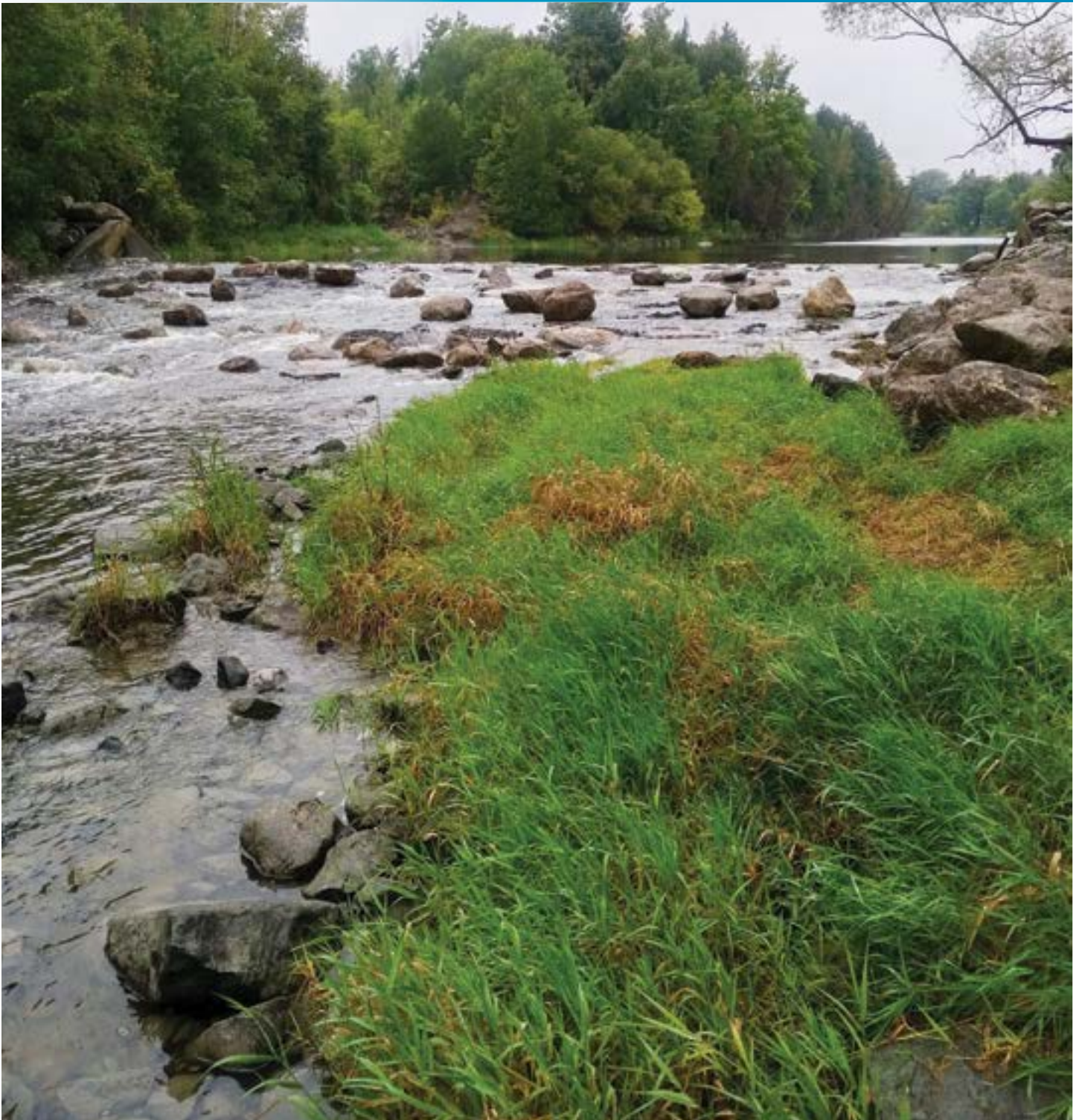




**2019**

# Budget & Work Plan







# Conserving our watershed, ensuring our Future!

**S**ince our formation in 1966, we have worked with our municipal partners to provide programs and services that move towards our shared vision for a thriving watershed – one that supports sustainable economic growth by ensuring vital natural features are protected and enhanced. In 2019, we continue on this path as we work to conserve our watershed and ensure our future.

