



Around the Rideau

ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION FOR MUNICIPALITIES IN THE RIDEAU VALLEY

September/October 2018

A Couple of Dimes Will Do It!

For a couple of dimes a tree you can reforest your marginal land or abandoned farm fields. Planting trees is a great way to make the idle land productive. And, to sweeten the deal, significant subsidies are available to help landowners plan, prepare and plant their future forest. RVCA's full-service tree planting program offers trees for 15 cents each (\$120/acre) for landowners with at least one acre or more (0.4 hectares) of land. Our professional staff will meet with landowners, inspect the site and create an individualized planting plan specific to the site conditions. RVCA's goal is the right tree in the right place for optimal growth and survival. Book your free site visit with SCOTT at ext. 1175 or scott.danford@rvca.ca.

October is Lake Links Workshop Month!

Lake Links is holding its 17th annual Lake Links Workshop where lake community members, scientists and organizations across Eastern Ontario join to learn, network and see what's new. The hot topic this year is the importance of good stewardship on your property. You'll learn about active lake stewardship programs, what others are doing on their property and how those actions are affecting our lakes. Make sure you keep October 20 free (8:30 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.). It's being held at the Perth Civitan Hall (cost \$25 and includes lunch). You can register at watersheds.ca/lakelinks2018 or contact Melissa Dakers at dakers@watersheds.ca, 613-264-1244. And, don't forget to bring a food donation for the Perth Food Bank.



Jock Embayment — Lookin' Good!

Things are looking lush at the Jock River Habitat Embayment Creation Project. The embayment was built in 2014 and created 1,000 square metres of new habitat for fish to spawn, rear, feed and find homes in the river. 100 metres of shoreline was built by re-grading the slope and planting a shoreline buffer. As part of the project, native wildflower mixes were planted, and now after a few years, they look amazing. Downed logs in the water act as turtle resting areas and refuges for aquatic species. To learn more about RVCA's past and current habitat projects, call JENNIFER at ext. 1108 or jennifer.lamoureux@rvca.ca.

Wildflowers abound at the Jock River Habitat Embayment Creation Project.



Hey Tay, Still Wanna Restore Your Shore?

We're still looking for residents who would like to restore their shore! Thanks to special funding through the Great Lakes Guardian Community Fund, RVCA is covering the cost for shoreline restoration for landowners in the Tay Subwatershed. Landowners could be eligible for full cost coverage for shoreline naturalization and partial funding for tree planting and livestock fencing. Ultimately, this will improve watershed health and water quality. RVCA staff is looking to connect with shoreline residents and conduct site visits and prepare project plans over the next few months. Call MEAGHAN at ext. 1192 or meaghan.mcdonald@rvca.ca.

Focus on the Foundation



RVCA's Megan Dunster, landowner Wally Kaczowski and RVCF's Michael Poliwooda

Hard Working Natural Waterfront Donated to RVCF

A 1.55-acre parcel of natural shoreline and wetland along the Rideau River (just north of Kemptville) was donated to the Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation (RVCF) by Mr. Wally Kaczowski. Too small to develop and with little interest from family, it didn't make sense to keep the property. An outdoor educator, Mr. Kaczowski recognized the site's significant natural features. The RVCF is particularly interested in land that is ecologically sensitive or has unique water-related features (wetlands, shorelines, and aquifer recharge areas). The Kaczowski property fit the Foundation's review process to a tee. The property is the perfect blend of natural shoreline, wetland, and trees that provide valuable habitat for many species including the endangered Henslow's Sparrow and the rare Eastern Musk Turtle. Mr. Kaczowski's waterfront joins 50+ unique sites owned by the RVCF and managed by the RVCA. Special thanks to Wally Kaczowski for his community-minded gift. For more information talk to DAN at ext. 1124 or dan.cooper@rvca.ca.

