



2005 Annual Report

Rideau Valley Conservation Authority



Chair/General Manager's Message



2005 WAS A DYNAMIC YEAR — there was and still is a buzz in the air as the Authority launched into exciting new responsibilities and opportunities. The announcement of the *Clean Water Act* rejuvenated the Authority and in many ways, reiterated and reinforced messages and tasks we've been doing for the past 39 years.

This is a time of unprecedented growth at the Authority. Our increasing staff complement allows us to aggressively pursue our goals for a healthy watershed. It means more staff collecting watershed data, planning watershed studies, working with lake associations, making informed planning decisions, enforcing shoreline protection measures, revitalizing land through tree planting, educating watershed school children, and protecting conservation land. This growth, when combined with our steadfast commitment, is seeing indispensable on-the-ground results.

There has never been a more exciting time to be involved in watershed protection. We have the opportunity to make a real difference for the future. Decisions we make together today — as the Authority, in cooperation with our member municipalities, fellow government agencies and our watershed residents — will benefit our watershed for years to come.

We are pleased to recognize and celebrate another successful year. Thank you to our members, municipal politicians, our government and non-government partners for their support in 2005.

John H. Miller, Chair
Dell Hallett, General Manager

2005 Rideau Valley Conservation Authority

Board of Directors

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RVCA Priorities & Objectives

*A*s we move into the final year of our *Making It Happen — Three Year Strategy and Work Plan*, we continue to work towards continued cost-effective, inter-municipal environmental protection. The RVCA works with all our partners to deliver important environmental services and programs at the local watershed level, including: site plan review, septic system approvals, flood forecasting and warning, fish and habitat protection, reforestation, landowner incentive programs, and conservation land management. Most importantly, we monitor, evaluate and report on our watershed resources. This information is the start of our continuous cycle of monitoring, planning and implementing watershed actions. This information is the tool in delivering our programs and meeting our Authority objectives.

- ✿ Improve the water quality in our streams, lakes, rivers and groundwater reserves
- ✿ Preserve safe and sustainable water supply — surface water and ground water
- ✿ Enhance flood and erosion protection and improve flood forecasting and warning system
- ✿ Conserve watershed habitats through sustainable stewardship activities
- ✿ Strengthen our partnerships with municipalities, conservation groups, community associations and others to undertake management activities
- ✿ Provide accessible, credible and current watershed information for sound decision-making



RVCA tree planting programs mean improved air and water quality, enhanced wildlife habitat, increased soil conservation and more.



2005 Accomplishments

Highlights over the past 12 months...



Watershed Planning, Monitoring & Reporting

- Environment Minister Laurel Broten introduced the Walkerton-inspired Source Water Protection legislation known as the *Clean Water Act* into the Ontario legislature on December 5, 2005. The RVCA and MVC team up to deliver Source Protection through the new Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection team as we work towards implementing watershed-based protection plans that protect drinking water across Ontario.
- The Watershed Information System continued to provide municipalities, agencies, special interest groups and the general public the most current collection of technical information on the Rideau Watershed. Launched in 2004, this innovative online inventory of information allows easy web-access to watershed knowledge on everything from terrestrial habitat to water levels to shoreline surveys.
- Regular monitoring of flows, water levels and weather forecasts are essential for flood forecasting and low water response operations. Tools include stream gauges, weather stations, snow surveys, meteorological forecasts and computer models.
- Using contemporary computer software, the RVCA continues to maintain hydrologic and hydraulic models of over 330 km of river (including the Rideau, Jock, Kemptonville, Tay, Stevens and Rideau Lakes) and over 100 sub-watersheds. The modelling will provide reliable scientific input into day-to-day decision-making and policy development.
- The Rideau Lakes watershed planning process started with the establishment of a technical advisory committee, involvement of the public, creation of terms of reference and development of goals and objectives.
- The *Lower Rideau Watershed Strategy* was completed — highlighting over 70 management actions for protection and enhancement of 1,800 km² of watershed downstream of Burritts Rapids. Key goals include revitalizing river and stream corridors, fine tuning water levels and flows, managing nutrient inputs, coordinating action activities for public and private organizations, and educating the public about watershed issues.
- New Jock River Flood Risk Mapping was completed in 2005. Maps from the Richmond Fen downstream to the Rideau replace the original maps from 1981. Newly-engineered flood risk maps were developed for the Jock from Richmond Fen upstream to the Village of Ashton. This means the Authority is using the most current, science-based tools to make wise planning decisions along the Jock River.
- The ailing Haggart Island Dams in Perth are to be replaced by modern engineered structures. A feasibility study completed in early 2005 recommended replacement of existing gabion and timber structures by reinforced concrete structures.
- Water quality sampling continues at a number of stream and lake locations throughout the watershed. The Provincial Water Quality Monitoring Program, RVCA's Baseline Monitoring Program and Watershed Watch are the RVCA's main water sampling programs. The RVCA also participates in the Ontario Benthos Biomonitoring Network (OBBN) which samples insect populations at 46 sites. Insect populations are used to monitor water quality in our local streams.
- Ottawa's City Stream Watch program continues to grow in popularity and scope as more volunteers come onboard to record natural characteristics of city streams. 2005's streams include Graham Creek, Stevens Creek, Greens Creek and Mosquito Creek.