## **Our Vision**

A thriving watershed with clean abundant water, natural shorelines, rich forests and wetlands, diverse habitats and sustainable land use that is valued and protected by all.

## **Our Mission**

To understand, manage, protect, restore and enhance the Rideau watershed through science, stewardship, education, policy and leadership.

## **Our Priorities**

Our Strategic Plan 2020 outlines a number of strategic priorities. Some priorities are now completed while others are about to begin and have been included in our “Special for 2019” boxes.

# 2019 Budget

The RVCA's proposed budget for 2019 is \$10.76 million and will enable the RVCA to continue making progress on a number of important priorities. This budget is an increase from last year's budget of \$10.12 million due in large part to some erosion control infrastructure projects being undertaken in 2019.

Our proposed budget for 2019 can be broken into three main expenditures:

- 6 percent for Rideau River Ice Management
- 9 percent for capital projects
- 85 percent for operations to deliver all programs and services

## Expenditures

- Staff time has been reallocated among programs and departments for 2019 to support the completion of strategic priorities, better reflect program costs and better serve our municipalities and watershed residents
- This budget reflects a recent corporate restructuring with an overall reduction of 2 FTEs
- Amortization and reserve contributions for regularly occurring capital expenses are included
- Like our member municipalities, salary costs increase annually. While benefit and OMERS contribution rates as well as payroll taxes (WSIB, EI, CPP and EHT) remained relatively steady over last year, RVCA sets a salary grid increase of 2 percent for staff who are still moving through their salary band. The RVCA also uses the Consumer Price Index as our economic adjustment figure. This year the figure was 2.8 percent which has been accommodated in this budget.

## Revenues

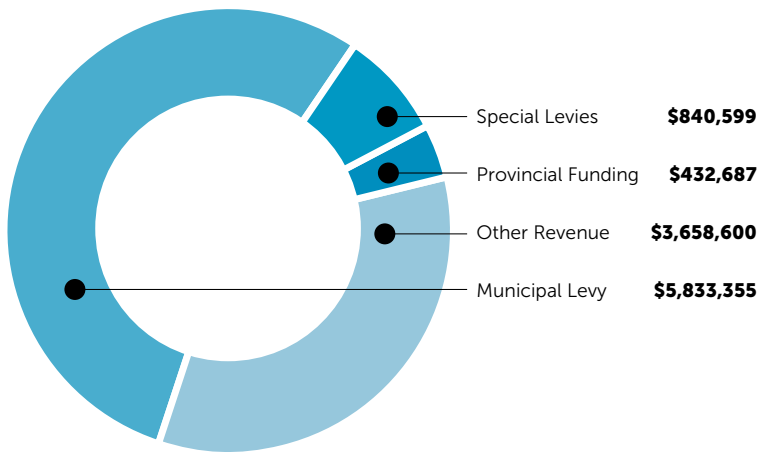
- Provincial Funding is expected to increase slightly from last year
- Other revenue streams such as program and user fees, fundraising and grants is also expected to increase by \$90,000 from last year
- Special levies will increase overall by \$239,000 with the inclusion of two new initiatives
- The municipal levy will increase by \$186,351. This is a 3.3 percent increase which is the third lowest increase since 2008. This increase equates to a 2 percent tax increase as 1.3 percent will come from new assessment growth in the watershed



