



# Around the Rideau

Environmental Information For Municipalities In The Rideau Valley

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

March/April 2016

## RVCA Turns Fifty!

The Rideau Valley Conservation Authority Board of Directors formally acknowledged the 50 year anniversary of the Conservation Authority's formation on March 31, 2016.

"We are delighted to celebrate 50 years of conservation," announced RVCA Chair Lyle Pederson as he unveiled the Authority's special 50-year logo. "This will be a year to share our successes and how they have made a significant contribution to the health and prosperity of our watershed."

Covering 4,241 square kilometres, the RVCA was officially formed on March 31, 1966 and over the past 50 years, the RVCA and its many partners have had a positive, cumulative impact on our local watershed.

"The work done has laid a strong foundation for a healthy and sustainable future," said RVCA General Manager Sommer Casgrain-Robertson. "But there is lots left to do and we look forward to working with our many partners and landowners to achieve our goals for a healthy watershed for all."

Those interested in more details on the history of the RVCA can visit [www.rvca.ca/timeline.html](http://www.rvca.ca/timeline.html) for an online walk through the years since 1966. An infographic highlighting the RVCA's achievements is also available on the website. Be sure to follow the RVCA on Facebook and Twitter to see interesting highlights over the year (#RVCA50). For more information, contact DIANE at ext. 1126, [diane.downey@rvca.ca](mailto:diane.downey@rvca.ca).



RIDEAU VALLEY  
CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

YEARS 1966 - 2016

### CA History

The conservation movement began in Ontario in the early 1940s. Community leaders expressed concerns about the condition of the environment and managing natural resources. The result was the Province of Ontario passing the *Conservation Authorities Act* in 1946. Conservation Authorities began to form throughout the province. This legislation was considered innovative and farsighted and it responded to growing concerns that land uses and deforestation were contributing to deteriorating water quality, flooding and soil erosion. The Act empowered municipalities to address these issues by forming a single collaborative agency based on a watershed. Today, conservation authorities continue to respond to local issues and conditions and are accountable to their member municipalities.

### Fifty Years of Success Includes –

- 9 million dollars of grants distributed to landowners undertaking stewardship projects
- 5.7 million trees planted on private lands equaling 24 square kilometres of new forest
- 2,800 hectares of environmentally sensitive lands acquired and protected
- 186,450 water quality samples taken
- 16.5 kilometres of shorelines naturalized and buffers planted
- 9,650 kilometres of streams surveyed
- 17,500 butternut seedlings planted
- 29,000 volunteer hours invested in watershed health
- 23,700 *Planning Act* application reviews completed
- 6,475 permits processed under Section 28 of the *Conservation Authorities Act*
- 250 *Environmental Assessment Act* reviews
- 42 kilometres of trails created for outdoor recreation at local conservation areas
- 4.5 million dollars fundraised by the Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation
- 62,000 visitors annually to our conservation areas including 10,000 students
- 14,950 septic approvals issued, plus 3,600 re-inspections along lakes



RVCA staff gather to celebrate RVCA's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



Headwater sampling

## Spring Means Headwater Monitoring!

Headwater drainage features (HDFs) provide important ecological and hydrological functions to downstream reaches of creeks and rivers. RVCA began its HDF monitoring program in 2012 to assess surface and groundwater, riparian conditions and terrestrial and aquatic habitat. This spring the focus was on the Tay River watershed and City Stream Watch Program headwater sites — approximately 54 sample locations! Since the Tay River watershed is so large (358 sampling locations), it will be divided up into two monitoring years. The data collected will be presented in the 2017 *Tay River Subwatershed Report* catchment sheets. A big thank you to the volunteers who joined RVCA staff to sample this spring. For more information call JENNIFER at ext. 1108 or [jennifer.lamoureux@rvca.ca](mailto:jennifer.lamoureux@rvca.ca).

