

AROUND the Rideau



November / December 2022

A Budding Partnership:

Forests Ontario, RVCA to help plant 2 Billion Trees

Forests Ontario will deliver the federal government's 2 Billion Trees program in the province, with RVCA at its side to help plant millions of native seedlings across Eastern Ontario. From left, Forests Ontario COO Elizabeth Celanowicz, Conservation Ontario CEO Angela Coleman, Milton MP Adam van Koeverden, RVCA Forestry Manager Ian Cochrane and Forests Ontario CEO Rob Keen celebrate the announcement in downtown Ottawa on Nov. 23. The RVCA has planted nearly 7 million trees to date, with another 227,000 planned for next spring. Contact IAN at ian.cochrane@rvca.ca for more information.



Still time to comment on provincial housing Bill 23



The Provincial More Homes Built Faster Act released in October will have sweeping implications for taxpayers, municipalities and our natural systems now and in the future. While some aspects of the legislation's consultation period have closed, several regulatory frameworks are accepting public comment until Dec. 30. You can learn more about the proposed changes at rvca.ca/bill23 or contact SOMMER at sommer.casgrain-robertson@rvca.ca for more information.

Have Your Say!

Tell the province what you think of Bill 23! Submit formal comments through the Environmental Registry of Ontario under the following postings:

- ERO 019-6141: Legislative proposals affecting conservation authorities (closes Dec. 9)
- ERO 019-2927: Changes to natural hazards regulation (closes Dec. 30)
- ERO 019-6161: Natural Heritage Offsetting Discussion Paper (closes Dec. 30)

Thanks for your support!

The RVCA is so grateful for the many volunteers, supporters and donors who make our programs a success. Many of our monitoring and stewardship programs wouldn't be possible without the time, energy and enthusiasm of our volunteers. A huge thanks to all who joined us in 2022. Water quality volunteers gave 110 hours of their time to keeping their lakes healthy, while others cleaned up creeks, removed invasive species and planted trees and shoreline plants across the watershed. We also appreciate our many supporters who speak up for conservation on our behalf, and donors who support our charitable partner the Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation. We couldn't do it without you!



City Stream Watch by the numbers!

Ottawa's City Stream Watch is a people-powered program! Check out our 2022 accomplishments:

- **187** volunteers
- **580.5** volunteer hours
- **253** stream sections surveyed
- **3** invasive species removals
- **9** garbage clean ups
- **14** temperature loggers installed
- **18** fish sampling sites





Bridging the Accessibility Gap

Baxter, Chapman break ground on new bridges

Construction has begun on new state-of-the-art accessible pedestrian bridges at Chapman Mills Conservation Area in Barrhaven and Baxter Conservation Area in Kars. Chapman's new bridge addresses several accessibility and safety concerns at the north end of its trail. At Baxter, the bridge project is the first phase of a larger Nature For All plan to transform Baxter into Eastern Ontario's most accessible nature haven. The new bridge will reconnect the Nut Grove to Baxter's trail network while providing a new sturdy span to welcome people of all ages and abilities to get up close and personal with the marsh. Be sure to follow our social media channels for updates! Contact CHELSEY at chelsey.ellis@rvca.ca for more information.

Give the gift of conservation!

Let's make it a green Christmas! Our partners at the Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation offer some great green gift ideas that are meaningful, local, long-lasting and eco-friendly. Cover everyone on your nice list:

- 1. Special occasion tree planting:** As your love for your special someone grows and thrives, let us plant a special tree to do the same - right here in the Rideau Valley watershed. Beautiful, symbolic and a gift to your future selves - it's a gift that will last a lifetime!
- 2. Adopt An Acre:** Got young kids in your life? Give them the gift of a sustainable future. Adopt an acre in their name to protect local wild spaces for their kids, grandkids and great-grandkids!
- 3. Go carbon neutral:** Feeling guilty about all that online shopping? Offset your family's holiday emissions with local, native trees that will capture and store your excess carbon for the next 80 years or more!
- 4. Memorial bench:** The holidays can be hard, especially if you're missing someone special. Consider gathering the family to purchase a memorial bench or picnic table to remember them in a beautiful, timeless setting. Comforting for you, and a comfortable rest stop for visitors!

Register for Winter Forest School!

Baxter and Foley Mountain conservation areas are both accepting registrations for their winter forest school sessions, which will begin in January 2023. These weekly child-led, nature-based programs offer your child a chance to take risks, solve problems and be a leader in a familiar outdoor environment. Contact BETH at baxter.supervisor@rvca.ca to learn more about Baxter's programs or REBECCA at rebecca.whitman@rvca.ca for info about Foley Mountain's.



A nature pass for nature nuts!

Got a Nature Lover on your holiday shopping list? Why not give them the gift of nature with an annual pass to our conservation areas? The \$50 pass covers all parking, boat launch and beach fees at our five paid sites - offering infinite opportunities to get outside all year long. Order at www.PayByPhone.com using location code 5222 or contact CHELSEY at chelsey.ellis@rvca.ca for more information.

Christmas closure

The RVCA, RVCF and Ottawa Septic System offices will be closed from 4:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 23 until 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 3.
We wish everyone a safe and happy holiday!
See you in 2023!

AROUND the Rideau is made possible thanks to our generous sponsors

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