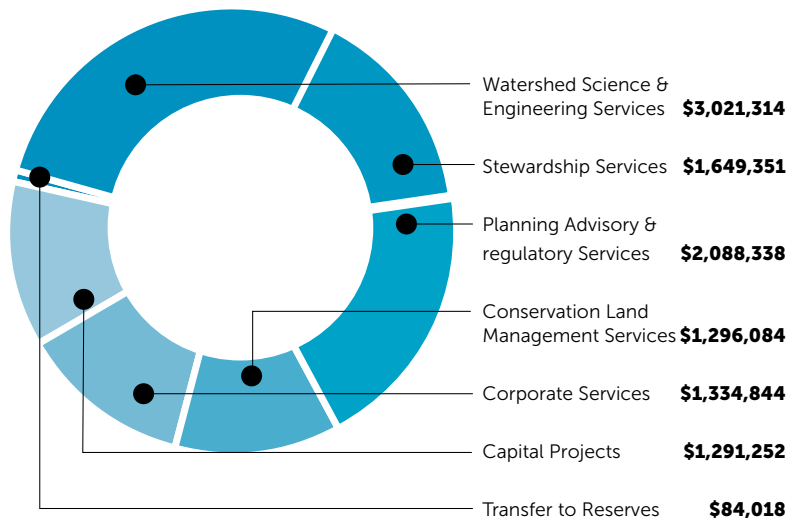


# 2019 Budget

## Where does the money come from?



## Where does the investment go?



# Municipal Levy

Being a municipally-based organization, the foundation of our budget is the municipal levy. However, we are committed to minimizing pressure on the levy and for the sixth consecutive year, the RVCA has kept its municipal levy increase to a two percent tax increase by reducing costs, finding efficiencies and maximizing other revenue sources. While the levy remains the foundation of our budget, other sources make up nearly half our revenue. This means that for every dollar invested through the municipal levy, the RVCA is able to double that investment to deliver a variety of programs and services in the Rideau watershed. Our other revenue sources include:

- Charging fees for education programs, conservation areas, permits and planning comments
- Getting grants for special projects, students and interns
- Fundraising through our Foundation
- Special levies for specific projects that benefit a particular municipality
- Joint programming and staff sharing with neighbouring conservation authorities
- Landowner contributions for services they receive

## Municipal Levy Apportionment

Based on assessment value, the City of Ottawa will pay almost 91 percent of RVCA's levy in 2019. This amounts to \$5.3 million leaving our other 17 municipalities to share the remaining

\$0.5 million. Levy costs for these municipalities range from \$1,500 to \$94,678 depending on their assessment.

## Levy Rates Over the Years

| Year | Municipal Levy | Levy Increase | Current Value Assessment<br>(modified) | Levy Rate* |
|------|----------------|---------------|--|------------|
| 2019 | \$5,833,355    | 3.3 percent   | \$103,679,115,864                      | \$5.62     |
| 2018 | \$5,647,004    | 3.3 percent   | \$99,692,214,423                       | \$5.66     |
| 2017 | \$5,466,606    | 3.3 percent   | \$99,410,900,087                       | \$5.50     |
| 2016 | \$5,289,763    | 3.6 percent   | \$99,512,530,071                       | \$5.31     |
| 2015 | \$5,118,419    | 3.2 percent   | \$97,988,860,174                       | \$5.22     |
| 2014 | \$4,943,500    | 3.6 percent   | \$96,748,734,271                       | \$5.11     |
| 2013 | \$4,770,000    | 3.9 percent   | \$77,361,085,801                       | \$6.17     |
| 2012 | \$4,589,000    | 4.6 percent   | \$75,788,933,931                       | \$6.05     |
| 2011 | \$4,387,000    | 4.7 percent   | \$74,808,601,824                       | \$5.86     |
| 2010 | \$4,190,000    | 2.7 percent   | \$73,149,679,467                       | \$5.73     |
| 2009 | \$4,081,000    | 5.6 percent   | \$60,589,220,174                       | \$6.74     |
| 2008 | \$3,865,000    | 5.4 percent   | \$59,616,317,415                       | \$6.48     |

\* Levy/\$100,000 of current value assessment (modified)

# RVCA Services

## Serving our Municipalities

RVCA staff are working closer than ever with municipal staff because our work has become so interconnected. It's hard to find a municipal service that our programs don't support either directly or indirectly. Often we provide this support at a fraction of the cost because our staff are shared among our 18 municipalities and sometimes our neighbouring Conservation Authorities. This saves

money and avoids duplication. RVCA's programs also serve a wide range of public interests and needs benefiting our local watershed residents from lake country to urban communities. Below is a graphic that summarizes our programs that support key municipal services. More details about these programs are provided in the following pages.



# RVCA Services

## Protecting our Natural Capital

Much of the work done through the Conservation Authority looks to protect our natural capital. Natural capital builds on the notion that Mother Nature does for free what we would otherwise have to pay millions of dollars to do through technology and infrastructure. Making wise decisions to preserve and protect natural capital will save us from costly man-made alternatives. If we compromise these

valuable ecological services, that lost value is ultimately borne by taxpayers. By accounting for natural capital we can start to align economic growth with environmental protection — allowing future generations the same benefits from nature we enjoy. This is the foundation of sustainability.

