

AROUND the Rideau



July | August 2020

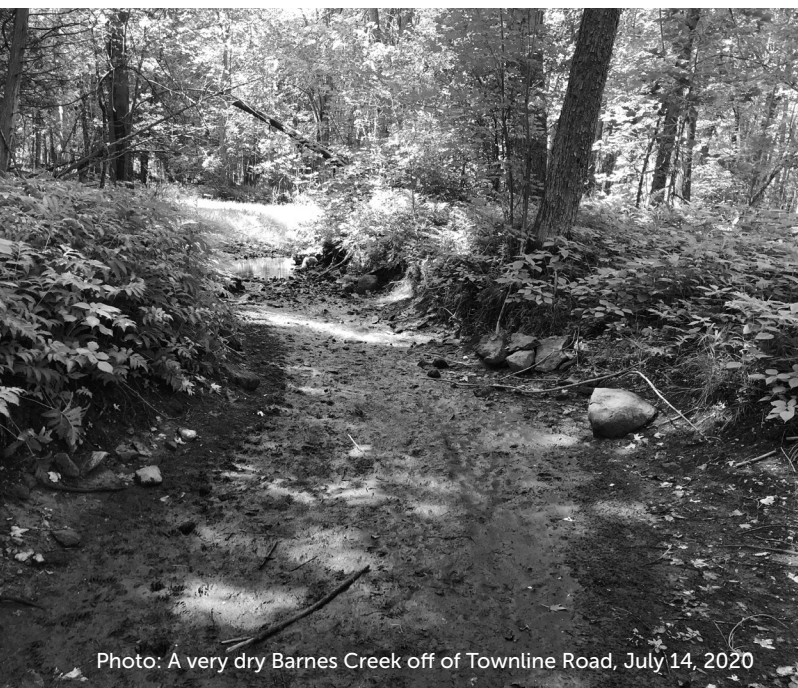


Photo: A very dry Barnes Creek off of Townline Road, July 14, 2020

Low Water? We're on it!

Did you know that RVCA monitors low water conditions? Watershed condition statements are issued to keep municipalities and the public up to date on low water conditions. With changing weather patterns, low water levels are happening more often. The Rideau River Water Response Team, co-ordinated through the RVCA, is made up of member municipalities, selected government agencies and others. They review precipitation and streamflow information and, when needed, issue low water condition statements for the watershed. The team tracks low water impacts and would like to hear from anyone who may be experiencing difficulties with wells or any other low water issues, you can email them at info@rvca.ca. To see the most recent watershed condition messages, visit our website www.rvca.ca/watershed-conditions. Messages also appear on our Facebook page (@RideauValleyConservationAuthority) and on Twitter (@RideauValleyCA). Contact BRIAN for more information at brian.stratton@rvca.ca.

European water chestnut removal

The Black Rapids lock station area on the Rideau River received a "spit-shine" as invasive water chestnuts were removed from the water this July. This removal effort was part of a long-term management plan with RVCA, Ducks Unlimited, and Parks Canada. We are seeing steady declines in plant numbers thanks to the ongoing efforts of removal by the partners over the past six years. This plant has earned its way onto the *Invasive Species Act* because of the number of environmental impacts it causes. Right now, it's been identified only in a few locations in Ontario, so it's crucial to stop the spread now. It's notorious for forming dense floating mats of vegetation that shade our native species and, it decreases plant biodiversity. Swimming, boating, and fishing in affected areas are almost impossible. When dead, the decomposing plants reduce oxygen that can cause fish kills. And, if that's not enough, they produce hard spiny nuts that can cause injury when stepped on. Ouch! Contact ROSARIO for details at rosario.castanon.escobar@rvca.ca.



Photo: Removing European water chestnut near Black Rapids lockstation on the Rideau River

Two Ottawa businesses go carbon neutral!

The Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation (RVCF) would like to extend a big welcome to our two newest Carbon Neutral Program members.

