

AROUND the Rideau



November / December 2021

Green Acres hits major tree planting milestone



The nation's capital is now two million trees richer thanks to the City of Ottawa, local conservation authorities and rural landowners. The Green Acres Reforestation Program planted its two-millionth tree this spring. On Friday, Oct. 22, RVCA Board of Directors chair Pieter Leenhouts welcomed Ottawa Mayor Jim Watson, Ottawa environment committee chair and RVCA board member Coun. Scott Moffatt and other dignitaries to dedicate a white spruce at RVCA headquarters in honour of the milestone. The program is a partnership between the City and its three local conservation authorities: Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority, South Nation Conservation and RVCA. The trees were largely planted on private lands in four rural Ottawa wards: West Carleton-March, Rideau-Goulbourn, Cumberland and Osgoode. For more information contact IAN at ian.cochrane@rvca.ca.

RVCA wraps up busy year of official plan reviews

Did you know the RVCA plays a role in Official Plan reviews? An official plan is a long-term municipal policy document that provides direction for the location and scale of land use, provision of municipal services and facilities, expansion of transportation networks, protection of public health and safety and the preservation of natural features and their ecological and hydrological functions.

Conservation Authorities are mandated by the Province to manage natural hazards (floodplains, unstable slopes, unstable bedrock, erosion), so our planners work with member municipalities to develop policies that balance growth and development objectives while ensuring development is directed away from such hazards.

On top of this work, we also provide policy advice for the protection of natural heritage features (wetlands, significant woodlands, significant valley lands) and the quality and quantity of surface and groundwater. Throughout 2020-2021, RVCA planners worked with the townships of Central Frontenac, Rideau Lakes, Tay Valley, Montague and Athens, the Town of Perth, the Village of Merrickville-Wolford and the City of Ottawa to review and update their official plans.

To learn more about how we help our municipalities protect the watershed, visit www.rvca.ca or contact GLEN at glen.mcdonald@rvca.ca.

New 2022 fee schedule approved with two percent increase

The RVCA's Board of Directors has approved new 2022 fee schedules for planning and septic services and permits. The 2022 fee schedules include a two percent increase to keep pace with cost of living and other expenses. Fees are charged on a cost-recovery basis and are reviewed annually. Annual incremental adjustments like this avoid the need for larger adjustments down the road. To view the complete fee schedule, find our most recent board agenda package at www.rvca.ca/about-us/governance-board. For more information contact SOMMER at sommer.casgrain-robertson@rvca.ca.



Our Condolences

The RVCA Board of Directors is saddened by the passing of Pat Barr, Councillor for South Frontenac and RVCA board member since 2013. We send our deepest condolences to Pat's friends and family at this difficult time.

Give the gift of . . .

. . . Conservation!

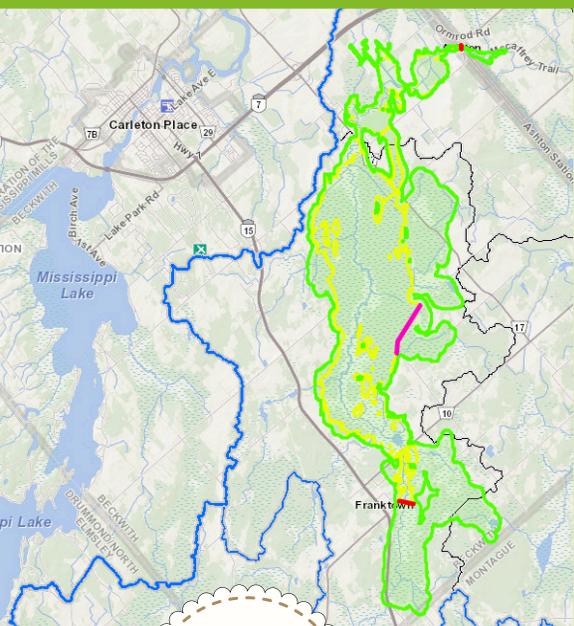
Let's make it a green Christmas! The Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation offers several green gift ideas that are meaningful, local, long-lasting and eco-friendly. Cover everyone on your nice list with these five gift ideas:

- 1. Tree planting:** Plant local, native seedlings right here in the Rideau Valley watershed on behalf of your loved one.
- 2. Adopt an acre:** Protect our natural spaces for future generations! Adopt an acre in a loved one's name to protect critical properties in perpetuity.
- 3. Go carbon neutral:** Feeling guilty about all that online shopping? Offset your family's emissions with local, native trees that capture and store your excess carbon.
- 4. Memorial bench:** Are you missing someone this holiday season? Gather family to purchase a memorial bench or picnic table to remember them in a beautiful, timeless setting. Comforting for you, and a comfortable rest stop for visitors.
- 5. Shop on GiveShop:** Find gently-used gems on RVCF's GiveShop.ca page! The Foundation gets the funds, you get a deal and our landfills get a break. Win!

Visit www.rvcf.ca to learn more and to order your eco-gifts today. For more information contact DIANE at diane.downey@rvcf.ca.

. . . Quality time!

Getting outside and spending quality time with family: what more could your loved ones ask for? For \$50, our annual pass allows you and your family to enjoy unlimited access to all 11 RVCA conservation areas, including parking, beaches and boat launches. Order yours at www.PayByPhone.com using location code 5222. For more information contact CHELSEY at chelsey.ellis@rvca.ca.



Have your say! Upper Jock and Stevens Creek hazard mapping projects underway

Public consultations are underway for hazard mapping projects in Beckwith Township and North Gower. These mapping projects for the Upper Jock River and Stevens Creek will create and update the regulation line for natural hazards such as flooding, erosion and wetlands. Affected landowners have been notified by mail. Virtual one-on-one meetings can be booked with our planners during the consultation periods by calling 613-692-3571 ext. 1132 or 1193.

- Upper Jock consultation period: November 15 to December 22, 2021
- Stevens Creek consultation period: November 29 to January 13, 2022

Draft maps and report documents for both projects can be found at www.rvca.ca/monitoring-reporting under the Reporting tab. For more information contact FERDOUS at ferdous.ahmed@rvca.ca.



Christmas closure — The RVCA, RVCF and Ottawa Septic System offices will be closed from noon on Friday, December 24 until 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, January 4. We wish everyone a safe and happy holiday. See you in 2022!

AROUND the Rideau is made possible thanks to our generous sponsors

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