Lake Monitoring Workshop Participants learn how to sample for benthic invertebrates (aka bugs).

2005 Accomplishments

Highlights over the past 12 months...



Stewardship Services

- In the past four years, the RVCA, City of Ottawa, landowners and corporate sponsors have invested close to \$1.5 million in watershed improvements and public education projects through the Rural Clean Water Programs. The Rideau Valley Clean Water Program (from the edge of Ottawa to Rideau Lake country) has provided almost \$244,000 in grant money for projects such as fuel storage and handling, riparian planting, livestock fencing, well protection and more. Similarly, Ottawa's Rural Clean Water Program has injected an additional \$85,000 of grant funding and \$400,000 project dollars into the valley's local economy.
- The RVCA has been planting trees since 1983, averaging 130,000 trees a year for a total of 2.85 million trees in 22 years! Trees for Tomorrow and Green Acres continue to deliver planting services across the entire watershed. The benefits of trees (erosion protection, windbreaks, and streambank rehabilitation) are felt from Ottawa to Rideau Lakes and everywhere in between. This success story wouldn't be complete without the support of our many tree planting partners.
- The RVCA's LandOwner Resource Centre continues to provide front-end customer service for all the Authority's programs. It is everyone's first stop for accurate information on planning, regulations, stewardship programs, conservation areas and more.
- The Kemptville Creek Beaver Dam Monitoring Pilot Project, initiated in 2003, wrapped up in 2005. It was confirmed that beaver dam removals to control water levels, if carried out in an ecologically-friendly fashion, can be completed without adverse effects on aquatic habitat.

Conservation Lands Program

- The RVCA operates, maintains and services 35 properties throughout the valley. This totals 5,550 acres and includes ten developed conservation areas.
- Children continue to learn about their natural world through our outstanding outdoor education programs at Baxter and Foley Mountain Conservation Areas. Over 10,500 children participated in our school programs in 2005. Our education programs are self-funded through user fees, sponsorship and in-kind donations.
- Baxter Conservation Area began improvements to its wetland interpretive features with the addition of 300 metres of new boardwalk, viewing towers and interpretive signs. This is all made possible thanks to the *Healthy Wetlands . . . Healthy Communities* which is a funding partnership between the Ministry of Natural Resources and Ducks Unlimited Canada.

Planning and Regulations

- The RVCA continued to regulate construction, filling and alterations to waterways under Section 28 of the *Conservation Authorities Act*. The province has now broadened those responsibilities to include valleylands and wetlands. The new "generic" regulation will come into effect in May 2006. Throughout 2005, the RVCA prepared for the implementation of this new regulation by updating mapping for hazards and wetlands, hosting open houses and undertaking municipal and public communications efforts. Initial efforts were also made in the development of new RVCA policy.

