

## Chapman Bridge closure

A new accessible pedestrian bridge is being installed at Chapman Mills Conservation Area this month, thanks to generous support from the community, government grants and the Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation. The trail will be closed at the north end until mid-November, but most of the trail can still be accessed from the southern entrance or off Lodge Road at Vimy Memorial Bridge. For more information contact CHELSEY at [chelsey.ellis@rvca.ca](mailto:chelsey.ellis@rvca.ca).



## New septic inspection boundaries

As of Oct. 1, the RVCA and Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority have expanded their septic regulations responsibilities to several more townships in the Rideau Valley and Mississippi Valley watersheds, including Lanark Highlands, Mississippi Mills, Beckwith, Carleton Place, Westport, North Grenville and Smiths Falls. RVCA and MVCA will now provide septic reviews, permits and inspections for these townships, and continue these services for the City of Ottawa and Tay Valley. Landowners can find septic regulations information and applications online at [www.rvca.ca/septic-approvals](http://www.rvca.ca/septic-approvals). For more information contact TERRY at [terry.davidson@rvca.ca](mailto:terry.davidson@rvca.ca).

## Updated handbook helps homeowners stay SepticSmart

The RVCA and its provincial partners have developed a new and improved version of the SepticSmart handbook to help property owners choose and maintain the best private waste management system for their needs. Proper maintenance can extend the lifespan of septic systems and keep harmful contaminants out of our drinking water system. Find the handbook at [www.ottawasepticsystemoffice.ca](http://www.ottawasepticsystemoffice.ca) or contact TERRY at [terry.davidson@rvca.ca](mailto:terry.davidson@rvca.ca).



## Conservation Zone welcomes thousands at International Plowing Match

The RVCA and its fellow Eastern Ontario conservation authorities were thrilled to welcome so many visitors to the Conservation Zone at this year's International Plowing Match in North Grenville – the first since 2019! Whether visitors were winning a tree at the Wheel of Forestry, exploring the digital watershed, various bugs and skulls, or learning about stewardship, water quality and conservation areas in their neighbourhood, they had lots to learn and explore. Thanks to the Plowing Match organizers for a great event!





# Three new properties protected in perpetuity

More than 300 acres of pristine natural lands have been donated to the Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation's land trust this fall, to be protected in perpetuity for the benefit of all. These sweeping swaths of forest, wetland and shoreline include a small private plot at an island in the Rideau system, a 260-acre estate in Elizabethtown Township bequeathed in a will, and a 50-acre family donation on a provincially-significant wetland in the City of Ottawa. Land donation is a meaningful legacy and a great way to ensure your beloved natural property remains that way forever. For more information contact DIANE at [diane.downey@rvcf.ca](mailto:diane.downey@rvcf.ca).



## Join our Foundation board!

The Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation is seeking new, enthusiastic volunteers to join its board of directors. This is a meaningful opportunity to support local environmental initiatives and help Eastern Ontario's biggest little environmental charity grow and thrive. Learn more and apply by Oct. 31 at [www.rvcf.ca](http://www.rvcf.ca) or contact DIANE at [diane.downey@rvcf.ca](mailto:diane.downey@rvcf.ca).



## Secure your stewardship grant for 2023

Are you making changes on your rural, waterfront or agricultural property? There's a grant for that! Site visits are underway for the 2023 season of shoreline naturalization, tree planting and rural clean water projects. Whether you're fighting erosion, planting a windbreak, upgrading your septic system or a host of other eligible projects, our generous stewardship grants may cover up to 90% of the costs. Learn more and book your site visit at [www.rvca.ca/stewardship-grants](http://www.rvca.ca/stewardship-grants) or contact DEREK at [rcwp@rvca.ca](mailto:rcwp@rvca.ca).

## New Storymap takes deep dive into highly vulnerable aquifers

Interested in drinking water source protection? The Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Region has just released a digital Storymap that takes readers on a deep dive into the threats facing highly vulnerable aquifers, which cover more than 90% of our region. The new education package includes maps, videos and data, as well as five action sheets to help residents and businesses take action to protect drinking water sources. Learn more at [www.mrsourcewater.ca](http://www.mrsourcewater.ca) or contact CLAIRE at [claire.milloy@rvca.ca](mailto:claire.milloy@rvca.ca).



## Join us at the annual Lake Links workshop

Save the date! The 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Lake Links workshop will be held virtually on Oct. 22, with a focus on how local lake associations have identified and addressed threats on their lakes and rivers. Hosted by Watersheds Canada, Lake Links is an opportunity for individuals, conservation groups and scientists to come together to share ways we can help sustain our lakes and rivers. Register for the free workshop at [www.watershedscanada.ca](http://www.watershedscanada.ca).

AROUND the Rideau is made possible thanks to our generous sponsors

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