



Around the Rideau

Environmental Information For Municipalities In The Rideau Valley

May | June 2015

Brewer Park Pond Community Planting Day Huge Success

Thanks to 120 dedicated volunteers who, on May 9, gave a total of 300 volunteer hours to enhance Brewer Park. Both terrestrial and aquatic plants were planted, including willows, elderberry, nannyberry, speckled alder, buttonbush, winterberry, dogwoods, cardinal flower, marsh marigold, various sedges, meadowsweet and more. Also, a turtle nesting area was installed. In addition to the underwater improvements made last fall, the shore area can now boast new plants that will give Brewer's wildlife new places to hide, feed and make their homes — biodiversity just got a huge boost at Brewer Park pond! Call JENNIFER for more details at ext. 1108 or jennifer.lamoureux@rvca.ca.



Abbott Point of Care Invests in Healthy Shorelines Again!

RVCA would like to thank Abbott Point of Care for once again contributing \$12,000 to the Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation and RVCA's Shoreline Naturalization Program to improve the shoreline buffer of their Moodie Drive campus. Their generous donation will see native trees and shrubs planted along Stillwater Creek in Nepean. For more information on corporate greening opportunities, contact DAN at ext. 1124 or dan.cooper@rvca.ca.

New Wetland Features for Ottawa

RVCA and the National Capital Commission are teaming-up to



transform a low-lying grassed area into a fully functioning wetland. Although a tiny site (.15 hectares), its proximity to the nearby Ottawa River (Rémic Rapids) will make it a valuable safe haven for local waterfowl, amphibians, reptiles and aquatic plants. Volunteers will help with site prep and installation of special

features such as logs and tree wads for amphibians and a sand/pea stone nesting area for turtles. JENNIFER can tell you more at ext. 1108 or jennifer.lamoureux@rvca.ca.

Invasive Species Removal

RVCA's City Stream Watch Program will remove three invasive plant species from Ottawa urban waterways this summer. Himalayan balsam, Japanese knotweed and European water chestnut will be targeted for removal efforts. The City Stream Watch will host eight invasive species removal events on four city creeks (Pinecrest, Nepean, Sawmill and Taylor) and the Rideau River. Invasive species spread quickly, out compete native plants, threaten biodiversity and impact stream bank stability. It is very important to remove these plants before they spread throughout the entire Rideau system. Staff and volunteers will also be returning to yellow iris removal sites from past years to conduct post effectiveness monitoring. Thanks to the Community Foundation of Ottawa for helping fund these events. You can help too! Contact CHELSEY at ext. 1180 or citystreamwatch@rvca.ca for details on upcoming removal events.

Young Artists Donate to Conservation

The Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation (RVCF) was pleased to accepted a remarkable gift from the student of Richmond Public School. The students held an art sale and half of the proceeds were donated to the RVCF. The Foundation is humbled by the class's gesture to support our charity. There's a real comfort in seeing the next generation embrace our cause. A big "thank you" to all the kids and to teacher Jeanne Gilchrist! For more call DAN ext. 1124 or dan.cooper@rvca.ca.

EcoAction Supports Healthy Watersheds

Thank you to Environment Canada's EcoAction Community Fund Program for supporting the Rideau Valley Healthy Watershed Project. EcoAction provided a generous \$99,000 for the three-year stewardship initiative which included shoreline naturalization, tree planting, stream clean ups, invasive species removals, bioengineering, fish habitat enhancement and migratory fish obstruction removals. Livestock restriction/alternative watering systems and land retirement projects were also completed. Projects were carried out in areas identified as vulnerable or threatened based on RVCA monitoring data and assessment reports. For more information contact ANDREA at ext. 1173 or andrea.klymko@rvca.ca.

2015 Freshet in Review

This year's peak on the Rideau River was 183 cubic metres per second (cms) recorded at Carleton University on April 4. This is the seventh lowest peak flow since 1937 when records became routinely recorded and caused no flooding or property damage. This is a far cry from water levels last spring.

Water levels continue to be low. As a member of the Rideau Valley Low Water Response Team (LWRT), the RVCA monitors conditions and reports low water issues when they occur. The RVCA collects precipitation, stream flow and water level data to estimate the severity of drought conditions in our area. To learn more about low water, visit www.rvca.ca/low_water or contact PAT at ext. 1210 or patrick.larson@rvca.ca.

Watercourse	Peak Spring Flow 2015	Highest Recorded Peak	Period of Record
Ottawa River	2,964 cms	5,060 cms (1979)	1915-2015
Rideau River	183 cms	597 cms (1976)	1901-2015
Jock River	41 cms	148 cms (1978)	1969-2015
Kemptville Creek	31 cms	82 cms (1972)	1969-2015
Tay River	14 cms	58 cms (1985)	1985-1989 1994-2015

What is "cms"? A measure of flow in streams and rivers. One cubic metre per second is a volume of water one metre high and one metre wide flowing a distance of one metre in one second. One cms is equal to 270 gallons of water flowing each second.

Launch into Boating Fun at Local Conservation Areas

Looking to launch your boat and explore the Rideau system? W.A.Taylor Conservation Area and the Rideau Ferry Yacht Club both offer boat launches. W.A.Taylor, found just outside the Village of Osgoode, offers easy access to the Rideau River. Rideau Ferry provides access to Lower Rideau Lake near the Village of Rideau Ferry, not to mention a sandy beach for a quick, refreshing dip. At \$6 per launch it's a deal! Or get your conservation area pass for \$45 and enjoy unlimited access all season long. MEGAN can get you all the details at ext. 1179 or megan.dunster@rvca.ca.



Be Septic Smart

Having a well maintained, properly functioning septic system is very important to rural landowners and Rideau cottagers. Systems need regular care and maintenance and should be pumped every three to five years. Spring is a perfect time to get a licensed contractor in to inspect and pump your septic system. Here are some other good septic dos and don'ts to remember:

DO

- familiarize yourself with the location of your system
- keep a drawing of your system for reference
- divert surface water away from your leaching bed
- pump out your tank on a regular basis (three to five years)
- repair leaky plumbing fixtures
- conserve water to reduce the amount of wastewater being treated
- replace old toilets with low-flush models
- keep accurate records of septic system maintenance and service calls

DON'T

- flush chemicals, cigarette butts or sanitary products
- use a garbage disposal/garburator
- plant trees or shrubs too close to the system or leaching bed
- dig without knowing the location of your septic system
- drive over your tank or leaching bed
- enter a tank — gases and lack of oxygen can be fatal
- connect rain gutters, storm drains or allow surface water to drain into a sewage system
- leave interior faucets on to protect water lines during cold spells — instead, insulate your faucets and plumbing



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