- velofix, Ottawa's mobile bike shop, is making their fleet of fully stocked mobile bike shop vans carbon neutral. So glad to have velofix on board!
- EverGreen Window Solutions, a professional-grade

window cleaning services for homes in Ottawa, will offset their carbon emissions for all their vehicles. Welcome to the fold EverGreen Window Solutions!

Next spring, tree seedlings will be planted to offset their carbon emissions. You too can go carbon neutral, it's easy! Individuals or families, conferences or meetings and small or big businesses can all participate. Contact DIANE at diane.downey@rvcf.ca or read up online at www.rvcf.ca.



Before



After

It's not too late to naturalize your shoreline

Bored with your shore, shoreline have erosion damage, being plagued by Canada geese? The Shoreline Naturalization Program can help! They can provide you with a plan, the plants, financial assistance and even help you plant them. Contact MEAGHAN to sign up for your new shoreline, meaghan.mcdonald@rvca.ca.



Focus on Forestry

6 million trees planted!

RVCA's forestry team has planted 255,000 trees this spring, bringing the total up to 6.6 million trees. Not bad! Trees were planted on both idle and marginal private and public lands. Native seedlings of birch, bur oak, cedar, red maple, white pine and white spruce have found their forever homes. This is a low-cost, full-service program that includes free site visits, custom planting plans, site preparation, tree planting, follow-up assessments and maintenance to give the seedlings the best chance of survival. All of this is available for only \$0.15 per tree, or \$120 an acre. The forestry team is booking site visits this summer and fall to plan for the 2021 planting season. The planting area must be at least one acre in size, suitable for tree planting and the landowner must be willing to plant 1,000 trees or more. Contact SCOTT at scott.muldoon@rvca.ca for more information.

County of Lanark branches out!

Over 1,300 tree seedlings were handed out to green-keen Lanark residents as part of Lanark County's 1 Million Trees Project. RVCA is a proud partner and was happy to participate in the free seedling giveaway which launched the County's plans to plant one million trees as part of its climate action plan. Landowners are encouraged to participate in RVCA's reforestation program — taking advantage of expert advice, significant subsidies and professional planting. Contact SCOTT at scott.muldoon@rvca.ca for more information.



Thank you to our 2020 tree planting partners:

- Forests Ontario
- City of Ottawa
- One Tree Planted
- LiVE 88.5
- Hulse Playfair & McGarry Inc.
- Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority
- South Nation Conservation
- Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation

Story trail provides family fun!

Foley Mountain Conservation Area now offers a family-friendly story trail adventure! A story trail adventure is a fun and engaging activity that places pages from children's stories along a trail. Children can enjoy the outdoors and read a book too. It's a fun, non-contact activity that promotes literacy, healthy lifestyles, and connection to nature. The first trail adventure features the book *The Gruffalo*, a treasured tale of a crafty mouse and his encounter with other animals and a lovable monster. The trail is 350 metres long, is great for kids, and will accommodate wheelchairs, strollers, and wagons. Each stop sports nature clues and activities. And, the story will change every few weeks with new clues and activities. Contact REBECCA at 613-273-3255 or rebecca.whitman@rvca.ca for more information.



Congratulations! Local naturalists awarded conservation Award

WWF-Canada and Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS) awarded Bishop's Mills residents, author-artist/biologist duo Aleta Karstad and Dr. Fred Schueler with the Glen Davis Conservation Leadership Prize for over 40 years of outstanding conservation efforts and accomplishments. Fred and Aleta spent decades working to protect many species and ecosystems at risk right across Canada. RVCA wants to congratulate the husband-wife team for their award and thank them for the years of significant conservation work. Truly, they are Canadian gems. Visit www.fragileinheritance.org to see their conservation work. Visit aletakarstad.com to see Aleta's paintings.

If you need us, we're here! — We're still doing business as usual, with a few twists. For full details on how the RVCA is responding to COVID-19 and modifying the delivery of our programs and services, visit www.rvca.ca/covid-19



AROUND the Rideau is made possible thanks to our generous sponsors

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