



Rideau Valley Conservation Authority  
**Budget & Workplan** 2017





# Conserving our Watershed, Ensuring our Future!

**S**ince our formation in 1966, we have worked with our municipal partners to provide programs and services that move towards our shared vision for a thriving watershed — one with clean abundant water, natural shorelines, rich forests and wetlands, diverse habitat and sustainable land use that is valued and protected by all. In 2017 we will continue on this course of action as we work to conserve our watershed and ensure our future.

## Our Vision

A thriving watershed with clean abundant water, natural shorelines, rich forests and wetlands, diverse habitats 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.

## Our Priorities

Our new Strategic Plan 2020 (to be released in early 2017) will outline strategic priorities for the next four years. Some of these priorities are already underway and have been included in our "Special for 2017" boxes.





# 2017 Budget

**T**he RVCA's total proposed budget for 2017 is \$10.3 million. This is 2.5 percent increase over last year's budget of \$10.1 million due in large part to a few water control structure capital projects being initiated or completed in 2017.

Our proposed budget for 2017 is a status quo budget which can be broken out into three main expenditures:

- 7 percent for Rideau River Ice Management
- 15 percent for capital projects
- 78 percent for our overall operating budget to deliver all our programs and services

Our proposed budget includes a municipal levy increase of \$176,964 which is in keeping with a two percent tax increase and assessment growth.

The municipal levy amounts to about half of our revenue meaning another 4.8 million is coming from other sources such as fundraising, the province, grants and special levies. The following sections in this work plan provide additional details about our proposed 2017 budget and the great conservation work that it will achieve!

## Expenditures

- Spending across most program areas is status quo.
- This budget does reallocate some staff time between various programs and departments to better reflect program costs and better serve our municipalities and watershed residents.
- Like our member municipalities, salary costs increase annually. While OMERS contribution rates

remained unchanged for 2017, benefits and payroll taxes (WSIB, EI, CPP and EHT) increased over last year putting pressure on the budget. Additionally, the RVCA also sets a salary grid increase of 1 to 2 percent for eligible staff who are still moving through their salary band. A grid increase of 1.5 percent has been accommodated in this budget. The RVCA also uses the Consumer Price Index as our economic adjustment figure. This

year the figure was 1.5 percent however this has not been accommodated in the budget to contain costs.

## Revenues

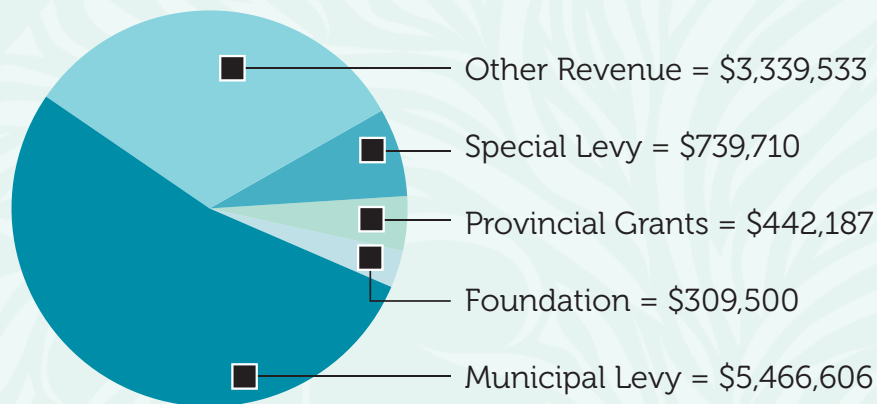
- Provincial Funding from MNRF and from the MOECC is expected to remain steady from last year.
- Contributions from the Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation will increase 29 percent in support of the Authority's programs and services.
- Other revenue streams such as program and user fees will remain steady.

- Special levies will remain unchanged next year, except for a slight decrease to the City of Ottawa's special levy for Rideau River Ice Management as ice conditions were mild last year resulting in lower program costs.
- The municipal levy will increase by \$176,964 in 2017. This is a 3.3 percent increase which is the third lowest increase since

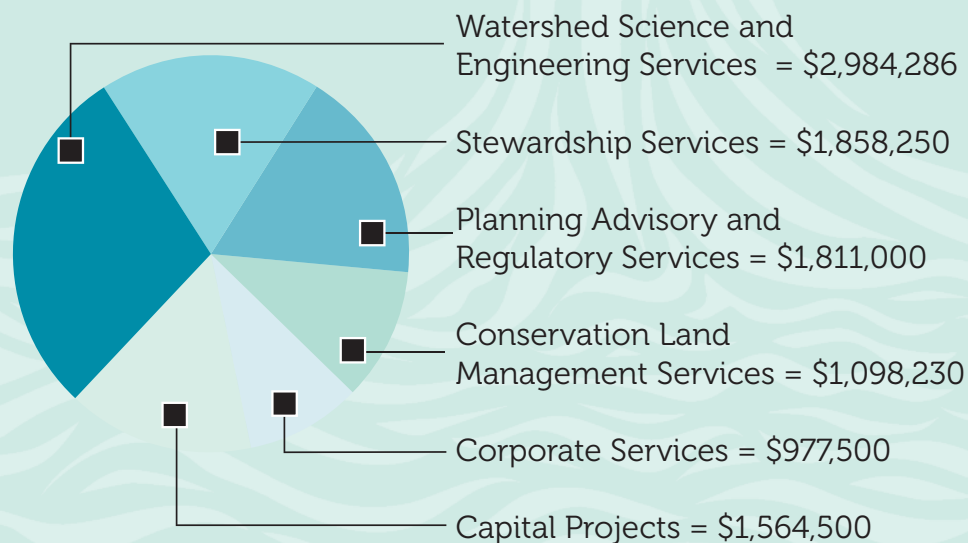
2008. This increase equates to a 2 percent tax increase as 1.3 percent will come from new assessment growth in the watershed.