## Value of Natural Capital

| Land Cover                                      | Upland Forest          | Riparian Forest        | Wetland            | Water                   | Urban Forest           | Meadows            | Agriculture        | Total |
|---|------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------|
| <b>Ecological Services</b>                      | atmospheric regulation | atmospheric regulation | climate regulation | water regulation        | atmospheric regulation | climate regulation | climate regulation |       |
|   | climate regulation     | climate regulation     | water regulation   | water supply            | climate regulation     | pollination        | pollination        |       |
|   | disturbance avoidance  | water supply           | water supply       | soil formation          | water regulation       | habitat            | habitat            |       |
|   | water regulation       | waste treatment        | soil formation     | waste treatment habitat | water supply           | recreation         |                    |       |
|   | water supply           | pollination            | nutrient cycling   | biodiversity            | recreation             |                    |                    |       |
|   | pollination            | biological control     | waste treatment    | recreation              | culture                |                    |                    |       |
|   | habitat                | habitat                |                    |                         |                        |                    |                    |       |
|   | recreation             | biodiversity           |                    |                         |                        |                    |                    |       |
|   |                        | recreation             |                    |                         |                        |                    |                    |       |
|   |                        | culture                |                    |                         |                        |                    |                    |       |
| <b>Estimated Value (\$) per Capita per year</b> | 94                     | 67                     | 247                | 19                      | 25                     | 10                 | 28                 | 490   |
| <b>Estimated Annual Value (\$ millions)</b>     | 709.0                  | 51.0                   | 186.8              | 14.5                    | 18.7                   | 7.8                | 21.4               | 371.1 |



# Watershed Science & Engineering Services

RVCA's Watershed Science and Engineering team collects, monitors and analyses watershed information. Understanding our watershed and its many natural resources helps us to better manage and protect our resources. RVCA provides these services watershed-

wide for its member municipalities at a shared cost. It avoids duplication and allows for effective, efficient and expert products for municipalities.

## Watershed Reporting

- Accurately report on environmental conditions at the subwatershed and catchment geographic scales to member municipalities, watershed residents, RVCA staff, NGO's and government agencies
- Help understand the effects of human activity on our water resources
- Track environmental change to surface water resources (quality/quantity), fisheries resources (aquatic/instream habitat) and terrestrial resources (wetland/ woodland/riparian cover) over time
- Focus watershed management actions where they are needed most



## What it means for your municipality?

Watershed reports help municipal staff and council make informed decisions on:

- Managing existing land uses
- Protecting surface and groundwater resources
- Developing environmental protection policies for Official Plans and Zoning By-laws
- Targeting stewardship initiatives
- Applying best management practices along lakes and streams
- Reviewing requirements for site specific land development (*Planning Act* and RVCA Regulation)
- Implementing resource management policies and programs

## Special for 2019

- Complete the Lower Rideau *River Subwatershed Report* as we continue to monitor and report on subwatershed health on a six-year cycle with a growing emphasis on identifying trends
- Develop a strategy to assist with implementation of subwatershed report recommendations



# Watershed Science & Engineering Services

## Drinking Water Source Protection

- Administer the province's Drinking Water Source Protection Program in the Mississippi and Rideau watersheds for 31 municipalities covering 8,585 km<sup>2</sup>
- Continue working with municipalities, provincial ministries, property owners, businesses, health units and others to implement source protection policies

### Special for 2019

- Update the *Mississippi Rideau Source Protection Plan*

## Hydrometric Monitoring & Forecasting

- Collect, manage, analyze and disseminate data and information about the abundance or scarcity of surface water resources within the watershed
- Issue flood and drought advisories and warnings as needed
- Expand data availability through the RVCA website



## What it means for your municipality?

- Effective flood forecasting services help minimize damage and public safety risks
- Information allows for municipal emergency response planning
- Low Water Response enables communication amongst water management agencies and water consumers and facilitates optimal management of scarce resources
- Accumulated data enables numerical analysis of watershed hydrology – extreme events, and water budget analysis

### Special for 2019

- Review of hydrometric monitoring efforts watershed-wide

# Watershed Science & Engineering Services

## Flood, Erosion & Drought Studies

- Identify hazard lands as defined by MNRF
- Provide defensible estimates of 1:100 year flood levels on watercourses and inland lakes for effective administration and enforcement of regulations under Section 28 of the *Conservation Authorities Act*
- Support municipalities with up-to-date mapping of hazardous lands for Official Plan and Zoning By-law schedules
- Refine numerical watershed modeling system for use in floodplain hydrology and hydraulic analyses for un-gauged watersheds and for investigating the potential impacts of land use and climate change on a watershed scale



