

Municipal Information Sheet Rideau Lakes 2017

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.

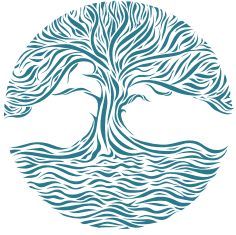
As one of our 18 member municipalities, the Township of Rideau Lakes is a valued partner. We thank you for supporting 50 years of conservation in the Rideau watershed and look forward to working with council and residents on the next 50.

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.



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Watershed Science and Engineering Services

- *Middle Rideau Subwatershed Report* released in 2016 along with detailed data sheets for its ten catchments.
- *Rideau Lakes Subwatershed Report* released in 2015 along with detailed data sheets for its eight catchments.
- *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. We provided policy interpretation, implementation tools and other support to municipal staff to ensure legally binding policies were well understood and implemented 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. Rideau Lakes received provincial Source Protection Municipal Implementation Funding to cover most costs associated with source protection plan implementation.
- 12 lakes sampled for water quality through the Watershed Watch program — Bass, Big Rideau, Crosby, Little Crosby, Lower Rideau, Otter, Pike, Spectacle, Tommy, Upper Rideau, Westport Sand and Wolfe Lakes.
- Sediment core samples taken from lake bottoms on Watershed Watch lakes to establish a nutrient baseline and historic algae composition.
- 3 baseline monitoring sites sampled for water quality; additional monitoring sites were also sampled in 2014 on Upper Rideau Lake in response to the blue green algal bloom.
- 3 stream sites sampled (Adrains Creek, Barrs Creek, Sicklers Creek) in the spring and fall for the Ontario Benthic Biomonitoring Network.
- 150 sunken wood clusters installed to enhance fish habitat along with loon nesting platforms and turtle basking logs as part of the Mill Pond Habitat Enhancement Project.
- RVCA monitors and forecasts 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

- 30 *Conservation Authorities Act* applications received in Rideau Lakes 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.
- 104 property inquiries and 9 clearance letters issued for properties in Rideau Lakes — 962 property inquiries and 133 clearance letters issued watershed-wide in 2016.
- 47 *Planning Act* reviews were undertaken in 2016 in Rideau Lakes — 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 MNRF and OMAFRA for municipal drain maintenance and repairs.

- 48 septic re-inspections complete in Rideau Lakes — 219 completed in participating municipalities including Central Frontenac, North Frontenac, Rideau Lakes and Tay Valley Township.
- 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.

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.
- 15 Rural Clean Water projects approved in Rideau Lakes in 2016 — \$24,596 allocated to projects valued at \$35,465; from 2002–2016, 127 projects approved in Rideau Lakes — \$177,076 allocated to projects valued at \$776,975; 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.
- 5.68 million trees planted watershed-wide on public and private land since 1984; 225,865 trees planted watershed-wide in 2016.
- 5,650 trees planted in Rideau Lakes in 2016 — \$6,183 fundraised, \$10,249 in project value.
- 7,051 shoreline seedlings planted in Rideau Lakes since 2010 through the Shoreline Naturalization Program — 32 projects completed with a total project value of \$36,382.
- 62,801 native tree and shrub seedlings and potted stock planted along 20.8 kilometres of watershed shoreline through the Shoreline Naturalization program since 2009; 300+ landowners/ partners and 1,200+ volunteers; total project value: \$687,628.
- 110+ participants from 20 different lake associations attended the Annual Lake Links Workshop.
- 1,015 butternut seedlings planted in Rideau Lakes. 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.
- 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.
- RVCA has carried out many beaver dam surveys since 2003 on Otter Creek and has been working with local landowners to reduce the effect of beaver dams on Otter Lake water levels. The Otter Creek Beaver Management Group is providing funding for beaver and dam removal. RVCA assisted Rideau Lakes Township in 2015 with a beaver dam survey and beaver and dam removal downstream of Lombardy. A large dam was backing up water into Lombardy and the beaver and dam removal reduced the risk of flooding.

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.
- 1,081 hectares of sensitive natural areas owned and protected in Rideau Lakes Township.
- Rideau Lakes residents have outdoor recreation and outdoor education programs at:
 - Foley Mountain (325 hectares) — mixed forests, ponds, and fields that include five hiking trails, group camp area, scenic Spy Rock lookout, and outdoor education programs.
 - 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.
 - Perth Wildlife Reserve (122.6 hectares) — specifically geared to wildlife management, the area has 2.5 kilometres trails for walking, skiing or snowshoeing.
 - 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.
- Meisel Woods Conservation Area (50.7 hectares) — a forested natural area with lake views and quiet trails.
- Coordinated management responsibilities at Foresters Landing (dock) and Portland Bay Conservation Area.
- 10,000 students enjoy conservation education programs annually 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.

Rideau Lakes Levy 2017: **\$61,776.57**

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.