# 2017 Budget

## Where does the money come from?



## Where does the investment go?





# Municipal Levy

Being a municipal organization, the bottom line financially for the RVCA is the municipal levy. That said we are committed to minimizing pressure on the levy by using this investment from our member municipalities to leverage other monies. For every dollar invested through the municipal levy, the RVCA has been able to double that investment to deliver a variety of programs and services in the Rideau Watershed. Other revenue includes:

- Charging fees for education programs, conservation areas, permits and planning comments
- Getting grants for special projects, students and interns
- Fundraising through the Foundation
- Special levies for specific projects that benefit one municipality
- Joint programming and staff sharing with neighbouring conservation authorities
- Landowner contributions for services they receive
- Contracts to provide services to external organizations and sectors

## Municipal Levy Apportionment

Based on assessment apportionment, the City of Ottawa will pay almost 91 percent of RVCA's levy in 2017. This amounts to \$4.9 million leaving our other 17 municipalities to share the remaining \$0.49 million. Levy costs for these municipalities range from \$1,350 to \$87,765 depending on their assessment.

### Levy Rates Over the Years

Year	Municipal Levy	Levy Increase	Current Value Assessment (modified)	Levy Rate*
2017	\$5,466,606	3.3 percent	\$99,410,716,829	\$5.50
2016	\$5,289,763	3.6 percent	\$99,512,530,071	\$5.31
2015	\$5,103,500	3.2 percent	\$97,988,860,174	\$5.21
2014	\$4,943,500	3.6 percent	\$96,748,734,271	\$5.11
2013	\$4,770,000	3.9 percent	\$77,361,085,801	\$6.17
2012	\$4,589,000	4.6 percent	\$75,788,933,931	\$6.05
2011	\$4,387,000	4.7 percent	\$74,808,601, 824	\$5.86
2010	\$4,190,000	2.7 percent	\$73,149,679,467	\$5.75
2009	\$4,081,000	5.6 percent	\$60,589,220,174	\$6.75

\* Levy/\$100,000 of current value assessment (modified)