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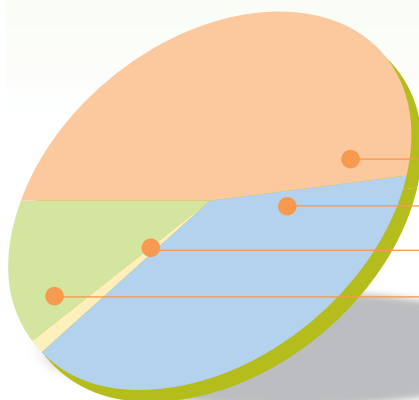
2005 Accomplishments

Highlights over the past 12 months...



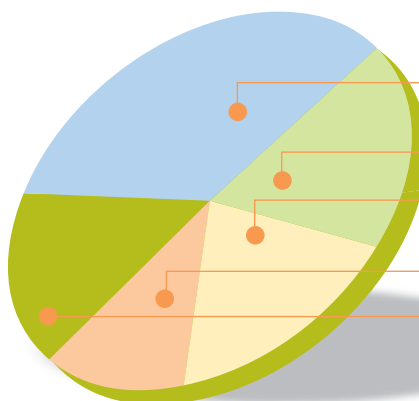
- The RVCA provides technical advice to municipal decision-makers on land use planning and development services in technical disciplines including hydrogeology, storm water management and the review of environmental impact statements (EIS) associated with development near wetlands.
- In 2005, over 1,200 planning applications were reviewed. This service is performed on a cost recovery basis with \$300,000 in fees paid in 2005.
- The RVCA continues its Level II agreement under Section 35 of the *Canadian Fisheries Act* to review development and regulatory applications to ensure proposals do not alter, disturb or destroy fish habitat.
- The RVCA acts as the municipal approval authority for private sewage systems in the City of Ottawa and Tay Valley Township. Over 880 permits were issued in 2005 — this means over 3,000 site visits to ensure properly installed and functioning septic systems. An additional 100 site visits were completed as part of the Tay Valley Septic System Office's septic re-inspection program.
- The Ontario Rural Wastewater Centre, at Baxter Conservation Area, continues to provide hands-on training and demonstrates new technology for the wastewater industry. Since its official opening in 1999, over 200 professionals have gained specialized training at the Centre. The ORWC has also undertaken outreach training to over 1,500 rural residents through septic and well workshops.

Financial Conservation



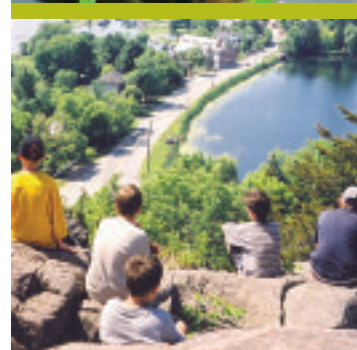
2005 Revenues

Municipal Levy	\$3,119,000
Program Revenue	\$2,429,810
Special Levies	\$96,690
Government Grants	\$867,500
TOTAL	\$6,513,000



2005 Expenditures

Watershed Planning, Monitoring & Reporting	\$2,240,000
Planning, Advisory & Regulatory Services	\$1,230,000
Stewardship Services	\$1,147,000
Conservation Land Management Services	\$823,000
Corporate Services	\$1,073,000
TOTAL	\$6,513,000



Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation

The Foundation's 11 members continue to work as a team and remain committed to the RVCF's goal to protect and conserve the lands and waters of the valley of the Rideau River in Eastern Ontario. The Conservation Foundation builds partnerships and seeks funding from individual donors, other foundations, businesses and builds on interest from our endowment funds. As a registered charity, the Foundation continues to play a crucial role in making conservation projects happen.

In 2005, the Foundation contributed \$170,554 for on-the-ground projects throughout the Rideau Valley.

The Foundation was honoured to be an official charity of the Nortel Ottawa Dragon Boat Festival. This was an amazing two-year opportunity for the Foundation — thank you to the Festival for their support and for giving back to the community and especially the Rideau River.

Thanks to all of the RVCF's supporters and volunteers who made 2005 an exciting year for the foundation and its work. To learn more, visit the RVCF website at www.rideauvalley.on.ca/foundation.

Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation Board of Directors

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Lesley I. Cameron

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Lynn Kaplansky

Pat MacGregor **Secretary-Treasurer**

Ralph Raina

Stephen Simmering **Vice Chair**

Mary Surtees

Charles Billington **Executive Director**

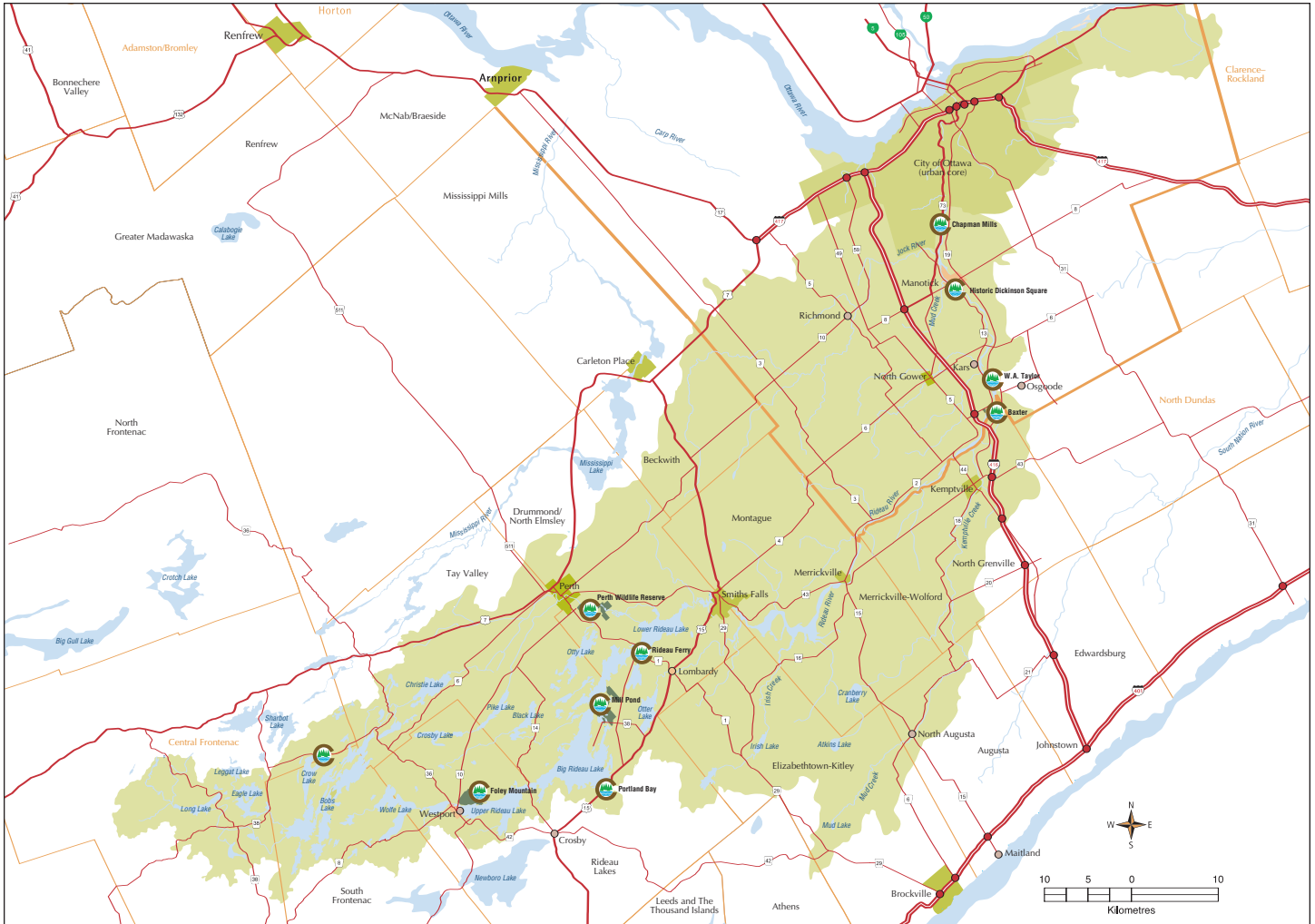


Partners in Conservation

Agricultural Adaptation Council
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
AON Reed Stenhouse
Bell Baker, Barristers and Solicitors
Bytowne Cinema
Canada Lands Company
Chawkers Foundation
Christie Lake Association
CH2MHILL CANADA Limited
Collège d'Alfred (University of Guelph)
Community Foundation of
Greater Kingston
Community Foundation of Ottawa
Conservation Ontario
Crosby and Little Crosby
Lake Association
Davern Lake Association
Department of Fisheries and
Oceans Canada
Ducks Unlimited
Eagle Lake Association
Eastern Chapter, Society of Ontario
Nut Growers
Eastern Ontario Biodiversity Museum
Eastern Ontario Model Forest
ECOS (Environment Committee of
Ottawa South)
Enbridge Consumers Gas Co. Ltd.
Energy Pathways Inc.
(ON-SITE Program)
Environmental Farm Plan
Farren Lake Association
FENDOR Glass & Aluminum
(FENDOCK)
Friends of Baxter Conservation Area
Friends of Foley Mountain
Friends of the Jock River
Friends of the Rideau
Friends of Perth Wildlife Reserve
Friends of the Tay Watershed
Friends of Upper Duck Island
Geosynthetic Systems
Golder Associates
Great Lakes Aquatic Network & Fund
Greater Bob's and Crow
Lakes Association
Harold Crabtree Foundation
Healthy Future for Ontario Agriculture
Helen McCrae Peacock Foundation
Home Depot Foundation
Human Resources
Development Canada
J.P. Bickell Foundation
Kemptville Building Centre
Kemptville Truck Centre
Kinsmen Club of Manotick and District
Kinsmen Club of Rideau Lakes
Lanark County Federation of Agriculture
Lanark County Community
Stewardship Council
Lanark Leeds Green Community
Leeds County Community
Stewardship Council
Little Silver Lake Property
Owners Association
Living by Water Project