Land Donation

The RVCF has an active procurement plan and an established track record in receiving land donations. The RVCF is particularly interested in properties that are ecologically sensitive or have unique features such as wetlands, shorelines and aquifer recharge areas. These properties are essential because they help maintain clean water, prevent soil erosion, reduce the impacts of flooding and provide wildlife with food and habitat. In addition to the land itself, each land donation has legal, surveying and appraisal fees plus ongoing taxes and maintenance. The RVCF has funds to help offset these costs such as the Environmental Land Fund and the Steve Simmering Endowment Fund. Donors can feel confident because the RVCF is a member of the Canadian Land Trust Alliance and adheres to the Standards and Practices set out in the Land Trust documents. Guiding principles in the RVCF's land donation program include integrity, perpetual responsibility, and excellence in public service and good governance. If you are interested in learning more about land donations, contact MICHAEL at ext. 1184 or visit the RVCF website at www.rvcf.ca.

Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Committee is Looking for Public Input

The Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Committee is looking for public input on their draft amendment for the *Rideau Valley Source Protection Area Assessment Report* and the *Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Plan*. The draft amendment identifies new wellhead protection areas for Western Development Lands in Richmond, as well as revised protection areas for Kings Park-Richmond and Munster. It will identify potential drinking water threats in new and existing wellhead protection areas. Amendments to the Source Protection Plan do not include policy changes but reflect additions of new and revised wellhead protection areas in Munster and Richmond. There are several ways to view the documents: visit www.mrsourcewater.ca/en/richmond-munster-proposed-well-amendment or visit the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority in Carleton Place or the RVCA in Manotick. You can also schedule a viewing appointment with Tessa Di Iorio at the City of Ottawa at 613-582-2424 ext. 17658. Comments will be received no later than Friday, September 28, 2018. BRIAN has more information at ext. 1141 or brian.stratton@mrsourcewater.ca.

Calling All Teachers!

Now that the kids are back in school, it's time to consider outdoor education at Baxter or Foley Mountain Conservation Areas. Both Conservation Areas offer excellent outdoor education programming year-round. Programs can be a half day or a full day and can take place weekdays or weekends all year long. They are interactive and experiential and provide students with a strong understanding of our natural world, how it functions and how we fit into it. You can even schedule a self-directed visit with your class. Visit www.rvca.ca/outdoor-education and select either Baxter (Kars, ON) or Foley Mountain (Westport, ON) to see the list of programming available and you can book online. To schedule a self-directed visit, call Baxter at 613-489-3592 or Foley Mountain at 613-273-3255.

Kemptville Creek Still in "Moderate" Drought

The Kemptville Creek remains at a "moderate severity" drought level, whereas the rest of the watershed is at minor severity. Flows in the creek continue to be low. And, the lower water levels are having an impact on aquatic life. As pools dry up, they become smaller, warmer and have less oxygen. RVCA recommends water conservation throughout the Rideau River Watershed. Those with permits to take surface and groundwater are encouraged to reduce as much as possible. Some municipalities may have invoked water restrictions and burn bans, so be sure to check. For more information call PATRICK at ext. 1210 or patrick.larson@rvca.ca. You can learn more about RVCA's Low Water Response Program on our website at www.rvca.ca.



Very dry Kemptville Creek near North Augusta, July 17, 2018.

They're Back, And Foley's Got them!

Day campers at Foley Mountain Conservation Area were finding lots of Monarch caterpillars earlier this year and watched them feed, grow and transform into their long-traveling adult form. We haven't seen many monarch butterflies in the past few years, but they are back. This year is shaping up to be a great year to be a monarch butterfly; however, deforestation, climate change and increased use of herbicides have caused the monarch's population to decline and they were added to Ontario's Species at Risk list in 2008. These fantastic insects migrate up to 3,000 kilometres between breeding grounds in North America and overwintering sites in Mexico. Most adults live only four to five weeks, but those who metamorphose into butterflies in the fall can live for seven to eight months. It is those who take to the skies and head to Mexico. Ask REBECCA at 613-273-3255 or rebecca.whitman@rvca for more information.



This monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*) from Foley Mountain will be heading south to Mexico soon.

Goodbye to This Year's Summer Students

With the approach of fall, RVCA said goodbye to this year's batch of talented, hard-working summer students. The students (with the help of federal and provincial funding) assisted with core and special projects that included water sampling, monitoring, tree planting, outdoor education, conservation land maintenance and so much more. Their time at RVCA has given them valuable work experience and they know that they've made a positive impact on the health of the Rideau Valley watershed. Awesome job!



Staff and students working hard to remove invasive European frogbit this past July.



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2018

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS!

Rideau Valley Conservation Authority

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