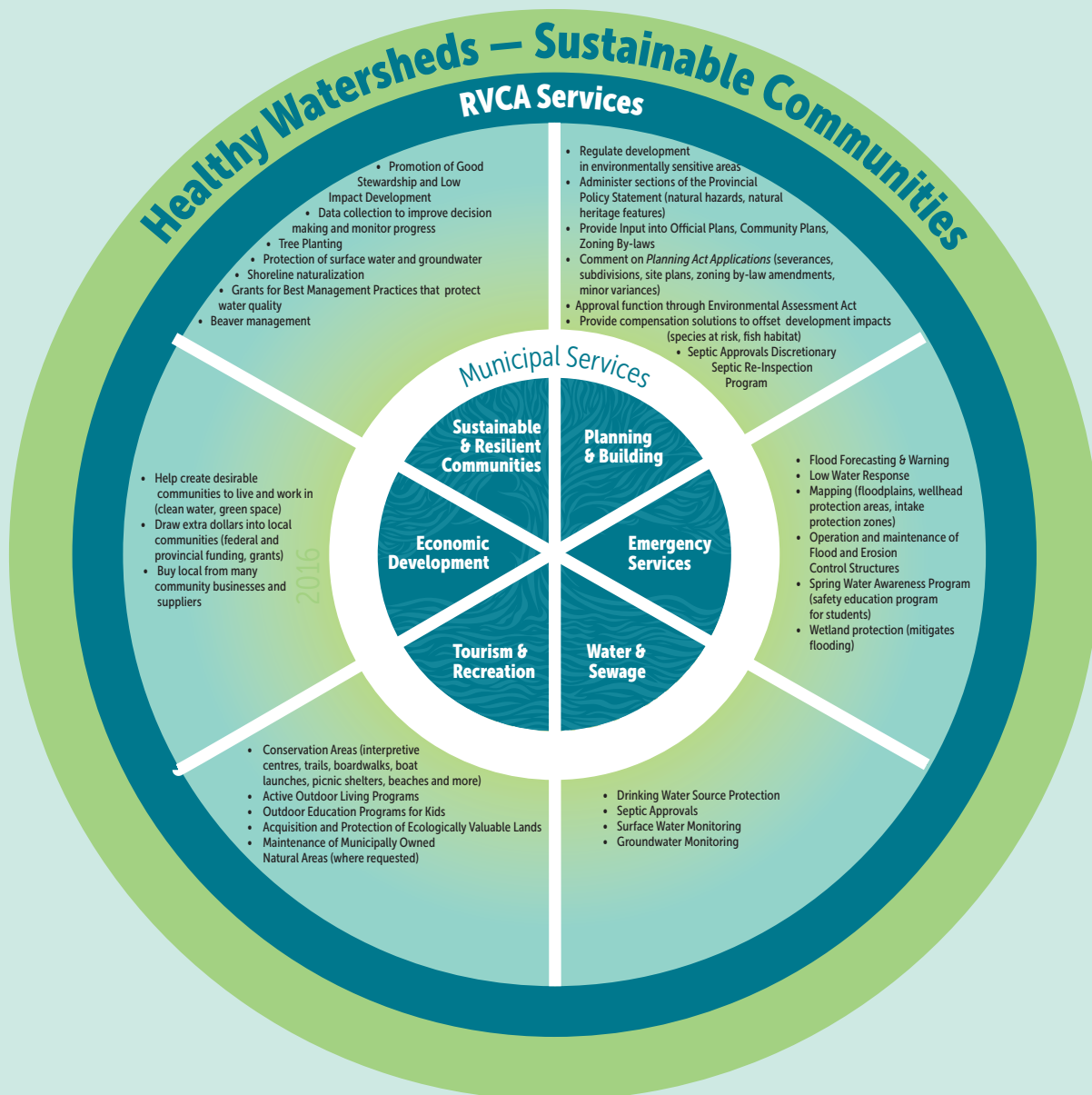
# RVCA Services

## Serving our Municipalities

**R**VCA staff are working closer than ever with municipal staff because our work has become so interconnected. It's hard to find a municipal service that our programs don't support either directly or indirectly. Often we provide this support at a fraction of the cost

because our staff are shared among our 18 municipalities and sometimes our neighbouring Conservation Authorities. This saves money and avoids duplication. RVCA's programs also serve a wide range of public interests and needs benefiting our

local watershed residents from lake country to urban communities. Below is a graphic that summarizes our programs that support key municipal services. More details about these programs are provided in the following pages.



# Protecting our Natural Capital

**M**uch of the work done through the Conservation Authority looks to protect our natural capital. Natural capital builds on the notion that Mother Nature does for free what we would otherwise have to pay millions of dollars to do through technology and infrastructure. Making

wise decisions to preserve and protect natural capital will save us from costly man-made alternatives. If we compromise these valuable ecological services, that lost value is ultimately borne by taxpayers. By accounting for natural capital we can start to align economic growth with environmental

protection — allowing future generations the same benefits from nature we enjoy. This is the foundation of sustainability.

## Value of Natural Capital

Land Cover	Upland Forest	Riparian Forest	Wetland	Water	Urban Forest	Meadows	Agriculture	Total
<b>Ecological Services</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• atmospheric regulation</li> <li>• climate regulation</li> <li>• disturbance avoidance</li> <li>• water regulation</li> <li>• water supply</li> <li>• pollination</li> <li>• habitat</li> <li>• recreation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• atmospheric regulation</li> <li>• climate regulation</li> <li>• water supply</li> <li>• waste treatment</li> <li>• pollination</li> <li>• biological control</li> <li>• habitat</li> <li>• biodiversity</li> <li>• recreation</li> <li>• culture</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• climate regulation</li> <li>• water regulation</li> <li>• water supply</li> <li>• soil formation</li> <li>• nutrient cycling</li> <li>• waste treatment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• water regulation</li> <li>• water supply</li> <li>• soil formation</li> <li>• waste treatment</li> <li>• habitat</li> <li>• biodiversity</li> <li>• recreation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• atmospheric regulation</li> <li>• climate regulation</li> <li>• water regulation</li> <li>• water supply</li> <li>• recreation</li> <li>• culture</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• climate regulation</li> <li>• pollination</li> <li>• habitat</li> <li>• recreation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• climate regulation</li> <li>• pollination</li> <li>• habitat</li> </ul>	
<b>Estimated Value (\$) per capita per year</b>	94	67	247	19	25	10	28	490
<b>Estimated annual value (\$ millions)</b>	709.	51.0	186.8	14.5	18.7	7.8	21.4	371.1

Estimating the Value of Natural Capital in the Credit River Watershed



# Watershed Science and Engineering

**R**VCA's Watershed Science and Engineering team collects, monitors and analyses watershed information. Understanding our watershed and its many natural resources helps us to better manage and protect our resources. RVCA provides these services watershed-wide for its member municipalities at a shared cost. It avoids duplication and allows for effective, efficient and expert products for municipalities.

## Watershed Reporting

- Accurately report on environmental conditions at the subwatershed and catchment geographic scales to member municipalities, watershed residents, RVCA staff, NGO's and government agencies
- Help understand the effects of human activity on our water resources
- Track environmental change to surface water resources (quality/quantity), fisheries resources (aquatic/instream habitat) and terrestrial resources (wetland/woodland/riparian cover) over time
- Focus watershed management actions where they are needed the most



## What it means for your municipality?

Watershed reports help municipal staff and council make informed decisions on:

- Managing existing land uses
- Protecting surface and groundwater resources
- Developing environmental protection policies for Official Plans and Zoning By-laws
- Targeting stewardship initiatives
- Applying best management practices along lakes and streams
- Reviewing requirements for site specific land development (Planning Act and RVCA Regulation)
- Implementing resource management policies and programs

## Special for 2017

- Complete the Jock River Subwatershed Report as we continue to monitor and report on subwatershed health on a six year cycle with a growing emphasis on identifying trends and required actions.



