



# Around the Rideau

Environmental Information For Municipalities In The Rideau Valley

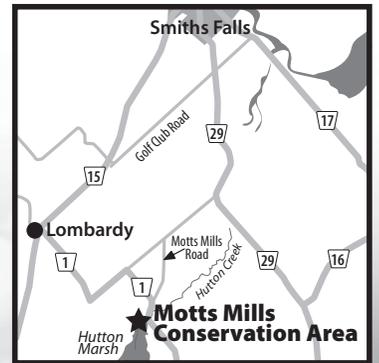
**FIFTY YEARS OF CONSERVATION IN THE RIDEAU VALLEY**

July/August 2016

## Motts Mills Conservation Area

RVCA is proud to celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary with the opening of our 11<sup>th</sup> conservation area. On June 23 the RVCA, with its many partners, gathered to celebrate the opening. The project was jump started by the South Kanata Development Corporation's donation of \$250,000 to the RVCF with additional funds from Wildlife Habitat Canada. Cooperation and involvement of local landowners has been instrumental to the creation of this new conservation area.

Motts Mills Conservation Area is located on the scenic Hutton Creek Marsh in the Township of Elizabethtown-Kitley. The new park boasts a rich wetland habitat that is part of the larger Otter Lake-Hutton Creek wetland complex — a Provincially Significant Wetland. Along with the wetland, Mott's Mills is the location of the new earthen berm built by Ducks Unlimited just a few metres from the historic, decommissioned Motts Mills Dam. Not only is the wetland ecologically significant, it is greatly valued by many local residents because of its migratory, living and breeding habitat for Ontario waterfowl and migratory birds as well as providing homes for local birds, reptiles, amphibians, plants, trees, fish, insects and mammals (some of which are Species at Risk). For more information contact DIANE at ext. 1126 or [diane.downey@rvca.ca](mailto:diane.downey@rvca.ca).



The new earthen berm and water control structure. The beautiful Hutton Creek Marsh spreads out in front of the berm (left). On the right pillars from the retired Motts Mills dam can be seen.



RVCA General Manager, Sommer Casgrain-Robertson welcomes guests.



Retired, historic Motts Mills Dam.

From left to right:  
 Dan Cooper, Executive Director Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation,  
 Frank Cairo, Principal-Caivan Communities (South Kanata Development Corporation),  
 Jason Kelly, Chair-Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation, Steve Clark, MPP Leeds-Grenville,  
 Lyle Pederson, Chair-Rideau Valley Conservation Authority,  
 Jim Pickard, Mayor-Township of Elizabethtown-Kitley,  
 Sommer Casgrain-Robertson, General Manager-Rideau Valley Conservation Authority



One of the area's highlights, a quiet bench creekside.



One of the interpretive signs on site.

## Summer Student Infusion

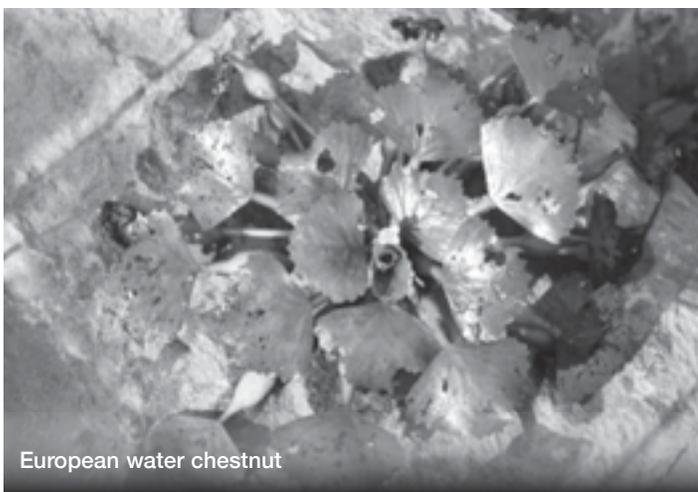
Fourteen talented, young, enthusiastic students have swelled the ranks of RVCA this summer. The students will assist with watershed data collection through our water resource technicians, outdoor education programming through our camp councillors, information management through our various clerks, conservation area improvements through our park technicians and more! The students gain much needed practical, hands-on experience and the RVCA gets a much-appreciated boost in capacity to complete special projects. ROSIE has the details at ext. 1145 or [rosie.macleam@rvca.ca](mailto:rosie.macleam@rvca.ca).

## 23,000 Trees Take Root!

RVCA has planted 23,000 trees across the watershed this spring and is happy to be working with Forests Ontario to take part in delivering the province's promised 50 million trees by 2025. 90,000 of these trees were planted in the City of Ottawa with the balance throughout the rest of the watershed. For those interested in planning trees next spring, now is the time to book a free site visit with RVCA forestry staff to discuss objectives and evaluate the best way to reforest idle land. For more information or to book your free site visit contact SCOTT at ext. 1175 or [scott.danford@rvca.ca](mailto:scott.danford@rvca.ca).

## Invasive Species & Watershed Health

City Stream Watch is targeting two exotic species that are impacting watershed health. Throughout July and August Himalayan balsam, a prolific invasive plant now found in many Ottawa creeks, is being targeted. It is highly capable of out competing native shoreline plants. Graham and McEwan Creek will be the focus of removal. Also, in collaboration with City of Ottawa and Ducks Unlimited, water chestnut will be targeted in the Rideau River. City Stream Watch is always looking for enthusiastic volunteers to mitigate the effects of these highly invasive species. To learn more about City Stream Watch or sign up as a volunteer contact JUSTIN at ext. 1194 or [citystreamwatch@rvca.ca](mailto:citystreamwatch@rvca.ca).



European water chestnut

## Dry Spring Evaporates into a Dry Summer

As early as May 24 conditions in the Rideau Valley reached minor drought conditions. The relatively dry winter followed by below normal spring and early summer rainfall has caused stream and lake levels to drop well below average for the time of year. By the end of June precipitation was at 60 percent of normal levels, dropping flows in the Rideau River to 25 percent of normal for this time of the year. So far the lakes and Rideau Canal are within operational navigation ranges but boaters need to be vigilant and watch for newly exposed shoals. Water conservation is important; if you are on a municipal system, check your municipality's webpage for any water use restrictions. Those on wells need to use water wisely to avoid depleting the aquifer. RVCA is tracking impacts of the drought — if you are experiencing low water issues with your well call 613-692-3571 ext. 1128 or 1132. For more information contact PATRICK at ext. 1210 or [patrick.larson@rvca.ca](mailto:patrick.larson@rvca.ca).



Barely a drip — Brassils Creek at the end of June.

## ABCs of Algae

Do you want to learn more about algae and how it affects your lake or waterbody? Read our educational manual on algae and aquatic plants available at [www.rvca.ca](http://www.rvca.ca) under "Special Projects."

## CONSERVATION DID YOU AREAS KNOW?

- Portland Bay was RVCA's first Conservation Area, opening in 1968.
- 62,000 visitors pass through the gates of RVCA's 11 Conservation Areas annually.
- Each year 10,000 students participate in Baxter and Foley Mountain Conservation Areas' educational programs
- In total, there are 42 kilometres of trails and 2,800 hectares of protected conservation lands in our Conservation Areas.

### Rideau Valley Conservation Authority

Box 599, 3889 Rideau Valley Drive  
Manotick, ON K4M 1A5  
613-692-3571 or 1-800-267-3504  
[www.rvca.ca](http://www.rvca.ca)

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