## Surface Water Quality Monitoring

- Provide a consistent baseline dataset that can give a general indication of water quality in the watershed
- Assess the contribution of tributary streams to loadings in the Rideau River and upper watershed lakes
- Monitor ambient water quality conditions at locations on major tributary streams and watershed lakes
- Involve and provide training to lake residents to develop consistent monitoring methods to ensure data integrity and to increase the extent of monitoring activities
- Sample bottom dwelling bugs (benthic invertebrates) to determine water quality and habitat conditions using a biological method which compliments water chemistry sampling programs



## Special for 2019

- Review of Environmental Monitoring efforts watershed-wide



# Watershed Science & Engineering Services

## Aquatic & Terrestrial Habitat Monitoring

- Collect information on the physical and biological attributes of surveyed streams (habitat surveys, fish sampling, thermal regime) through the Stream Characterization program
- Inventory detailed land cover information to help facilitate land use planning and regulations, ecosystem management and conservation objectives for the RVCA and member municipalities
- Obtain, record, and manage valuable information on the physical and biological characteristics of creeks and streams in the City of Ottawa, while ensuring that they are respected and valued natural features of the communities through which they flow
- Collect field survey information to assist landowners and municipalities when attempting to understand flooding issues as a result of beaver dam activity
- Collect information on headwater drainage features through a rapid assessment method characterizing the amount of water, sediment transport, and storage capacity within headwater drainage features
- Undertake Ontario Stream Assessment Protocol at special Habitat Restoration project sites as a tool for post effective monitoring

### Special for 2019

- Monitor recent habitat creation/ enhancement projects including Black Rapids Wetland Restoration, Jebbs Creek Wetland Embayment Creation and Remic Rapids Wetland Creation
- Review of Environmental Monitoring efforts watershed-wide





# Watershed Science & Engineering Services

## Watershed Information System

- Provide access to electronic information
- Produce maps and data summaries for Subwatershed Reports and Data Catchment Sheets
- Support monitoring efforts with maps, data models (place to store data) and mobile tools for data entry
- Support floodplain mapping projects
- Develop an electronic content management system
- Produce data used on a daily basis by RVCA staff to help watershed residents
- Manage and maintain GIS for RVCA staff who use it in their day to day decision making process
- Support the effective and efficient use of staff time through readily available authoritative data
- Safeguard RVCA's accumulating watershed information against loss while supporting its reliability

## Water Control Structures

- Safe and effective operation and maintenance of existing RVCA flood and erosion control structures to protect property and people against losses and risks associated with flooding and erosion, or to manage water levels for aquatic habitat management purposes
- Inspection, operation and routine upkeep in accordance with established procedures
- City of Ottawa provides operation and maintenance services for stormwater pump stations associated with Brewer Park and Windsor Park flood control dykes in Old Ottawa South and Rideau River ice management operations to prevent ice jam induced flooding at break-up on the lower Rideau River (Hog's Back Falls to Rideau Falls)

## Special for 2019

- Embark on Bilberry (Sugar Creek Way), Graham Creek (Stonehedge Park) and Stillwater Creek (Nautica Private) Erosion Control Projects
- Complete Hearts Desire shoreline restoration plans in cooperation with waterfront property owners



# Planning Advisory & Regulatory Services

The RVCA believes that sound planning is a critical part of protecting our land and water. Our staff bring watershed science, provincial policies and guidelines, and individual municipal needs together to meaningfully assist municipal decision-makers in building and sustaining local communities.

The RVCA also acts as an approval authority for development on hazard lands affected by flood, steep slopes or unstable soil and we regulate construction in environmentally sensitive areas such as in and around wetlands and along shorelines and waterways.

RVCA staff also oversee the review and approval functions under the *Ontario Building Code* for the construction, enlargement or alteration of septic systems throughout the City of Ottawa as well as in Tay Valley Township. Septic re-inspection services are also offered in several municipalities especially in "lake country."

Working in the best interests of the watershed an expert team of staff strive to ensure clean water, natural shorelines and sustainable land use will continue to exist and thrive throughout the watershed. We provide cost-effective solutions, ensure consistent delivery, avoid expensive fixes and reduce municipal liability associated with decision-making responsibilities.