Habitat monitoring at Brewer Park Pond in Ottawa  
with Councillor Chernushenko



## Drinking Water Source Protection

- Administer the province's Drinking Water Source Protection Program in the Mississippi and Rideau watersheds
- Continue working with municipalities, provincial ministries, property owners, businesses, health units and others to implement source protection policies

## Surface Water Quality Monitoring

- Provide a consistent baseline dataset that can give a general indication of water quality in the watershed
- Assess the contribution of tributary streams to loadings in the Rideau River and upper watershed lakes
- Monitor ambient water quality conditions at locations on major tributary streams and watershed lakes
- Involve and provide training to lake residents to develop consistent monitoring methods to ensure data integrity and to increase the extent of monitoring activities
- Sample bottom dwelling bugs (benthic invertebrates) to determine water quality and habitat conditions using a biological method which compliments water chemistry sampling programs



### Special for 2017

- Make water chemistry data available on RVCA website for internal and external use



Temperature monitoring

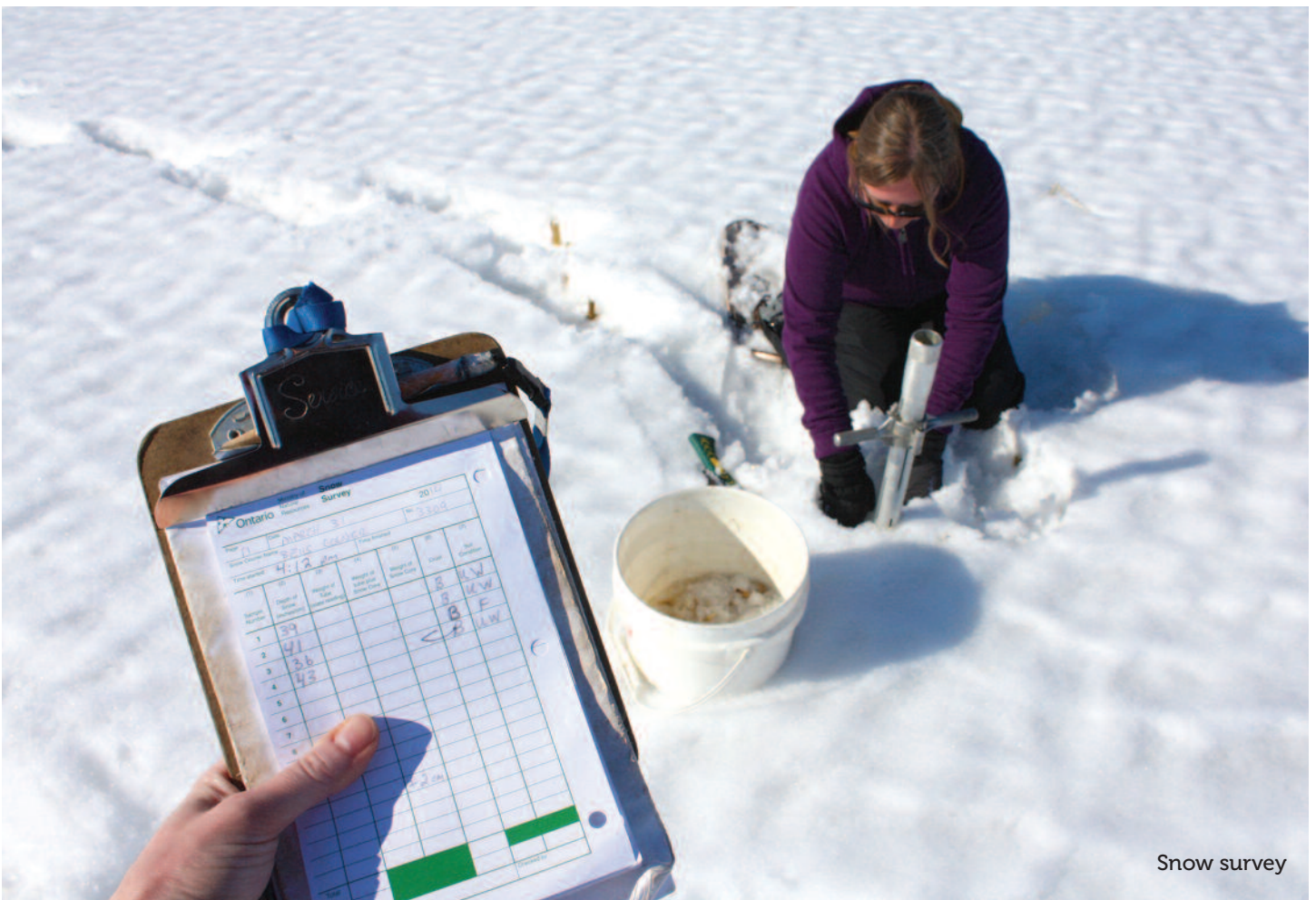


## Hydrometric Monitoring & Forecasting

- Collect, manage, analyse and disseminate data and information about the abundance or scarcity of surface water resources within the watershed
- Issue flood and drought advisories and warnings as needed
- Expand data availability through RVCA website

### What it means for your municipality?

- Effective flood forecasting services help to minimize damage and public safety risks during flood events
- Information allows for municipal emergency response planning
- Low Water Response enables communication amongst water management agencies and water consumers and facilitates optimal management of scarce resources
- Accumulated data enables numerical analysis of watershed hydrology – extreme events, and water budget analysis





