term watershed management. It must be the basis of decision-making, program development and policies.

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





## Planning Advisory and Regulatory Services

- RVCA staff routinely participate in North Grenville's Development Review Team meetings to bring constraints to the attention of proponents early in their project planning. This participation saves proponents time and money and streamlines the review of applications leading to faster approval times.
- 22 *Conservation Authorities Act* applications were received in North Grenville in 2015. 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.
- 104 property inquiries were responded to in 2015 regarding properties in North Grenville. This included preparing clearance letters for property sales.
- 40 *Planning Act* reviews were undertaken in 2015 in North Grenville including 15 zoning by-law amendments, two subdivision, 13 severances, six minor variances, three site plans, and one *Environmental Assessment Act* review. The Province requires the RVCA to provide advice to municipalities on *Planning Act* applications that pertain to regulated areas (hazard lands and environmentally sensitive areas). We also review them 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 staff continued to work with the municipality on how development will proceed in the Northwest Quadrant. This included finalizing a conceptual headwaters drainage features offsetting plan allowing the Caivan subdivision to move forward to draft approval.
- RVCA provides a simplified approvals process for municipal drain maintenance and repairs under the provincial DART protocol established by MNRF and OMAFRA. municipal drain maintenance and repairs.
- RVCA is also available to review and approve 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 Tay Valley, North Frontenac, Central Frontenac, Rideau Lakes and Drummond/North Elmsley.

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

**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 on key areas for maximum impact.
- 103,080 trees planted in North Grenville since 1983 with fundraised dollars totaling \$158,962 for total project value of \$243,252; 26,155 trees planted in North Grenville in 2015 with fundraised dollars totaling \$77,172 for total project value of \$94,172; 5.25 million trees planted watershed-wide on public and private land since 1984; 239,555 trees were planted watershed-wide in 2015.
- 25 Shoreline Naturalization projects completed in North Grenville since 2008 with 2,457 shrubs planted; project value of \$27,218 with landowner contribution of \$22,688; 370+ site visits completed, the Shoreline Naturalization Program has planted 45,180 native tree and shrub seedlings and potted stock along 15.7 kilometres of shoreline throughout the Rideau Watershed since 2009 thanks to 250+ landowners/partners and 1,200+ volunteers. Total project values: \$486,491.
- 21 Rural Clean Water projects approved in North Grenville in 2015 — \$35,600 allocated to projects valued at \$65,841; from 2002-2015, 217 approved projects in North Grenville — \$303,140 was allocated to projects valued at \$1,222,855; 1,223 clean water projects approved watershed-wide between 2002 and 2015 — \$2,178,350 allocated to projects valued at \$10,135,501.
- 29 Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program projects approved in North Grenville between 2007 and 2015 — \$193,000 allocated to projects valued at \$279,000; overall 109 Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program projects approved in the Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Region between 2007 and 2015 — \$521,000 allocated to projects valued at \$853,770.
- RVCA organized a TD Bank tree planting day at Riverside Park in Kemptville. Over 30 volunteers planted 150 trees in the park at no cost.
- 482 butternut seedlings planted in North Grenville. 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.
- 193 beaver have been removed and 37 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. Project value is \$26,000.
- RVCA is working with municipal staff to improve other municipal properties with tree planting and shoreline naturalization at no cost.

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

## Conservation Land Management Services

- 25 hectares of conservation land is owned and protected in North Grenville by the RVCA and the Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation. Throughout the Rideau watershed we own, maintain and protect over 2,800 hectares of sensitive natural areas, including ten developed conservation areas that are open to the public. Two conservation areas are easily accessible by North Grenville residents and students — W.A. Taylor near Osgoode and Baxter Conservation Area near Kars.
- All areas operate in accordance with site-specific management plans, which include input from the public, development plans, annual maintenance and capital responsibilities.
- W.A. Taylor is 6.5 hectares and provides a boat launch, picnic area and fishing.
- Baxter Conservation Area is 70 hectares and offers a beach, picnic area and year-round education programs, trails, and rental facilities. In 2014, education programs were offered to over 6,000 children.
- Worked with the municipality on the development of the North Grenville Trail System along the South Branch of the Rideau River. Discussions included trail placement, vegetative buffers and boardwalk construction.

**Management of conservation areas protects vulnerable habitats and valuable natural resources.**

**RVCA provides high quality curriculum-based environmental education programs to children – building the future guardians of our watershed.**

# North Grenville Levy 2016: **\$83,661.50**

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.