## Plan Input and Plan Review

This activity occurs on two levels – one being providing input to high level municipal planning exercises such as in the preparation of official plans, community plans and zoning by-laws and the other involving the review of specific development proposals on individual lots or for lot creation. Provincial requirements stipulate that we be involved. In such endeavours we:

- Emphasize pre-consultation to ensure that applicants submit appropriate information at the time of the filing of development applications to maximize time and cost savings throughout the application process
- Provide proponents with guidance on provincially established requirements and watershed specific needs – to assist, a series of checklists has been developed for more complex application types such as subdivisions
- Beyond addressing hazard issues (for which we have a provincial MOU) our input is based on MOUs established with upper tier approval authorities (Lanark and Leeds & Grenville counties as well as the single tier City of Ottawa); these agreements address roles and responsibilities as well as accountability considerations
- Municipal review and approval timelines are respected

## Special for 2019

- Prepare development review policies for plan input and the review of development applications under the *Planning Act*
- Review Planning MOUs with Lanark and United Counties of Leeds and Grenville
- Preparing standardized conditions for subdivision and site plan control recommendations



# Planning Advisory & Regulatory Services

## Section 28 *Conservation Authorities Act* Regulation

Conservation Authorities are the lead for ensuring the provincial interest is addressed with respect to development on potentially hazardous sites. To assist us in undertaking this role the Conservation Authority identifies areas in the watershed vulnerable to natural hazards such as flooding as well as on or adjacent to unstable slopes and soils. These susceptible areas are then, in most cases, identified on detailed maps so that municipal officials, real estate professionals, property owners / prospective purchasers and others can easily understand the extent of the hazard on specific properties. At-risk areas are mapped along the Ottawa River as well as along the full length of the Rideau River and several of its tributaries including Becketts Creek, Flowing Creek, Hobbs Drain,

Jock River, Kemptville Creek, Kings Creek, Nichols Creek, Stevens Creek and the Tay River. Flood levels have also been identified on six lakes. Wetland areas are also mapped. We are also working in a co-ordinated manner to identify hazard susceptible zones in other areas of our watershed. With this mandate the authority has accepted responsibility to administer an *Ontario Regulation (O. Reg. 174/06)* referenced as the "Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses" regulation. Based on the regulatory requirements, where landowners wish to fill, grade or undertake construction within the established regulation limits or to interfere with a watercourse or a wetland the Conservation Authority's written approval is required.

### What it means for your municipality?

- We provide effective and fair delivery of Section 28 regulations in a manner which dovetails with municipal planning responsibilities
- Delivery of the program is based on Board of Directors approved local policies for administration of the regulation
- Regulation limits and flood hazards are identified in a way that the information can be transferred seamlessly to municipal official plan and zoning schedules; and owners can thus easily identify how the regulation affects their lands
- We provide prompt response times (generally more quickly than suggested provincial minimums)
- Approximately three hundred applications are reviewed annually – applicants are guided, where possible, to approvable solutions where applications present authorization challenges; as such, over 95 percent of applications are approved
- Applicants have an opportunity for a hearing before the Conservation Authority's Executive Committee (appointed from the Board of Directors) when their application cannot meet the policies
- Controlling development reduces municipal liability when dealing with severe weather events and other natural hazards (slope failures, erosion)

### Special for 2019

- Update Section 28 Administrative Policies
- Develop Section 28 Enforcement Policies
- Prepare regulatory policies for other wetlands (non-PSWs) and lakes
- Formalize policies for headwater drainage features
- Prepare standard conditions of approval for Section 28





# Planning Advisory & Regulatory Services

## Part VIII *Building Code Act*

- Provide Part VIII review and approval of private septic systems within the City of Ottawa (on behalf of the Mississippi Valley, Rideau Valley and South Nation Conservation Authorities) and

in Tay Valley Township (in partnership with Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority)