## Flood, Erosion & Drought Studies

- Identify hazard lands as defined by MNRF
- Provide defensible estimates of 1:100 year flood levels on watercourses and inland lakes for effective administration and enforcement of regulations under Section 28 of the Conservation Authorities Act
- Support municipalities with up-to-date mapping of hazardous lands for Official Plan and Zoning By-law schedules
- Refine numerical watershed modeling system for use in floodplain hydrology and hydraulic analyses for un-gauged watersheds and for investigating the potential impacts of land use and climate change on a watershed scale
- Amend flood lines and associated data sets as we become aware of changes on the ground and as floodplain modeling is refined and improved over time



### Special for 2017

Produce hazard mapping for:

- Becketts Creek
- Billberry Creek
- Kings Creek



## Groundwater Monitoring

- Fulfill RVCA's obligations under the Memorandum of Agreement with Ontario regarding the Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network (PGMN)
- Work in the field and office to download data, perform data correction and QA/QC tasks, and perform basic maintenance at existing PGMN monitoring wells
- Develop and populate a groundwater information database, and develop tools to enable the creation of conceptual models (visualizations) of hydrogeological conditions at scales that are relevant to watershed management planning and environmental impact assessment activities



## Aquatic & Terrestrial Habitat Monitoring

- Undertake Ontario Stream Assessment Protocol — characterizing the amount of water, sediment transport and storage capacity within headwater drainage features
- Collect information on the physical and biological attributes of surveyed streams (habitat surveys, fish sampling, thermal regime) through the Stream Characterization program
- Inventory detailed land cover information to help facilitate land use planning and regulations, ecosystem management and conservation objectives for the RVCA and member municipalities
- Obtain, record, and manage valuable information on the physical and biological characteristics of creeks and streams in the City of Ottawa, while ensuring that they are respected and valued natural features of the communities through which they flow
- Collect field survey information to assist landowners and municipalities when attempting to understand flooding issues as a result of beaver dam activity
- Collect information on headwater drainage features through a rapid assessment method characterizing the amount of water, sediment transport, and storage capacity within headwater drainage features

### Special for 2017

- Monitor recent habitat creation/enhancement projects at Black Rapids, Brewer Park, Otty Lake, Remic Rapids and Richmond Conservation Area



Headwater monitoring



## Watershed Information System

- Provide access to electronic information
- Produce maps and data summaries for Subwatershed Reports and Data Catchment Sheet
- Support monitoring efforts with maps, data models (place to store data) and mobile tools for data entry
- Support floodplain mapping projects
- Develop RVCA's Electronic Content Management System
- Produce data used on a daily basis by RVCA staff to help watershed residents
- Manage and maintain GIS for RVCA staff, who use it in their day to day decision making process
- Support the effective and efficient use of staff time through readily available authoritative data
- Safeguard RVCA's accumulating watershed information against loss while supporting its reliability

### Special for 2017

- Launch public geoportal — making watershed data and knowledge easily accessible by municipalities, other partners and the public.



## Water Control Operations

- Safe and effective operation and maintenance of existing RVCA flood and erosion control structures to protect property and people against losses and risks associated with flooding and erosion, or to manage water levels for aquatic habitat management purposes
- Inspection, operation and routine upkeep in accordance with established procedures
- City of Ottawa provides operation and maintenance services for stormwater pump stations associated with Brewer Park and Windsor Park flood control dykes in Old Ottawa South and Rideau River ice management operations to prevent ice jam induced flooding at break-up on the lower Rideau River (Hog's Back Falls to Rideau Falls)



### Special for 2017

- Modernize records management
- Complete Haggart Island dam decommissioning and river restoration plan in collaboration with the Town of Perth
- Complete construction of the Britannia Flood Control Project in cooperation with the City of Ottawa
- Monitor newly constructed Motts Mills berm



Motts Mills water control structure and decommissioned dam



# Planning Advisory and Regulatory Services

**T**he RVCA believes that sound planning is a critical part of protecting our land and water.

Our staff bring watershed science, provincial policies and guidelines, and individual municipal needs together to meaningfully assist municipal decision-makers in building and sustaining local communities.

The RVCA also acts as an approval authority for development on hazard lands affected by flood, steep slopes or unstable soil and we regulate construction in environmentally

- sensitive areas such as in and around wetlands and along shorelines and waterways. RVCA staff also oversee the review and approval functions under the Ontario Building Code for the construction, enlargement or alteration of septic systems throughout the City of Ottawa as well as in Tay Valley Township. Septic re-inspection services are also offered in several municipalities especially in “lake country”.

