

News Release

FISH HABITAT CREATION PROJECTS AT CHAPMAN MILLS

RIDEAU VALLEY, November 15, 2010 — Chapman Mills Conservation Area will be the site of two new “fish habitat compensation projects” to improve the quantity and quality of fish habitat along the Rideau River shoreline within the City of Ottawa.

Fish habitat compensation is required to offset the fish habitat losses that occur when a Fisheries Act subsection 35 (2) authorization is issued. In this case, the compensation projects are the result of the proposed partial loss of one abandoned drain and one tributary of a municipal drain in the Jock River watershed and a former tributary of Mosquito Creek.

The fish habitat compensation projects at the Chapman Mills Conservation Area will:

- Improve water circulation through construction of a connecting channel
- Create variable depths of water to allow for a more diverse aquatic vegetation community
- Create spawning, nursery, rearing and food supply habitat for the fish community in the adjacent parts of the Rideau River
- Provide winter and summer refuge areas for fish, and
- Improve the function of adjacent wetland habitats for aquatic species.

A channel will be created to connect an existing inner backwater bay of the Rideau to the main channel. Also planned is the creation of an additional embayment adjacent to the connecting channel. Construction is expected to begin this fall, with final landscaping to be completed in the spring. Both projects involve a five-year monitoring program to measure habitat use by native fish species.

Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA) staff is working with developers DCR Phoenix, Tartan Homes and Claridge Homes for the Jock River tributaries compensation and the City of Ottawa for the Mosquito Creek tributary compensation. The objective is to ensure that the proposed improvements provide functional habitat and are in keeping with the conservation goals of RVCA and the site.

Chapman Mills is a 23-acre parcel of conservation land located on the west bank of the Rideau River on Prince of Wales Drive between Winding Way and Lodge Road. It consists mainly of natural river shoreline, wetlands and flood plain areas that are unique in the City of Ottawa. Currently, work on the Strandherd-Armstrong Road bridge is underway and access is limited to the northern end of the park.

- end -

More information:

Chapman Mills Conservation Area — Kristy Giles, Conservation Land Planner
613-692-3571 or 1-800-267-3504 ext 1178
kristy.giles@rvca.ca

Fish Habitat Creation — Jennifer Lamoureux, Aquatic & Fish Habitat Biologist
613-692-3571 or 1-800-267-3504 ext 1108
jennifer.lamoureux@rvca.ca