

AROUND the Rideau



July / August 2024



Baxter's accessible bridge officially open

Dignitaries, donors, and special guests gathered at Baxter Conservation Area on June 21 to officially open the site's new accessible bridge and education platforms. The impressive addition embraces gold standards of accessible design, including a 10-foot-wide deck, appropriate sight-lines for people in wheelchairs, gentle slopes, handrails and benches. The project was spearheaded by the volunteer Nature For All committee, which worked closely with the Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation (RVCF) and RVCA to develop the project. The project was supported by generous grants from the federal government and the City of Ottawa, along with significant in-kind and financial support from the RVCF, RVCA, and their generous donors. Congratulations to the many staff and volunteers who worked tirelessly to ensure Baxter's new bridge is accessible for people of all ages and abilities. Phase 2 of the project will update existing trails with accessible boardwalks and stone dust trails. Contact DIANE at diane.downey@rvcf.ca to learn more.

Planned Giving workshops explore benefits of estate donations

Leaving a charitable gift in your will leaves a lasting legacy while reducing your estate taxes. But maximizing these benefits while doing the most good for our watershed can be confusing! That's why the Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation has teamed up with financial and estate planning experts from Investors Group and Kelly Santini LLP to host two workshops on planned giving this summer. Bring a friend and your questions for a casual coffee hour and presentation! Contact info@rvcf.ca to learn more or RSVP.

Westport:

Thurs. Aug. 22
9:30 to 10:30 a.m.
Westport Community
Arena

Sandy Hill (Ottawa):

Thurs. Sept. 12
9:30 to 10:30 a.m.
Sandy Hill Community
Centre



New groundwater wells to monitor water table, climate change impacts

RVCA added three new groundwater wells to its monitoring program this spring. These shallower wells, located in underrepresented areas across the watershed, will help staff better monitor the impacts of extreme weather events and long-term climate change on the shallow groundwater system. The new wells are also connected to the RVCA's weather stations, which will allow staff to observe groundwater levels in real time with corresponding weather changes. The new well data will be included in the Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network program. Contact CLAIRE at claire.milloy@rvca.ca to learn more.



Shoreline grants offer financial, technical assistance

Want to fight erosion, discourage geese and spruce up your shoreline – all without breaking the bank? RVCA's full-service Shoreline Naturalization Program provides technical guidance, planting assistance and up to 90% of your costs to get it done. Waterfront owners on Bobs and Crow Lakes may also qualify for free projects thanks to top-ups from the Bobs and Crow Lake Foundation. Staff are now booking site visits to help you plan your 2025 projects. Contact MEAGHAN at meaghan.mcdonald@rvca.ca to learn more.



ANNUAL BOARD TOUR: RVCA General Manager Sommer Casgrain-Robertson, left, and RVCA board member Gary Waterfield take part in a water quality monitoring demonstration during the RVCA's annual Board Tour on June 21. This year's tour was held at Baxter Conservation Area.

Ottawa's tree planting minimums lowered for 2025

If you live in the City of Ottawa within the MVCA or RVCA watersheds, tree planting minimums have been lowered to 500 trees for 2025. This means Ottawa properties with 0.62 acres (0.25 hectares) of suitable land or more may be eligible for generous subsidies to reforest lawns, add windbreaks or create a privacy buffer. Staff are now booking site visits to help you plan your 2025 tree planting projects. Contact IAN at ian.cochrane@rvca.ca to learn more.

Outdoor Ed programs get boost from Ottawa Community Foundation

About 550 disadvantaged students will have the opportunity to participate in Baxter Conservation Area's outdoor education programs thanks to a \$15,000 grant from the Ottawa Community Foundation. The funds will support bus and tuition subsidies for underprivileged families, schools and community groups, opening the door to discovery and adventure for kids of all backgrounds. These programs provide a priceless opportunity for kids to learn beyond four walls, benefit from being in nature and grow into stewards for the future. To learn more contact DIANE at diane.downey@rvcf.ca.



Carleton U survey seeks input on shoreline conservation

Do you live within 5 km of the Rideau Canal Waterway? A new five-minute survey developed by a Carleton biology PhD student seeks to better understand local perspectives on the Rideau Canal, its value to local residents and the state of its shorelines. To participate, scan the QR code.



AROUND the Rideau is made possible thanks to our generous sponsors

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