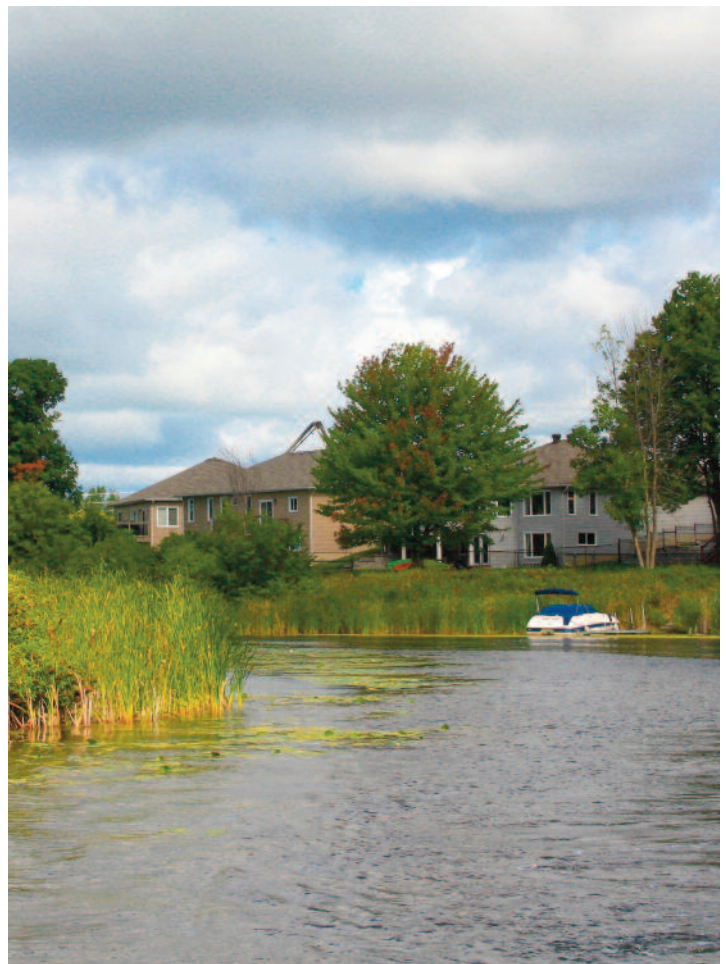
- Working in the best interests of the watershed an expert team of staff strive to ensure clean water, natural

- shorelines and sustainable land use will continue to exist and thrive throughout the watershed. We provide cost-effective solutions, ensure consistent delivery, avoid expensive fixes and reduce municipal liability associated with decision-making responsibilities.

## Plan Input and Plan Review

**T**his activity occurs on two levels – one being providing input to high level municipal planning exercises such as in the preparation of official plans, community plans and zoning by-laws and the other involving the review of specific development proposals on individual lots or for lot creation. Provincial requirements stipulate that we be involved. In such endeavours we:

- Emphasize pre-consultation to ensure that applicants submit appropriate information at the time of the filing of development applications to maximize cost savings throughout the application process
- Provide proponents with guidance on provincially established requirements and watershed specific needs – to assist, a series of checklists has been developed for more complex application types such as subdivisions
- Beyond addressing hazard issues (for which we have a provincial MOU) our input is based on MOUs established with upper tier approval authorities (Lanark and Leeds & Grenville counties as well as the single tier City of Ottawa); these agreements address roles and responsibilities as well as accountability considerations
- Municipal review and approval timelines are respected



## Section 28 Conservation Authorities Act Regulation

**C**onservation Authorities are the lead for ensuring the provincial interest is addressed with respect to development on potentially hazardous sites. To assist us in undertaking this role the Conservation Authority identifies areas in the watershed vulnerable to natural hazards such as flooding as well as on or adjacent to unstable slopes and soils. These susceptible areas are then, in most cases, identified on detailed maps so that municipal officials, real estate professionals, property owners /

prospective purchasers and others can easily understand the extent of the hazard on specific properties. At-risk-areas are mapped along the stretch of the Ottawa River at the northern extent of our watershed as well as along the full length of the Rideau River and several of its tributaries including the Jock River, Stevens Creek, Kemptville Creek and the Tay River. Flood levels have also been identified on six lakes. Wetland areas are also mapped. We are working in a co-ordinated manner to identify hazard susceptible zones in

other areas of our watershed. With this mandate the authority has accepted responsibility to administer an Ontario Regulation (O. Reg. 174/06) referenced as the "Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses" regulation. Based on the regulatory requirements, where landowners wish to fill, grade or undertake construction within the established regulation limits or to interfere with a watercourse or a wetland the Conservation Authority's written approval is required.

### What it means for your municipality?

- We provide effective and fair delivery of S. 28 regulations in a manner which dovetails with municipal planning responsibilities
- Delivery of the program is based on Board of Directors approved local policies for administration of the regulation
- Regulation limits and flood hazards are identified in a way that the information can be transferred seamlessly to municipal official plan and zoning schedules; and owners can thus easily identify how the regulation affects their lands
- We provide prompt response times (generally more quickly than suggested provincial minimums)
- Approximately three hundred applications are reviewed annually — applicants are guided, where possible, to approvable solutions where applications present authorization challenges; as such, over 95 percent of applications are approved
- Applicants have an opportunity for a hearing before the Conservation Authority's Executive Committee (appointed from the Board of Directors) when differences cannot be resolved at a staff level
- Controlling development reduces municipal liability when severe weather events occur

### Special for 2017

- Update RVCA's Development Review policies





## Fisheries

Conservation Authorities provided fish habitat protection services for more than a dozen years under agreement with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO). Fish are a resource that provide value not only to the natural

environment but also to several economic sectors including commercial and recreational fisheries, outdoor education and leisure as well as tourism. The Government of Canada made changes to the Canada Fisheries Act in 2014 that ended our formal

agreements with DFO. However, fish remain an important component of a healthy watershed and we continue to provide advice to our member municipalities and others on the protection and management of aquatic habitat consistent with our mandate.

