



Around the Rideau

Environmental Information For Municipalities In The Rideau Valley

FIFTY YEARS OF CONSERVATION IN THE RIDEAU VALLEY

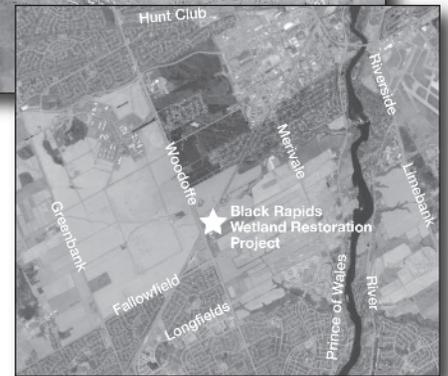
September/October 2016

New Wetland Restoration Project at **Black Rapids**

This September the National Capital Commission (NCC) and RVCA have begun restoring a wetland in the headwaters of Black Rapids Creek, in the Nation's Greenbelt. The wetland is located near Woodroffe Avenue, north of Fallowfield Road. The existing shallow wetland (3,444 m²) will be more than doubled (7,000 m²) in size. A new channel will be excavated to reconnect a small isolated wetland to the headwater tributary of Black Rapids Creek. Habitat features will be installed creating more diverse habitats that will result in increased species diversity. Various depths and slopes will be used to encourage plant diversity. Inverted root wads, sweeper trees and basking logs will be used to provide basking areas for turtles, shelter for waterfowl rearing their young and reproductive areas for amphibians and aquatic insects. Work is expected to be completed by October 2016.

Project Benefits

- Improved water quality for Black Rapids Creek and ultimately the Rideau River
- Altered elevations creates more diverse aquatic vegetation
- Provides new and enhanced refuge areas for aquatic and terrestrial wildlife
- Creates quiet areas for waterfowl and shorebirds to feed and rear young
- Increased biodiversity of aquatic/terrestrial plants, fish and wildlife
- Installed wood structures (trees, stumps and large branches) creates enhanced habitat
- new functional spawning, nursery, rearing and feeding habitat for fish



For more information contact JENNIFER at ext. 1108 or jennifer.lamoureux@rvca.ca.
www.rvca.ca/black_rapids



It's Working!

Conservation and aquatic habitat creation is working well at the Jock River Fish Habitat Embayment Creation Project! On August 22, while sampling for fish at the embayment, RVCA staff netted a Blanding's turtle! These turtles are considered a *Species at Risk* (threatened). It's great news that one visited the embayment. Blanding's turtles are medium-sized and can be recognized by their bright yellow chin and throat with a domed, smooth black carapace with irregular tan or yellow flecking. The biggest threat to this turtle is habitat loss. They prefer wetlands, shallow lakes and ponds with clean water and mucky bottoms. After his "photo op" the turtle was released back into the water where he was found. For more, contact JENNIFER at ext. 1108 or jennifer.lamoureux@rvca.ca.



Planning for Spring Tree Planting

It's hard to believe that now is the time to think about spring tree planting but it's time to get your "seedlings in a row." If you have a minimum of one acre of suitable land and are interested in planting at least 500 trees, RVCA can help! We offer a full service program with customized planting plans, free on-site technical advice, site preparation, ordering, handling and planting of trees and everything needed to "green up" your property. Subsidies are available! Seedlings are 15 cents per tree. Contact SCOTT at ext. 1175 or scott.danford@rvca.ca.

Exodus at RVCA

This year's batch of hard-working students has migrated from RVCA to the hallowed halls of academia! This talented group loaned us their hard work and skills this summer (with the help of some federal and provincial funding). We know they return to school with valuable work experience under their belts! Thank you and best of luck in the coming school year! Contact ROSIE at rosie.maclean@rvca.ca or ext. 1145 for more.

Headwater Workshop

On November 7, 2016 the *Headwater Drainage Feature Guideline Implementation: Practitioners Experiences — Eastern Ontario* workshop will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn Ottawa Airport, 2400 Alert Road, Ottawa. The workshop will update participants on routine headwater management decisions, policy development and update on work done since the 2011 workshop. Talks by experts from Conservation Authorities, the City of Ottawa and the private sector will highlight local success stories. You can contact MICHELLE at ext. 1177 or headwaters@rvca.ca. To register or learn more visit www.rvca.ca/headwater.

