



Around the Rideau

Environmental Information For Municipalities In The Rideau Valley

September | October 2015



Conservation Authorities Act Under Review

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR) recently announced a review of the *Conservation Authorities Act*. A discussion paper has been posted to solicit feedback around governance, funding mechanisms, and roles and responsibilities of Conservation Authorities. Comments are being accepted until October 19, 2015. We invite you to get involved. Visit Ontario's Environmental Registry at www.ebr.gov.on.ca and reference EBR Registry number 012-4509 to get more details on the process, the discussion paper and how to submit your comments. SOMMER can tell you more at ext. 1214 or sommer.casgrain-robertson@rvca.ca.

Conservation Areas Highlight!



New Digs for Barn Swallows at Chapman Mills

Barn swallows have experienced a significant decline since the 1970s due to habitat loss and other factors. Modern buildings are increasingly replacing older wooden barns and farmhouses, which are ideal for barn swallow nesting. A barn swallow structure, to be built at Chapman Mills, will provide a new home for local swallows. It is being built by Claridge Homes in return for a barn being removed in Riverside South. We look forward to seeing the new, feathered residents at Chapman Mills — just one more reason to visit this Conservation Area! Contact KRISTY at ext. 1178 or kristy.giles@rvca.ca.

Fall Foley Foliage!

It's hard to believe the autumn is upon us and with that comes spectacular colours. Why not take a trip to Foley Mountain Conservation Area to enjoy the change of season? With shorter days, the trees stop producing green chlorophyll and the remaining chemicals (carotenoids — yellows and oranges and anthocyanins — reds and purples) have their time to show off before the snow flies. Plan your optimum viewing by visiting www.ontarioparks.com/fallcolour or watch for posts on Foley's Facebook page. Contact REBECCA at 613-273-3255 rebecca.whitman@rvca.ca

Get Schooled! Baxter/Foley Education Programs!

Awesome outdoor environmental education programs are offered at both Baxter and Foley Mountain Conservation Areas. School groups can participate in a multitude of year-round programs. All programs are designed to be interactive and experiential while meeting curriculum guidelines. Visit www.rvca.ca/careas to learn more about programs at Baxter and Foley Mountain Conservation Areas. For Baxter Education program information contact ANDREA at 613-489-3592, andrea.wood@rvca.ca; for Foley Mountain information contact REBECCA at 613-273-3255, rebecca.whitman@rvca.ca.

2016 Annual Pass — Available After Thanksgiving!

What better way to kick off the shopping season by picking up a 2016 Conservation Areas Annual Pass! They make great gifts. The pass will give access to the remainder of 2015 and all of 2016! It costs \$45 (includes HST) and is a great value — year-round access to our five developed conservation areas: Baxter, Foley Mountain, Perth Wildlife Reserve, Rideau Ferry and W.A.Taylor. Any questions? Contact CHRISTINA or GLORIA at 613-692-3571 (1-800-267-3504), ext. 1100 or email info@rvca.ca.



Infrastructure Update

Haggart Island Dams Decommissioning

The Haggart Island Dams are located on the Tay River in the Town of Perth. These dams are comprised of two separate and independent weirs that were constructed in 1971 and need to be replaced. After much consultation with the community and town council, RVCA and Town of Perth staff will decommission the old weirs and replace them with two rocky ramps (a river restoration technique to maintain existing water levels). Rocky ramps are a significantly less costly and more ecologically friendly alternative to traditional dams. RVCA and Town of Perth staff, working with Matrix Solutions Inc./Parish Aquatic Services, are to begin work this fall. MIKE can give you more information at ext. 1176 or michael.yee@rvca.ca.

Motts Mills Dam Replacement

Patience, perseverance and phenomenal partnerships have led to the replacement of Motts Mills Dam. Work to decommission the failing, 63-year-old dam located just off County Road 1 in Elizabethtown-Kitley is to begin this fall. It's being replaced with an earthen weir just upstream from the existing dam. Duck Unlimited, who has vast experience in designing and building these structures, will oversee construction. The existing dam will maintain current water levels until the new weir takes over. The weir will then maintain the same water levels for at least a year until a wetland restoration plan is finalized. This is the first in a series of steps to restore the provincially significant Hutton Marsh to its former glory with more open water to attract a diversity of wetland inhabitants. Contact TERRY for more information at ext. 1107 or terry.davidson@rvca.ca.



Motts Mills Dam c.1968

2015 Lake Links

Join us for the Annual Lake Links Workshop: *Lake Fisheries Management and How to Get Lake Projects Done* to be held on Saturday, October 24, 2015, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Perth Civitan Hall (on Highway 43). This year's workshop will focus on strategies for protecting lake fisheries with a special focus on fish habitat restoration. In the afternoon experts will teach participants how to manage lake projects, including partnership development and fundraising. Registration is \$20 payable at the door and includes lunch and refreshments. This workshop is always a great networking opportunity. For more information check out the weblink: <http://watersheds.ca/lake-links-2>. To register, contact Karen Ballentine at Watersheds Canada at ballentine@watersheds.ca or 613-264-1244.



Citizen Water Watch

New App to report Algae Blooms!

Thanks to this innovative app, algae and aquatic plant observations can now be made with a click of a button on your smart phone. This just-released Android app is called Citizen Water Watch and can be downloaded for free at the Google play store. App users will be asked to take a photo and provide a description and the

location of their observation. Data from the app will be stored and will provide information on when, where and how often algal blooms and excessive aquatic plant growth are occurring. *The People, Aquatic Plants and Healthy Lakes Project* is funded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation and is run by a collaborative group of Friends of the Tay Watershed Association, Carleton University, Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority, RVCA and Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation. Be sure you check it out. For more information contact KAITLIN at ext. 1154 or kaitlin.brady@rvca.ca.

Free Shoreline Makeovers!

RVCA's Shoreline Naturalization Program provides free shoreline site visits and planting projects to landowners in target areas. Natural shorelines are one of the best ways you can help protect water quality, mitigate erosion and enhance fish and wildlife habitat. If you live within the Rideau Lakes or Kemptville Creek subwatersheds and would like to increase natural plant cover along your shoreline, give us a call. Since the program's inception we've assisted 260 landowners, planted 50,000 shoreline plants and naturalized 16 kilometres of shoreline. For more information call MEAGHAN at ext. 1192 or meaghan.mcdonald@rvca.ca

New Viewing Bench at Richmond Conservation Area

The group at *itSMF* has made a very thoughtful and long lasting donation to the Village of Richmond — a viewing bench at Richmond Conservation Area. *itSMF* Canada is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting and facilitating the recognition and growth of its members in service management. Donating a bench that the entire community can enjoy is a fitting alternative to the usual gifts they would give to speakers at HDI — Eastern National Professional Development Days. Call DAN at ext. 1124 or dan.cooper@rvca.ca.

Back to School They Go!

Twenty plus talented students loaned us their skills this summer. These hard-working students (with the help of federal and provincial funding) assisted with core and special projects including: water sampling, monitoring, tree planting, outdoor education, conservation land maintenance and so much more. They return to school with valuable work experience and the satisfaction of knowing they made a difference to the health of the Rideau watershed. Well-done guys! Contact ROSIE at rosie.maclean@rvca.ca or ext. 1145 for more.



Around the Rideau

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Ramada Ottawa on the Rideau — 613-288-3500, Previously The Monterey Hotel — Offers 87 fully renovated rooms with balconies overlooking the Rideau River. It is an Oasis in the city