## Pt. VIII Building Code Act

- Provide Part VIII review and approval of private septic systems within the City of Ottawa (on behalf of the Mississippi Valley, Rideau Valley and South Nation Conservation Authorities) and in Tay Valley Township (in partnership with Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority)



### What it means for participating municipalities?

- Cost-effective, not-for-profit, cost recovery service available to your municipality
- Access to experienced, well-trained, accountable staff who are designated Provincial Offenses Officers and have professional accreditations
- Consistent application of standards within and between geographical areas — a level playing-field is important to contractors, landowners and municipalities
- Benefit from fast turnaround of inspections and approvals — reducing Ontario Building Code inspection timelines by 50 percent
- Integrate approvals and inspections with other environmental regulations and land use planning processes — one site inspection can serve two or more purposes
- Emphasis on public information and education
- Minimized municipalities' exposure to risk and liability
- Committed to providing responsive, knowledgeable and courteous customer service
- Address complaints for applicants or other landowners
- Provide centralized file retention of septic approvals



## Septic Re-Inspection Program

- Delivery of Mandatory Inspection Programs and Discretionary Programs as per the Building Code (Ontario Regulations 350/06) which was recently amended by Ontario Regulation 315/10 to establish and govern mandatory on-site sewage system maintenance inspection programs at a municipal level

### What it means for your municipality?

- Protection of water quality
- Education and promotion of the importance of maintaining a healthy septic system
- Increase of property values due to protected lake environments
- Information provided to municipal planners assists in determining growth potential for existing settlement areas
- Access to experienced, well-trained, accountable staff



## Pt. IV Clean Water Act

- Provide Risk Management Officials and Inspectors to administer Part IV of the Clean Water Act on behalf of 12 of our watershed municipalities. This service implements policies in our 2014 approved Source Protection Plan.



# Corporate Services

## Management & Members, Finance & Human Resources

**E**ncompasses the overall management of the RVCA which includes work planning, budgeting, financial reporting, policy development, issues management, municipal relations, partnership development, employee management, payroll and serving the needs of the Board of Directors (training, watershed tour, meeting, agendas and minutes).

### Special for 2017

- Produce a long-range financial plan and modernize our financial system
- Review programs and implement changes that improve watershed protection, cost-effectiveness and client service
- Update governance policies for the Board of Directors to align with best practices

## Communications

- Increase awareness, knowledge, and understanding of RVCA services, programs and initiatives
- Focus on consistent, time-sensitive, transparent and accurate exchange of information
- Build and maintain effective relationships with the RVCA Board of Directors and elected officials/bodies at the municipal, provincial and federal levels
- Strive to maintain the RVCA's positive, proactive relationship with watershed media to ensure a high level of accurate, comprehensive regional media coverage
- Provide communication support through communication planning, media relations and plain language services
- Distribute corporate information through annual reports, Watershed Briefs (municipal newsletter), Around the Rideau (general corporate newsletter), municipal information sheets, program brochures, displays, media releases, website, social media (Facebook and Twitter) and public events/workshops

### Special for 2017

- Launch new RVCA website
- Update Corporate Communications Plan (communications strategy and associated communications best practices/policies) to engage with our watershed community and promote the importance of a healthy watershed





## Foundation

- Encourage more contributions to the Steve Simmering Endowment Fund to support the annual maintenance costs associated with our conservation lands
- Continue to seek new unrestricted funds for use on urgent or high priority RVCA conservation projects
- Maintain a central list of environmental projects and help RVCA staff complete them by fundraising

### Special for 2017

- Become accredited by Imagine Canada's Standards Program
- Prepare for the implementation of Ontario's Not-for-Profit Act
- Evaluate the Foundation's role in helping with local climate change initiatives



RVCF Board of Directors and staff at  
2016 Motts Mills Conservation Area Official Opening

# Conservation Land Management

The RVCA owns and manages conservation areas for strategic protection of vulnerable habitats and valuable natural resources. These areas

also provide communities with affordable recreation, education and tourism opportunities. Over 2,600 hectares of sensitive natural

environments, including 11 developed conservation areas, are available for public use and enjoyment.

## What it means for participating municipalities?

- Affordable, attractive and well-maintained sites and facilities
- Swimming and beach areas
- Year-round use — hiking, snowshoeing, swimming, picnicking, group camping
- Habitat and biodiversity conservation
- Self-guided accessible trails for municipal residents and tourists
- Environmental education for local students

## Special for 2017

- Continue trail improvements and accessibility at Chapman Mills and Baxter Conservation Areas
- Continue Baxter fundraising campaign to improve boardwalks, reconstruct the pond and wetland and develop interpretive signs
- Initiate fundraising campaign for species at risk inventory at natural areas
- Complete Natural Areas Management Plans for recently acquired lands ensuring best management practices are being conducted on RVCA land

## Baxter & Foley Mountain Conservation Areas

- Provide high quality, curriculum based education programs, day camps and group programs
- Provide nature-based passive recreation and visitor experiences
- Maintain quality facilities in terms of resource management and visitor use
- Incorporate new technology into education programs to enhance learning experiences



Rat snake at  
Foley Mountain



Pond Study  
at Baxter



## Land Donation

- Seek funding and support for acquisition and long-term protection of ecologically significant and/or vulnerable lands

### Conservation Lands

- General operation, maintenance and visitor use of developed conservation areas that are not permanently staffed
- Provide resource management of ecological features of the more natural areas that require limited management and only have local use or are for natural preservation only
- Continued development of property management plans for strategic land-use planning and efficient use of resources
- Keep visitor fees down with new, cost-effective pay system



Mill Pond Conservation Area



# Stewardship Services

**R**VCA strives to protect and enhance the Rideau Valley watershed's natural resources. Our goal is to undertake environmental protection programs that will leave a healthy and sustainable environment for future generations.

