



Around the Rideau

Environmental Information For Municipalities In The Rideau Valley

FIFTY YEARS OF CONSERVATION IN THE RIDEAU VALLEY

November/December 2016

Minister Monitors @ Brewer Park Pond!

Saturday, October 1 was Ecology Day at Brewer Park Pond, as part of TreeFest Ottawa's festival celebrating nature, art, food and community. RVCA hosted several TreeFest events including this two-hour workshop consisting of a benthic invertebrate/fish sampling demonstration.

Special guest wader was the Honourable Catherine McKenna, Minister of Environment and Climate Change, who sampled to see what's living in the pond. Participants recorded observations as part of the post-effectiveness monitoring work for the newly reconstructed Brewer Pond. For more information call JENNIFER at ext 1108 or jennifer.lamoureux@rvca.ca.

Left to right: Minister Catherine McKenna; Jennifer Lamoureux, RVCA Biologist; Sommer Casgrain-Robertson, RVCA General Manager; Rosario Castanon-Escobar, City Stream Watch Aquatic Resource Technician and Adrienne Lewis, RVCA Aquatic Resource Technician



Highlights: Black Rapids Wetland Restoration

The joint RVCA/NCC Black Rapids Wetland Restoration Project is now complete! Project highlights include:

- 3,500 m² existing wetland enlarged to 7,000 m²
- 15 days of construction (September 12 to 30, 2016)
- 1,225 m² of invasive buckthorn removed
- 580 trees and shrubs planted
- 5.5 kilograms of shoreline and wetland seed mixes sown
- 19 volunteers participated (total of 76 volunteer hours)
- 15 root wads and 12 sweeper trees installed (to become homes and hiding places for wetland wildlife)

A huge "thank you" goes out to all the dedicated workers and to our wonderful project partners, National Capital Commission (NCC), Great Lakes Guardians Community Fund, Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation and our very own City Stream Watch Program!

For more info, JENNIFER ext. 1108 or jennifer.lamoureux@rvca.ca.



Top — dedicated volunteers help stabilize the new wetland shoreline. Middle — pre-construction. Bottom — panorama highlighting the stabilized shore and the new island.

RVCA “Co-ops” Student Talent!

RVCA has been the lucky host to three co-op students over this past year. These talented students from Mother Teresa, St. Mark’s and Sacred Heart High School have gained practical, hands-on experience through RVCA’s various programs. In the process they have learned more about the Rideau watershed and our local environment. DIANE can tell you more at ext. 1126 or diane.downey@rvca.ca.



Jessica Boateng, our current co-op student from Mother Teresa High School, highlights our 50th anniversary banner!

Ultimate Aquatics Workshop

Ottawa Flyfishers Society, RVCA and workshop attendees braved the rainy weather on October 22 to participate in the exciting aquatic insect, fish and flyfishing workshop! Participants learned to sample and identify fish and benthic macro-invertebrates and were educated on how these critters are important indicators of water quality. The Ottawa Flyfishers Society provided fly casting demonstrations and paired up with participants for a little more “hands on” fishing experience. Contact JUSTIN for more info at ext. 1194, justin.robert@rvca.ca.



New Flood Risk Mapping Reports

RVCA draft flood risk maps along the Rideau River from Hogs Back to Rideau Falls and Otter and Hutton Creeks are now available. To view them go to www.rvca.ca, look for “special projects” — a link to the maps and reports is there. The Hogs Back/Rideau Falls maps were rolled out in an open house on November 8. Otter/Hutton Creek Open House is on December 7 from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the South Elmsley Municipal Hall (441 Highway 15, Lombardy). Mapping show areas prone to flooding, wetlands, erosion and unstable slopes. The goal is that sound planning decisions are made to keep people and property safe. Contact FERDOUS ext. 1170 or ferdous.ahmed@rvca.ca for more information.



Rideau Valley Conservation Authority
Box 599, 3889 Rideau Valley Drive
Manotick, ON K4M 1A5
613-692-3571 or 1-800-267-3504
www.rvca.ca
Follow us @ twitter.com/RideauValleyCA
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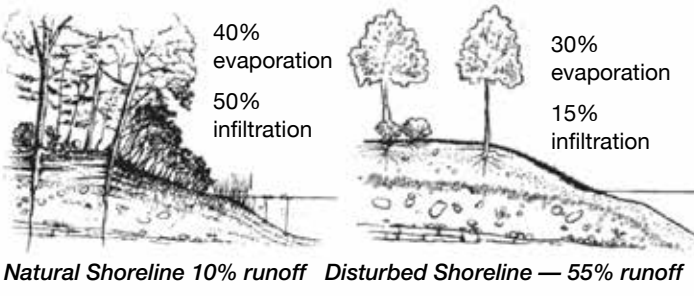
Naturalize Your Shoreline This Spring!

Shoreline naturalization is an easy, affordable and effective way to protect water quality and prevent shoreline erosion on your property! The Shoreline Naturalization Program can help you create a healthy, natural shoreline. You can order shoreline-loving native plants such as dogwoods, willows, viburnums, spruce, maples and more for planting in spring 2017. If you’re not sure where to start, book a free and confidential site visit. Staff can work with you to develop a planting plan and even assist with planting. The program covers 75 to 100 percent of the approved project costs. Contact MEAGHAN at ext. 1192 or meaghan.mcdonald@rvca.ca for more information.



Reducing Runoff Project Awarded \$47,000

RVCA, in partnership with the Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation, has been awarded \$47,000 by Environment Canada’s EcoAction Community Fund. The money is earmarked for reducing runoff in the Valley! This project will provide landowners with stewardship information and on-the-ground project options to reduce overland runoff, enhance wildlife habitat and protect water quality in our lakes, rivers and streams. Want to get involved or learn more? Contact MEAGHAN at ext.1192 or meaghan.mcdonald@rvca.ca for more information.



The **Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation** is a registered charity that has raised 4.5 million dollars since its inception in 1970. Money goes to protect and conserve the land and water of the Rideau Valley. DAN can tell you more at ext. 1124 or dan.cooper@rvca.ca.

Holiday Hours @ RVCA

Seasons Greetings! RVCA will be closed from December 23 at 4:30 p.m. until January 3, 2017 at 8:30 a.m. We want to wish all our readers all the best for the holiday season.

