

# AROUND the Rideau



January | February 2020

## Flood Prep 2020

Here we go again — time to prepare for the spring freshet! RVCA uses stream gauges, weather stations, surveys of snow conditions, meteorological forecasts and computer models to determine the possibility of flooding. The RVCA estimates the severity, location, and timing of possible flooding and warns accordingly based on the four stages of the Flood Warning Index. RVCA maintains a flood forecasting and warning system that aims to reduce danger to people and property by providing local agencies and the public with advance notice and information.

As a property owner, you need to assess your emergency plan for minimizing flood-related property damages. If you don't have a plan, now's the time to make one. There are lots of excellent online resources on how to prepare your family's emergency plan. Should flooding occur, the first response is up to you, the homeowner!

To get up-to-date information on local watershed conditions, you can sign up for RVCA's flood forecasting and warning emails — join our mailing list at [www.rvca.ca](http://www.rvca.ca) — look for "Get RVCA News." For more information call BRIAN at ext. 1141 or [brian.stratton@rvca.ca](mailto:brian.stratton@rvca.ca).

### Flood Warning Index

- **Normal** — No flood conditions exist.
- **Awareness** — Be informed and aware.
  - **Water Safety Statements** — High flows, unsafe banks, melting ice or other factors that could be dangerous for recreational users such as anglers, canoeists, hikers, children, pets, etc. Flooding is not expected.
  - **Flood Outlook Statements** — Early notice of the potential for flooding based on weather forecasts calling for heavy rain, snow melt, high wind or other conditions that could lead to high runoff, cause ice jams, lake shore flooding or erosion.
- **Flood Watch** — Be prepared to active your flood response plans if it becomes necessary. Flooding is possible in specific watercourses or municipalities. Municipalities, emergency services and individual landowners in flood-prone areas.
- **Flood Warning** — Activate your flood response procedures now! Flooding is imminent or already occurring in specific watercourses or municipalities.



Interested in accessing real-time information on stream flows, water levels and snow measurements? Our interactive monitoring tool (maps and graphs) can be seen online at [www.rvca.ca/watershed-conditions/streamflow-water-levels](http://www.rvca.ca/watershed-conditions/streamflow-water-levels).

## One Tree Planted Helps RVCA Purchase and Plant 70,000 Trees

One Tree Planted, a registered U.S. non-profit whose mission is to help with global reforestation, has generously given RVCF \$52,500 U.S. to help the RVCA plant 70,000 trees. These new trees will cover approximately 35 hectares. One of the largest ever tree planting projects we've done, it will take place on a private property in Cumberland.

Five different tree species will be planted which will bring new habitat and shelter to many animals in our area including the white-tailed deer, red fox, and the pileated woodpecker. The tree planting will also protect the watershed including protecting soil from erosion, improving water quality, and reducing risk of flooding. Healthy watersheds ensure healthy communities where forests are valued and protected.

Contact SCOTT for more information at ext. 1175 or at [scott.danford@rvca.ca](mailto:scott.danford@rvca.ca).



**City Stream Watch**

2020 City Stream Watch cycle will be monitoring Black Rapids Creek, Cardinal Creek, Sawmill Creek, and Mud Creek (Manotick).

Spring plans are to evaluate headwater drainage features and water temperature with the installation of temperature loggers. In late spring and early summer, fish communities will be assessed and streams will be surveyed starting in June with the assistance of our dedicated City Stream Watch volunteers. In addition to monitoring, CSW will host training and demonstration workshops and a few other events, including invasive species removals, stream cleanups and shoreline restoration projects. All of these events will be listed at [www.rvca.ca/volunteer](http://www.rvca.ca/volunteer). If you are looking to help monitor, restore and enhance our city streams, consider volunteering with us! For more information or to sign up for our CSW mailing list visit [www.rvca.ca/volunteer/city-stream-watch](http://www.rvca.ca/volunteer/city-stream-watch) or email [citystreamwatch@rvca.ca](mailto:citystreamwatch@rvca.ca).

*Photo: Headwater monitoring on Mud Creek, 2019.*



**Donation an investment that keeps on giving**

Congratulations to the Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation on receiving a \$25,000 donation to the Conservation 2020 campaign from the Laidlaw Foundation’s Family Discretionary Grant. The Donation will be invested in the Steve Simmering Conservation Land Endowment Fund which helps pay for property taxes, insurance, and maintenance of conservation lands. Established in 2010, the fund has slowly been growing and provides a stream of income to support our vibrant and vital outdoor spaces. The Laidlaw Foundation was created in 1949 to provide financial support for charitable, conservation, educational, and cultural organizations. For more information about the Conservation 2020 campaign and how you or your business can get involved visit [www.rvcf.ca](http://www.rvcf.ca) or contact DIANE at ext. 1126 or [diane.downey@rvcf.ca](mailto:diane.downey@rvcf.ca).

**Congratulations!**

Rose Fleguel was this year’s co-recipient of the Ross Silversides Forestry Award. It is awarded to those who have made an outstanding contribution to forestry in Eastern Ontario.

She is shown with Martin Streit and Astrid Nielsen of the Eastern Ontario Model Forest.

**2020 Conservation Area Passes**

Get active and outdoors with the 2020 Conservation Area Pass. Get access to all our conservation areas — Foley Mountain, Baxter, Rideau Ferry Yacht Club, W.A. Taylor and more. \$50 gets you unlimited access to our trails, beaches, boat launches and more! Full details at [www.rvca.ca/conservation-areas/purchase-a-pass](http://www.rvca.ca/conservation-areas/purchase-a-pass) or call MEGAN at ext. 1179 or [megan.dunster@rvca.ca](mailto:megan.dunster@rvca.ca).

**Tools to Keep Kids Safe Around Water**

RVCA has great tools for parents and teachers to keep kids water smart and safe this spring. Online resources include games, experiments, videos and more. Details at [www.rvca.ca/outdoor-education/spring-water-awareness-program](http://www.rvca.ca/outdoor-education/spring-water-awareness-program).

**AROUND the Rideau** is made possible thanks to our generous sponsors

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[www.rvca.ca](http://www.rvca.ca)  
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 RideauValleyCA  
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**Bell Baker, Barristers and Solicitors** — 613-237-3444 | [www.bellbaker.com](http://www.bellbaker.com)  
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**Ramada Ottawa on the Rideau** — 613-288-3500 | [www.ramadaottawa.com](http://www.ramadaottawa.com)  
 Offers 87 fully renovated rooms with balconies overlooking the Rideau River, banquet facilities, full service restaurant and outdoor pool. Pet friendly.