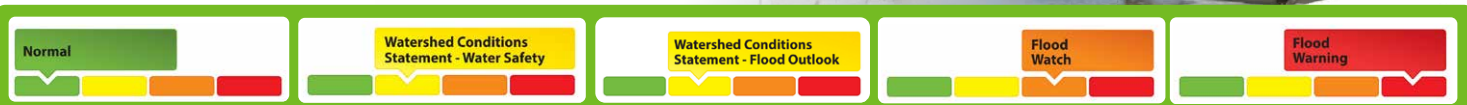


## Spring Freshet 2023

### Stay informed - Stay dry!

As the spring freshet continues, stay ahead of flooding by keeping tabs on our real-time water level data, subscribing to our Flood Forecasting alerts and following our social media channels for the most current flood status updates. Find real-time data, flood preparation tips, emergency protocols and other important information at [www.rvca.ca/watershed-conditions](http://www.rvca.ca/watershed-conditions).



#### Normal

No flood conditions exist.

#### Water Safety

High flows, unsafe banks, melting ice or other factors could create dangerous conditions. Flooding is not expected.

#### Flood Outlook

Early notice of the potential for flooding based on weather forecasts for heavy rain, snow melt, high wind or other conditions that could cause flooding or erosion.

#### Flood Watch

Flooding is possible in specific watercourses or municipalities. Be prepared to activate your emergency response.

#### Flood Warning

Activate your flood response procedures now! Flooding is imminent or already occurring in specific watercourses or municipalities. Follow all guidance from local emergency response agencies.



RVCA Board Chair  
Kristin Strackerjan

## New Chair, Vice-Chair elected for RVCA board

A new board term began in February with plenty of new faces and new roles for returning members. Along with 13 new board members, the board has also elected a new Chair and Vice-Chair. North Grenville Coun. Kristin Strackerjan will serve as Chair for 2023, and citizen appointee for Ottawa Anne Robinson will be Vice-Chair. We thank departing members for their service, and particularly extend a warm thank you to outgoing Chair Pieter Leenhouts for his work as Chair since 2018. To learn more about the RVCA board visit [www.rvca.ca/governance](http://www.rvca.ca/governance).

## Timely responses keep permit applications moving

If you're applying for a Section 28 permit this year, rest assured you'll get an answer in a timely fashion. In 2022, all but 2 of the 315 permits approved by RVCA under Section 28 of the *Conservation Authorities Act* were issued within provincial timelines – that's a 99% success rate! The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry states that major projects should be approved within 90 days, while minor projects should be approved within 28 days. RVCA also strives to meet more aggressive timelines encouraged by Conservation Ontario and can report that half of the 315 permits issued last year were issued in half the time stipulated by the Province. For more information contact GLEN at [glen.mcdonald@rvca.ca](mailto:glen.mcdonald@rvca.ca).



## Planning a project? Call us!

Before you start working on your waterfront project, make an appointment with our planning staff to make sure you've got the right permits and that your project meets legislated requirements for working around natural hazards. Email [development@rvca.ca](mailto:development@rvca.ca) or call 613-692-3571 ext 1132 or 1193 to learn more.

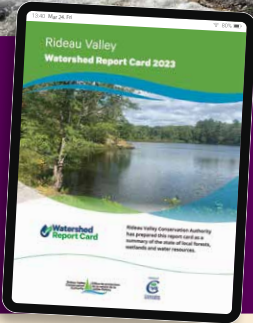




## Chapman Mills bridge is back!

Just in time for spring, Chapman Mills Conservation Area will fully reopen in April after a new pedestrian bridge was installed on the evening of Sunday, March 19. The 60-foot accessible span was lifted in by crane and will provide a wider, safer walkway over the trail's northern storm drain. We thank the Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation, Canada Community Revitalization Fund and private donors for their generous support. Thanks as well to the community for its patience as we completed this critical infrastructure upgrade!

For more information contact CHELSEY at [chelsey.ellis@rvca.ca](mailto:chelsey.ellis@rvca.ca).



## Watershed Report Card now available

As part of Conservation Ontario's five-year watershed report card project, the RVCA has published a snapshot of watershed conditions for 2023. Explore the current status of our surface water, groundwater, forests and wetlands – and what we can all do to improve and protect them. Visit [www.rvca.ca/watershed-conditions](http://www.rvca.ca/watershed-conditions) to read the report or visit [www.conservationontario.ca](http://www.conservationontario.ca) to find reports from across the province.

## New hazard mapping funding approved

RVCA staff have initiated preliminary data collection for hazard mapping projects in two regions, thanks to federal funding from the Flood Hazard Identification and Mapping Program. In the lower watershed, the federal government will provide \$144,000 towards work on Brassils Creek, Greens Creek, Sawmill Creek, Graham Creek, Stillwater Creek and Faulkner Drain. In the upper watershed, the federal government will provide \$160,000 towards preliminary hazard mapping work around Lower Rideau Lake, Big Rideau Lake, Bobs Lake and Otty Lake. Both projects will support the completion of future floodplain mapping studies. For more information contact BRIAN at [brian.stratton@rvca.ca](mailto:brian.stratton@rvca.ca).

### Love your watershed? Get involved!

There are lots of ways to support local conservation efforts while getting outside and enjoying our beautiful watershed. This spring, consider:

- **Tree planting:** Join our forestry team in the village of Richmond on Saturday, May 13 for a community tree plant. Contact AMBER at [amber.blewitt@rvca.ca](mailto:amber.blewitt@rvca.ca) to register.
- **City Stream Watch:** Support Ottawa's urban and rural creeks through garbage clean-ups, invasive species removals and targeted stream habitat assessments of Bilberry, Stillwater, Mosquito and Mud creeks in 2023. Contact [citystreamwatch@rvca.ca](mailto:citystreamwatch@rvca.ca) to get involved or join the mailing list for news and updates.



### Join our Source Protection Committee!

The Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Region is recruiting a new committee member to represent public interests as it works to protect municipal drinking water sources in the Rideau and Mississippi valleys. In this volunteer position you will help protect drinking water for your community and for the future! The committee meets several times a year across the region. Apply by April 28 by contacting MARIKA at [marika.livingston@mrsourcewater.ca](mailto:marika.livingston@mrsourcewater.ca).

AROUND the Rideau is made possible thanks to our generous sponsors

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Box 599, 3889 Rideau Valley Drive  
Manotick, ON K4M 1A5  
613-692-3571 or 1-800-267-3504  
[www.rvca.ca](http://www.rvca.ca)

Facebook: [RideauValleyConservationAuthority](https://www.facebook.com/RideauValleyConservationAuthority)  
Twitter: [RideauValleyCA](https://twitter.com/RideauValleyCA)  
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