

News Release

BREWER PARK POND POISED TO JOIN THE RIDEAU RIVER

OLD OTTAWA SOUTH, June 24, 2014 — Within weeks, the landlocked Brewer Park Pond and former artificial swimming hole will start to undergo a facelift, a transfusion and a rejuvenation to become a naturally-functioning habitat for all kinds of wildlife in Old Ottawa South and importantly become, once again, a part of the Rideau River itself.

Using an ecosystem approach, the partners in this project intend to increase overall biodiversity with the creation of a new, vibrant wetland and pond with shoreline plantings, breeding bird habitat, amphibian habitat, turtle nesting beds and basking logs all connected to the main channel of the nearby Rideau River. By the end of construction, the pond will provide improved spawning, nursery, rearing and feeding habitat for the local fish community in the Rideau all year round.

The project accomplishes two important goals for local residents:

- Rejuvenation of the pond with increased fish and wildlife habitat
- Maintenance of current park uses after construction, including complete walking trail around the pond.

We are pleased to confirm that both objectives will be achieved thanks to the goodwill and understanding of all the project partners including MINTO, Richcraft, the City of Ottawa, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Muskies Canada, the Institute of Environmental Science at Carleton University and the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority. The Ottawa South Community Association was vital in bringing the residents and the partners together to ensure a project with environmental and social benefits acceptable to the community.

The on-site work will take between seven and eight weeks starting in early August. For the safety of park users, there will be fencing and a temporary disruption of current use of the immediate pond and shoreline area during the construction phase of the project. All facilities and uses will again become fully accessible following construction. There will be an opportunity to volunteer for a shoreline planting day in early October around the perimeter of the pond.

Capital Ward Councilor David Chernushenko said, “Residents of Capital Ward work very hard to maintain and improve our local environment, and like to seize special opportunities such as this. Tree plantings, river shore protection, clean up initiatives and promoting active outdoor life styles by our residents are all close to our hearts and this project fits us well. Thanks to all parties for bringing this progressive project to Brewer Park!”

You can follow the progress of the Brewer Park Pond Restoration Project on our website at www.rvca.ca under Special Projects.

– 30 –

More information:

Jennifer Lamoureux, Aquatic & Fish Habitat Biologist
Rideau Valley Conservation Authority
613-692-3571 ext. 1108
jennifer.lamoureux@rvca.ca

Rideau Valley
Conservation Authority
3889 Rideau Valley Drive
PO Box 599
Manotick, ON K4M 1 A5

613 692 3571
800 267 3504

postmaster@rvca.ca
www.rvca.ca