We use information from RVCA science and monitoring to address local issues and pursue targeted educational and outreach efforts to encourage community-based water protection and habitat restoration projects. Programs such as reforestation, shoreline restoration, wetland enhancement and species at risk support help us achieve this goal. We are delighted to work with private landowners, lake associations, NGOs, Friends of groups, businesses, government agencies and the general public to make direct improvements to the health of the watershed. Working with others, we divide the task and double the success!



## What it means for your municipality?

- Direct changes on the landscape for cleaner water, healthier habitats and more resilient watersheds
- Technical advice and financial assistance to you and your municipal residents
- Promotion, education and implementation of stewardship programs on private and municipal properties

## Special for 2017

- Deliver projects in the Middle Rideau watershed resulting from stewardship targeting efforts based on recommendations in last year's Middle Rideau Subwatershed Report
- Undertake outreach and promotion of programs in the Jock River subwatershed stemming from distribution of the new Jock River Subwatershed Report



## Private Land Forestry Assistance

- Provide a quality, cost-effective tree planting program – plant 200,000+ trees in 2017
- Provide a full-service planting program to landowners
- Support tree planting projects with external dollars
- Provide technical advice on woodlot management and best practices for landowners
- Renew 20-year Forest Management Plan for all eligible Conservation Areas for the 2018 deadline

## What it means for participating municipalities?

- Experienced, cost-effective, subsidized tree planting services for municipal residents
- Ability to attract tree planting sponsorship from federal and provincial governments, NGOs, environmental charities, and the private sector
- Professional staff available to provide advice regarding species at risk compensation projects

## What it means for residents?

- Access to full-service tree planting at an average savings of over 90 percent
- Provide forestry services beyond tree planting (MFTIP information, woodlot advisory services, contractor contacts)





## Butternut Recovery

- Increase the number of healthy native pure trees available for seed and scion collection
- Plant seedlings using volunteer landowners
- Grow 2,000 seedlings for out planting in 2018
- Generate revenue from the sale of native pure Butternut seedlings



## LandOwner Resource Centre — Storefront and Production Centre

- Provide front counter service for all RVCA programs and “one-stop shopping” for members of the public interested in finding out about environmental information, programs or legislation of a variety of agencies
- Maintain publications for distribution — meeting various MOUs
- Produce high quality environmental products for a wide range of internal and external clients

## Lake Planning

- Provide information, resources, templates, fundraising information and contacts to support lake planning efforts
- Review and technical vetting of lake planning related documents or reports by RVCA staff





## Clean Water Program

- Provide financial and technical assistance to farmers and rural landowners undertaking projects to protect and improve water quality in the watershed
- Promote and support a large number of best management practices that address both surface and groundwater issues

### Special for 2017

- Distribute \$272,000 in grants to qualifying projects
- Increase the uptake of projects in categories that have a direct benefit to water quality, habitat improvement and farm projects that are not supported through the Canada Ontario Farm Stewardship Program
- Promote new program additions which include Cover Crops, Land Retirement, Controlled Tile Drainage, Forest Management Plans and Innovative Projects
- Continue to develop a partnership with NCC — working with NCC staff, NCC agricultural properties are being assessed to identify where they may benefit from the implementation of best management practices
- Continue to develop a partnership with Ducks Unlimited — working together we may be able to share project costs, allowing both to stretch grant dollars further
- Assist landowners affected by Source Protection Plans — Source Protection Plan implementation will require some landowners to implement best management practices in order to meet the requirements of their Risk Management Plans; work with some of these landowners, and assist with the costs associated with implementation



Working Wetland, SunTech Greenhouses



## Shoreline Naturalization Program

- Promote the many benefits of natural shorelines throughout the watershed
- Provide a simple and affordable option for landowners to complete naturalization projects on their shoreline by providing free advisory site visits, customized planting plans, subsidized native trees and shrubs, project management and monitoring and assistance with planting installation
- Work closely with municipalities, Parks Canada and RVCA regulatory staff to facilitate planting requirements for planning and permit applications when needed
- Fundraise for special large scale projects and stewardship targeting



### Special for 2017

- Deliver the Reducing Runoff in the Rideau Valley Project funded by Environment Canada's EcoAction Community Fund
- Assist with the Bilberry Creek Shoreline Restoration Project funded by the City of Ottawa's Water Environment Strategy
- Complete targeted projects in the Middle Rideau Subwatershed and begin targeted outreach within the Jock River Subwatershed for projects to be implemented in 2018





## Beaver Management

- Track nuisance beaver calls, distribute the Beaver Management package to landowners and municipalities and assist with advice on managing beavers and dams
- Work to balance flooding and property damage concerns with the benefits to the aquatic ecosystem created by beavers

### Special for 2017

- Manage contracts with trappers for Perth Wildlife Reserve, Mica Mines Conservation Area, Kemptville Creek and Motts Mills
- Continue our beaver management partnership with Otter Lake and Drain Wolford landowners at their request.





## Questions?

Contact Sommer Casgrain-Robertson, General Manager  
Rideau Valley Conservation Authority  
3889 Rideau Valley Drive, P.O. Box 599, Manotick, ON K4M 1A5  
tel. 613-692-3571 | [sommer.casgrain-robertson@rvca.ca](mailto:sommer.casgrain-robertson@rvca.ca)