### What it means for your municipality?

- Cost-effective, not-for-profit, cost recovery service available to participating municipalities
- Access to experienced, well-trained, accountable staff who are designated Provincial Offences Officers and have professional accreditations
- Consistent application of standards within and between geographical areas — a level playing field is important to contractors, landowners and municipalities
- Benefit from fast turnaround of inspections and approvals — reducing *Ontario Building Code* inspection timelines by 50 percent
- Integrate approvals and inspections with other environmental regulations and land use planning processes (Section 28) — one site inspection can serve two or more purposes
- Emphasis on public information and education
- Minimized municipalities' exposure to risk and liability
- Committed to providing responsive, knowledgeable and courteous customer service
- Address complaints for applicants or other landowners
- Provide centralized file retention of septic approvals



# Planning Advisory & Regulatory Services

## Septic Re-Inspection Program

- Offer mandatory inspection programs and discretionary inspection programs of private septic systems as per the *Building Code (Ontario Regulation 350/06)* to interested municipalities

## What it means for your municipality?

- Protection of water quality by helping to ensure that existing onsite sewage systems do not contaminate ground water, surface water or wells
- Education and promotion of the importance of maintaining a healthy septic system to watershed residents
- Increase in property values due to protected lake environments
- Information provided to municipal planners assists in determining growth potential for existing settlement areas
- Access to experienced, well-trained, accountable staff
- Full or partial service can be tailor to suit the needs of participating municipality that follow a well-tested service model (one-window service, fast turnaround, cost-effective delivery on a not-for-profit/cost recovery basis)

## Part IV *Clean Water Act*

- Administer Part IV of the *Clean Water Act* on behalf of 12 of our watershed municipalities to benefit over 730,000 drinking water users. This service implements policies in the 2014 approved *Source Protection Plan*
- Screen development applications within vulnerable areas on behalf of municipalities



# Corporate Services

## Management & Members, Finance & Human Resources

- Encompasses the overall management of the RVCA
- Includes work planning, budgeting, financial reporting, policy development, issues management, municipal relations, partnership development, employee management and payroll
- Serves the needs of the Board of Directors (training, watershed tour, meeting, agendas and minutes).

## Communications and Outreach

- Increase awareness, knowledge, and understanding of RVCA services, programs and initiatives
- Focus on consistent, time-sensitive, transparent and accurate exchange of information
- Build and maintain effective relationships with the RVCA Board of Directors and elected officials/bodies at the municipal, provincial and federal levels
- Strive to maintain the RVCA's positive, proactive relationship with watershed media to ensure a high level of accurate, comprehensive regional media coverage
- Provide communication support through communication planning, media relations and plain language services
- Distribute corporate information through annual reports, Around the Rideau (general corporate newsletter), municipal information sheets, program brochures, displays, media releases, website, social media (Facebook and Twitter) and public events/workshops]

## Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation

- Encourage more contributions to the Steve Simmering Endowment Fund to support the annual maintenance costs of our conservation lands
- Continue to seek new unrestricted funds for use on urgent or high priority RVCA conservation projects
- Maintain a central list of environmental projects and help RVCA staff complete them by fundraising

### Special for 2019

- Provide orientation and training to RVCA Board of Directors
- Update RVCA Purchasing Policy
- Undergo asset management training

### Special for 2019

- Review RVCA's Customer Service Strategy





# Conservation Land Management Services

The RVCA manages approximately 3,000 hectares (7,000 acres) of conservation land for the strategic protection of vulnerable habitats and valuable natural resources. The land includes 11 developed conservation areas that are available for public use and enjoyment.

Conservation areas provide affordable recreation, education and tourism opportunities to watershed communities.

## Conservation Lands

- Protect the ecological features of natural areas
- Continued development of property management plans for strategic land-use planning and efficient use of resources

## Developed Conservation Areas

- General operation, maintenance and visitor use of developed conservation areas
- Keep visitor fees down with new, cost-effective pay system



## What it means for your municipality?

- Affordable, inviting and well-maintained sites and facilities
- Swimming and beach areas
- Year-round use — hiking, snowshoeing, swimming, picnicking, group camping
- Habitat and biodiversity conservation
- Self-guided accessible trails for municipal residents and tourists
- Environmental education for 10,000 local students

## Special for 2019

- Initiate fundraising campaign for platform and dock at Chapman Mills Conservation Area
- Continue Baxter fundraising campaign to improve boardwalks and incorporate accessibility standards
- Complete Natural Areas Management Plans for recently acquired lands ensuring best management practices are being conducted on RVCA land
- Construct a new Barn Swallow structure at RVCA's head office
- Revitalize pond at Perth Wildlife Reserve with a focus on species at risk
- Install new flood control structure and culvert at Mica Mines
- Assist with wetland rehabilitation on Hutton Creek Wetland Complex with Motts Mills working group
- Re-route Rideau Trail at Mica Mines
- Apply for funding to improve accessibility of RVCA beaches