CA Act Review RVCA Board of Directors Endorses Conservation Ontario's Submission

In 2015, the Province of Ontario initiated a review of the *Conservation Authorities Act*. The Act addresses the roles, responsibilities and governance of Conservation Authorities in resource management and environmental protection. In 2016, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry released their suggested

priorities for renewal of the *CA Act*, *Conserving Our Future, Proposed Priorities for Renewal*. This paper is based on feedback received from 2015 Stakeholder Engagement sessions. Conservation Ontario has developed and posted a collective submission which the RVCA Board of Directors supports. Conservation Ontario's collective position focuses on five themes:

1. Confirm an integrated watershed management approach and the current broad mandate of Conservation Authorities as watershed management agencies. A new Purpose Statement and Preamble are recommended to be included in the *CA Act* for clarity.

2. Establish a formalized provincial multi-ministry body to clarify a broader integrated watershed management approach through an eventual Integrated Watershed Management Provincial Policy.
3. Modernize governance and accountability provisions within the *CA Act* in order to ensure more consistency across Conservation Authorities while strengthening oversight and accountability.
4. Establish a cost shared, multi-ministry sustainable funding model for any provincially mandated programs best delivered with an integrated watershed management approach on a watershed basis. Investing in Conservation Authority programs and services which protect water, build ecosystem resilience and provides green spaces prevents costly expenditures for flood damages, business disruptions and health care.
5. Establish a multi-stakeholder table to regularly address client service issues; and update and deliver provincial process and technical policies and guidelines to facilitate consistency. Conservation Authorities will streamline and improve client service delivery standards for planning and permitting practices within current capacity. Additional provincial support will facilitate that ability.

For more information contact SOMMER at ext. 1214 or sommer.casgrain-robertson@rvca.ca or visit: conservationontario.ca.

RVCA@Tree Fest Ottawa

RVCA will be at the Tree Fest Ottawa fall tree festival. Join us as we participate in and host three Tree Fest events taking place this year at Brewer Park Pond.

- September 10 **Opening Day**, Open House on the Brewer Pond Restoration Project (10:30 to 11:30 a.m.)
- October 1 **Ecology Day**, Workshop on the Ecology of Brewer Pond (10:00 to noon)
- October 15 **Flowering Rush Removal** with RVCA and City Stream Watch (10:00 a.m. to 2 p.m. — register to help through citystreamwatch@rvca.ca)

For full details on these and other Tree Fest events, visit www.treefestottawa.org.

Fast Foliage This Fall!

Environment Canada reports that after the hot, dry summer the trees may not hold onto their fall foliage for very long. Long-term forecasts say that the weather will be good for watching the autumn display but it won't last as long as in previous years. So, take a Sunday drive to Foley Mountain — stop in for a hike or just a short stroll to enjoy the view from the infamous Spy Rock. REBECCA can keep you updated about peak colours at rebecca.whitman@rvca.ca, 613-273-3255 or at Foley's Facebook page. You can check out how the fall colours are progressing at www.ontarioparks.com/fallcolour.

ty·po /'tɪpə/

noun informal — a typographical error

In July/August's *Around the Rideau* article, *23,000 Trees Take Root!* — actually **230,000** trees took root! A few more trees planted than the title suggested. Our apologies to the hard working Forestry staff and to you, our readers, for the error.

Outdoor Education Naturally!

Part of maintaining a healthy watershed involves teaching the next generation about the natural world and providing them with opportunities to connect with nature. Outdoor environmental education programs are offered at both Baxter and Foley Mountain Conservation Areas for a variety of student audiences. These programs support creativity and problem solving, enhance cognitive abilities, improve performance, increase physical activity, improve social relations, reduce stress and improve health overall. Outdoor education also gives students a better attitude about the environment. And, not only is it good for the kids, it's great for teachers too and there are studies to back that up. Let's get that classroom out to Baxter or Foley Conservation Area. You can book class "green time":

- **Baxter** — ANDREA at 613-489-3592 or visit www.rvca.ca/careas/baxter
- **Foley** — REBECCA at 613-273-3255 or visit www.rvca.ca/careas/foley



The Rideau Watershed has benefited from 29,000+ hours of TLC from volunteers investing their hard work in watershed health. These dedicated groups and individuals are the true watershed heroes!

Thank you to all our volunteers and partners who have gone the extra mile to make the Rideau Valley a healthy and more resilient place to live, work and play. Contact DIANE for more info at ext. 1126 or diane.downey@rvca.ca.



Around the Rideau

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