Manotick Horticultural Society
Manotick Kiwanis Club
Mattamy Homes

McConnell Family Foundation
(Living by Water)
Minto Developments Inc.
Monarch Homes
Monterey Inn Resort & Conference Centre
Mountain Equipment Co-op
MAPLE (Mutual Association for the
Protection of Lake Environment Inc.)
OMYA (Canada) Inc.
Ontario Farm Environmental Coalition
Ontario Federation of Agriculture
Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food
and Rural Affairs
Ontario Ministry of the Environment
(Ottawa District, Southeast Region,
Provincial Groundwater Monitoring
Network)
Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs
and Housing
Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources
(Kemptville, Kingston, Peterborough;
Aviation, Flood & Fire Service)
Ontario On-Site Wastewater Association
Ontario Rural Wastewater Centre
Ontario Power Generation
Ontario Soil & Crop Improvement
Association
Ontario Summer Experience Program
Ontario Trillium Foundation
Ottawa Dragon Boat Festival
Ottawa Stewardship Council
Otty Lake Association
Parks Canada, Rideau Canal Office
Pratt & Whitney (Canada)
Pike Lake Cottage Association
Renfrew County Stewardship Council
Richcraft Group of Companies
Rideau Environmental Action
League (REAL)
Rideau Forests Developments
Rideau Lakes and District Kinsman Club
Rideau Roundtable
Rideau Waterway Land Trust Foundation
Robinson Consultants Inc.
Robinson's Your Independent
Grocer, Manotick
Royal Bank of Canada
Ruffed Grouse Society
R.W. Tomlinson Ltd.
Shell Canada Limited
Simmering & Associates Ltd.
South Nepean Development Corporation
St. Joseph Print Group
Summer Job Service
Sunoco and the Suncor
Energy Foundation
TD Canada Trust Friends of the
Environment Foundation
The Base Mapping Co. Ltd.
Trailhead
TransCanada PipeLines
Tree Canada Foundation
Upper Rideau Lake Association
Unilever-Evergreen Foundation
University of Guelph
University of Ottawa
URBANDALE
Watson's Mill Manotick Inc.
Wetland Habitat Fund
Wildlife Habitat Canada

Rideau Valley Conservation Authority Watershed



How to Reach Us

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