

AROUND the Rideau

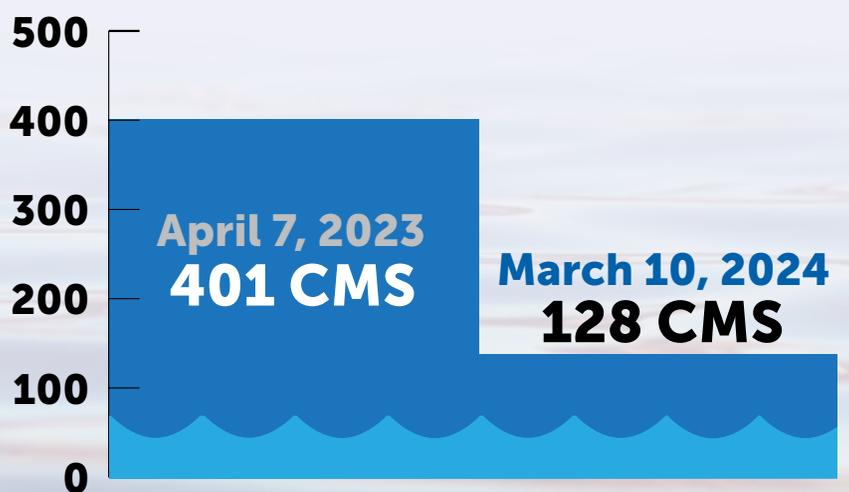


March / April 2024

Early Freshet is one for the books

A low snowpack, an abnormally warm February and a heat wave in early March combined to move the Rideau River's official freshet almost a month earlier than average this year, and with one of the lowest peak flows on record, as well. This year's stream flows peaked on Sunday, March 10 at 128 m³/sec. By comparison, last year's stream flows peaked on April 7 at 401 m³/sec! Historically, the Rideau's average freshet date is April 3 with a normal peak flow around 369 m³/sec. The river's highest flow on record was observed in 1976 at 597 m³/sec. Find real-time and historic flow data at rvca.ca/watershed-conditions. Contact BRIAN at brian.stratton@rvca.ca for more info.

Rideau River Peak Flows



Watershed Monitoring is underway!

Spring has sprung, and monitoring season has begun. Watch for our aquatic and water quality teams sampling lakes and streams across the watershed! Throughout the season, staff sample headwaters, streams and lakes for a variety of chemical and biological parameters. Thanks to an early spring, staff have already completed 63 headwater drainage feature assessments within the City of Ottawa and have started post-effectiveness monitoring for the Jebbs Creek Wetland Embayment project.

Graham Creek gets a glow-up

Thanks to a generous donation from Accora Village, Graham Creek will get some extra TLC when it is surveyed by our City Stream Watch staff this season! The creek is scheduled for a full stream assessment this year, and the housing corporation near Bayshore Mall will support targeted restoration opportunities along the urban creek to help keep it clean and green for the entire community. Other streams scheduled for detailed assessments this season: Brassils Creek near Burritts Rapids, McEwan Creek in Greenboro and Greens Creek in Beacon Hill.

Want to volunteer?

City Stream Watch is always looking for eager volunteers to help with stream health assessments, invasive species removals, garbage cleanups and more. Email citystreamwatch@rvca.ca to get involved!



Planning a project? Contact us!

Conservation authorities continue to regulate development near hazard areas such as floodplains, wetlands, shorelines and steep slopes. If you're planning a project close to one of these features, you may need a permit. Our resource specialists are standing by to help you navigate the process before you begin. Contact us early to save time and money down the road. Email development@rvca.ca or call 613-692-3571 ext. 1132.

New regulations in effect

As of April 1, changes to the *Conservation Authorities Act* will impact how development applications are processed. Key changes include a reduction in the size of the regulated area around wetlands, permit exemptions for some low-risk structures and new standards for complete applications. Unsure if you still need a permit? Contact us! We're happy to help.



Are you eligible?

Planning improvements for your farm or rural property? You may be eligible for up to \$15,000 in grants if your project helps improve or protect local water quality. Financial and technical assistance is available for on-the-ground projects such as livestock fencing, manure storage, cover crops, wetland creation, erosion control, windbreaks, well and septic replacements and more. First application deadline is May 1, 2024. Contact DEREK at derek.matheson@rvca.ca or learn more at www.rvca.ca/stewardship-grants.



Welcome, water protectors!

The Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Committee recently welcomed two new public sector representatives: Scott Ferguson and Alex Clark. Our Source Protection Committee represents multiple stakeholders to ensure a variety of local interests are involved in decision-making. Our 12-member committee works with CA staff to develop policies that effectively protect local sources of drinking water. Contact MARIKA at marika.livingston@mrsourcewater.ca for more or visit mrsourcewater.ca.

Walk the Tay this May!

On Saturday, May 25, walk the Tay River with Friends of the Tay Watershed from 2 to 4 p.m. The public stroll will follow the shoreline trail in Perth, and includes presentations on aquatic and shoreline wildlife, Tay River history and local waterway programming. Visit taywatershed.ca for more information.

AROUND the Rideau is made possible thanks to our generous sponsors

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