## RVCA's Shoreline Naturalization Program

RVCA's Shoreline Naturalization Program can provide you with everything you need to naturalize your shoreline including a custom planting plan, native plants and assistance with planting. The program covers 75 percent of project costs — site visits and advice are always free! New in 2016 landowners in the Rideau Lakes and Middle Rideau subwatersheds are eligible for FREE shoreline naturalization projects! Contact MEAGHAN at ext. 1192 or [meaghan.mcdonald@rvca.ca](mailto:meaghan.mcdonald@rvca.ca) to see if you qualify!



## Have You Seen These Signs?

These nifty, new road signs have been installed around eastern Ontario and mark Drinking Water Protection Zones! The signs aim to raise awareness about the zones that surround **municipal** drinking water sources which now get special protection under the *Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Plan*. These zones are located in communities with municipal water services, including Almonte, Carleton Place, Kemptville, Merrickville, Perth, Smiths Falls and Westport. In some locations the zone extends into neighbouring municipalities so portions of the

Drinking Water Protection Zones can be found in the townships of Beckwith, Drummond/North Elmsley, Montague, Rideau Lakes and Tay Valley. To learn more contact ALLISON at ext. 1148 or [allison.gibbons@mrsourcewater.ca](mailto:allison.gibbons@mrsourcewater.ca).

## Green Acres Tree Planting

If you have a minimum of one acre of suitable land and are interested in planting at least 500 trees, Green Acres 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 make your tree planting project a success. Significant subsidies are available on all projects. Seedlings are 15 cents per tree. Contact SCOTT at ext. 1175 or [scott.danford@rvca.ca](mailto:scott.danford@rvca.ca).

## Restoration Project Wins Award

The Brewer Park Pond Restoration Project won the Top Canadian Fishing Industry Conservation Project Award for 2015. RVCA and its partners (Minto, Richcraft, Muskies Canada Ottawa Chapter, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, City of Ottawa and the Institute of Environmental Science at Carleton University) collaborated on re-connecting Brewer Pond back to the Rideau River. Among the project's many aesthetic and

environmental benefits, 16,000 m<sup>2</sup> of new spawning, nursery, rearing and feeding habitat was created to support the 40 species of fish that reside in the Rideau River. RVCA and Muskies Canada received the award at the Toronto Sportsman Show on February 12, 2016. To learn more about the project visit [www.rvca.ca/brewerpark](http://www.rvca.ca/brewerpark) or contact JENNIFER at ext. 1108 or [jennifer.lamoureux@rvca.ca](mailto:jennifer.lamoureux@rvca.ca).

## We're looking for volunteers!

RVCA is looking for volunteers to record rain and snow in the watershed. Ideally it would be best if you have an open area (not many trees blocking device) and be dedicated to recording information daily. For more information please contact ANDREA at ext. 1140 or [andrea.larsen@rvca.ca](mailto:andrea.larsen@rvca.ca).

## Check First! You May Need a Permit

If you are planning work around a lake, river, stream or wetland, be sure to call the RVCA to get advice on any permits or applications you may need. You may also be eligible for different RVCA stewardship programs where grants and technical assistance are available. Drop in to the office or visit our website at [www.rvca.ca](http://www.rvca.ca) — under "Planning, Regulations and Permits" — to see what local rules and regulations may apply. Contact EMMA at ext. 1132 [emma.bennett@rvca.ca](mailto:emma.bennett@rvca.ca) or KELLIE at ext. 1128 [kellie.iacovitti@rvca.ca](mailto:kellie.iacovitti@rvca.ca).

## Long Time Conservation Partner

Pratt & Whitney Canada is a loyal, long-time donor to conservation and tree planting in the Rideau Valley. Known for their community work, P&WC has made annual donations to help finance the Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation's annual planting program for 13 years. "They make the job of protecting our land and water so much easier," said RVCF Chair Jason Kelly. A big thank you to this important conservation partner. For more information, contact DAN at ext. 1124 or [dan.cooper@rvca.ca](mailto:dan.cooper@rvca.ca).



# Around the Rideau

### Rideau Valley Conservation Authority

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