

AROUND the Rideau



May / June 2024

Building Bridges

Annual Report highlights year of collaboration, connection

The RVCA's 2023 Annual Report showcases an extremely busy and productive year for all departments as they built bridges across the watershed. In the most literal sense, staff completed construction of two much-needed accessible pedestrian bridges at Baxter Conservation Area and Chapman Mills Conservation Areas, which will benefit the community for decades to come.

But staff also spent time connecting with valued partners, expanding their knowledge of the watershed and ensuring the RVCA's services remain relevant, valuable and accessible to everyone who calls the Rideau Valley home. To read the full report online visit rvca.ca or call 613-692-3571 to request a hard copy.



2023 By The Numbers

- **8,100** outdoor education students welcomed
- **214,030** native trees planted
- **211** clean water projects funded
- **1,719** metres of shoreline naturalized
- **361** stream sections surveyed
- **199** hectares of land donations accepted
- **319** Section 28 permit applications processed
- **1,952** planning applications reviewed
- **944** septic permit applications processed
- **651** septic systems re-inspected

Have Your Say on draft development policies & regulatory wetland mapping

The RVCA will host public consultations this June on updated development policies and regulatory wetland mapping to comply with Ontario Regulation 41/24, which came into effect April 1, 2024. Provincial changes now require the RVCA to regulate development activities in all wetlands plus a 30 metre buffer (reduced from 120 metres). Policy updates include changes to how watercourses, shorelines and natural hazards like floodplains and unstable slopes are regulated. Updated policies are online at rvca.ca/regulations-planning and updated wetland mapping can be found at gis.rvca.ca/RegulatedWetlands.

You can arrange a meeting with staff (virtually or in-person) if you would like to understand what these changes may mean for your property. To arrange a meeting or to submit comments please email consultation@rvca.ca. You can also attend one of our consultation open houses on:

- **June 20** from 3 to 8 p.m.
at Perth Civitan Hall
- **June 25** from 3 to 8 p.m.
at R.J. Kennedy Arena in Cumberland
- **June 26** from 3 to 8 p.m.
at RVCA headquarters in Manotick

Video series dives into risks of drinking surface water



Just in time for cottage season, the Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Region (MRSPR) has released a series of short educational videos about keeping your drinking water safe when drawing directly from a lake or river. Drinking surface water comes with unique risks, including increased potential for harmful algal blooms, pathogens and chemical contaminants to impact drinking water safety. The new four-part video series covers the pros and cons of available water treatment options and even takes viewers on a tour of a home water treatment setup. Click or scan the QR code to access the series. Contact MARIKA at marika.livingston@mrsourcewater.ca for more info.





Help protect and improve Ottawa's creeks this summer!

The RVCA's City Stream Watch program is always looking for volunteers to help with stream surveys, garbage clean-ups, invasive species removals and more. Survey volunteers can sign up for their preferred shifts on weekday and Saturday mornings (9am-12pm), afternoons (12pm-3pm) evenings (6pm-8:30pm), or full days (9am-3pm), with survey work beginning in June. Public clean-up events are generally scheduled for weekend mornings. Join the volunteer mailing list by emailing ERIC at citystreamwatch@rvca.ca.

Upcoming dates:

- **Sat, June 22**, Care for the Creek (Graham's Creek, Bayshore)
- **Sat, July 20**, Invasive Species Workshop (RVCA headquarters, Manotick)

Book your 2025 tree planting or shoreline site visit now!

With spring planting behind us, our stewardship teams are now booking site visits to help you plan your 2025 tree planting and shoreline naturalization projects. Staff will assess your property conditions, discuss your vision and secure your spot for planting next spring. Generous subsidies are available for both programs. To book a tree planting site visit contact IAN at ian.cochrane@rvca.ca. To book a shoreline naturalization site visit contact BRANDON at brandon.holden@rvca.ca. Learn more about eligibility and criteria at rvca.ca/stewardship-grants.



New 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 subsidies to replace lawns with trees, add windbreaks or create a privacy buffer. Book now!

Planned Giving workshops to explore benefits of estate donations

Making a charitable gift of either land or money in your will is a powerful way to leave a lasting environmental legacy while also reducing your estate taxes. But sorting out how to maximize these benefits can be confusing! That's why the Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation has teamed up with IG Wealth Management and an estate planning partner at Kelly Santini LLP to host two planned giving workshops this summer: one in Westport and the other in downtown Ottawa. Bring a friend for coffee and a presentation! Contact info@rvcf.ca to learn more or RSVP.

Join us:

- **Thurs. Aug. 22** from 9:30 to 10:30 at the Westport Community Arena
- **Thurs. Sept. 12** from 9:30 to 10:30 at the Sandy Hill Community Centre



Foley to offer public summer programs

New this summer, Foley Mountain Conservation Area will offer public programming in July and August! Family programs such as pond study, bug exploration, survival skills and geocaching will be offered the first Saturday of the month and every second Friday. Forest school sessions will run for families on Tuesdays, kinders on Wednesdays and kids aged 6 to 10 on Thursdays every second week beginning July 16. Registration is required and will close the Wednesday prior. Fees vary. Visit rvca.ca/outdoor-education or contact REBECCA at rebecca.whitman@rvca.ca.

Thank you, ATR sponsors!

We extend a heartfelt thank-you to Around the Rideau's sponsors, who help us publish our newsletter throughout the year. We are grateful for the support of Bell Baker, Barristers and Solicitors, Bird Richard Lawyers for Employers, and Ramada Ottawa on the Rideau as we endeavour to keep the residents of Rideau Valley watershed informed and engaged!

AROUND the Rideau is made possible thanks to our generous sponsors

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