
RVCA News Release

LAKE MONITORING WORKSHOP TO BE HELD IN WESTPORT (FOLEY MOUNTAIN INTERPRETIVE CENTRE) APRIL 23, 2005

MANOTICK, APRIL 7, 2005 — The Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA) invites amateur scientists and lake stewards to a Lake Monitoring Workshop on Saturday April 23, 2005 from 10:00 to 2:00 at the Foley Mountain Conservation Area, 105 Perth Road North (County Rd. 10), Westport, Ontario.

The workshop will focus on benthic invertebrates, or, the bugs that inhabit lakes. These spineless creatures can tell us a lot about the health of the lake and what kind of stress it might be under. Participants at the workshop will learn how to collect, identify and record their bug findings. The workshop is part of RVCA's commitment to collect more environmental data and to encourage volunteers to be involved with the state of their lake and learn more about its health.

Accompanying RVCA staff will be representatives from Wildlife Habitat Canada (WHC). WHC have developed a "Knowledge Centre" database as part of their Citizen Science program to help citizens record and share their monitoring findings. This workshop will support their quest to have the WHC'S Knowledge Centre database become part of a national volunteer monitoring network

After meeting at the Interpretive Centre, participants will walk to the beach to "dig for bugs" in the lake. A light lunch will be served back at the interpretive centre where participants will learn to identify the creatures and enter the findings into the computer. The workshop (rain or shine) is open to those with an interest in lake health. Preference will be given to people from lakes in the Rideau Valley watershed. Future workshops will further enhance the participant's ability to collect and identify ecosystem health indicators. So come on out, win a door prize, and learn how to be a guardian of your lake.

Anyone interested in participating (maximum of 25 participants) should call the LandOwner Resource Centre (1-800-387-5304) info@lrc.online.com. For more information on Citizen Science, check out the Wildlife Habitat Canada website at www.citizenscience.ca.

Rideau Valley Conservation Authority is a partnership of municipalities created under the Ontario Conservation Authorities Act to deliver a range of programs in natural resource conservation in the watershed of the Rideau River.

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For more information, please contact:

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