# Conservation Land Management Services

## Baxter & Foley Mountain Conservation Areas

- Deliver high quality, curriculum-based education programs, day camps and group programs
- Provide nature-based passive recreation and visitor experiences
- Maintain quality facilities in terms of resource management and visitor use
- Incorporate new technology into education programs to enhance learning experiences
- Encourage families and children to be active in outdoor play all year round

## Special for 2019

- Expand on Forest School model
- Develop more educational programming for fall and winter seasons
- Make outdoor education programs available to more low-income schools
- Increase accessibility of sites to all visitors with a focus on physical disabilities
- Repair roof at Baxter's Patrick J. McManus Interpretive Centre

## Land Donation

- Seek funding and support for acquisition and long-term protection of ecologically significant and/or vulnerable lands





# Stewardship Services

RVCA strives to protect and enhance the Rideau Valley watershed's natural resources. Our goal is to undertake environmental protection programs that will leave a healthy and sustainable environment for future generations.

We use information from RVCA science and monitoring to address local issues and pursue targeted educational and outreach efforts to encourage community-based water protection and habitat restoration projects. Programs such as reforestation, shoreline restoration, wetland enhancement and species at risk support help us achieve this goal. We are delighted to work with private landowners, lake associations, NGOs, Friends of groups, businesses, government agencies and the general public to make direct improvements to the health of the watershed. Working with others, we divide the task and double the success!

## What it means for your municipality?

- Direct changes on the landscape for cleaner water, healthier habitats and more resilient watersheds
- Technical advice and financial assistance to you and your municipal residents
- Promotion, education and implementation of stewardship programs on private and municipal properties

## Special for 2019

- Deliver increased projects in the Tay River watershed based on recommendations in 2018's *Tay River Subwatershed Report*
- Undertake outreach and promotion of programs in the Lower Rideau subwatershed stemming from distribution of the new *Lower Rideau Subwatershed Report*
- Assist the City of Ottawa with post-tornado recovery efforts including tree planting, shoreline shrub planting, forest management and forest plan development





# Stewardship Services

## Clean Water Program

- Provide financial and technical assistance to farmers and rural landowners undertaking projects to protect and improve water quality in the watershed
- Focus on addressing erosion control and reducing the amount of nutrients, bacteria and microorganisms entering groundwater and surface water
- Provide financial support through cost-share grants
- Promote and support a large number of best management practices that address both surface and groundwater issues

### Special for 2019

- Distribute \$200,000 in grants to qualifying projects
- Increase the uptake of projects that have a direct benefit to water quality and habitat improvement that are not supported through the Canada Agricultural Partnership
- Promote recent program additions which include Cover Crops, Land Retirement, Controlled Tile Drainage, Forest Management Plans and Innovative Projects
- Develop partnerships with NCC, Ducks Unlimited and other NGOs to share project costs and achieve more with available grant dollars
- Help landowners affected by Source Protection Plans complete their Risk Management Plans by providing technical support and financial assistance

### What it means for your municipality?

- Direct change on the ground — since 2002, approximately 1,500 projects have been approved. It is estimated that these projects have reduced the amount of phosphorus entering our watershed by over 8,000 Kg/year
- Cost-effective program delivery where each \$1 invested by RVCA leads to an additional \$4.60 being invested in clean water projects
- Site visits for residents with experienced staff who guide and assist them through the approvals and project process



# Stewardship Services

## Private Land Forestry Assistance

- Provide a quality, cost-effective tree planting program — plant 200,000+ trees in 2019
- Provide a full-service planting program to landowners
- Support tree planting projects with external dollars
- Provide technical advice on woodlot management and best practices for landowners
- Assist the Shoreline Naturalization Program with a large-scale tree and shrub remediation planting plan for new housing development
- Review Conservation Areas coniferous plantations for thinning opportunities and potential revenue generation

### What it means for your municipality

- Experienced, cost-effective, subsidized tree planting services for municipal residents
- Ability to attract tree planting sponsorship from federal and provincial governments, NGOs, environmental charities, and the private sector
- Professional staff available to provide advice regarding best forest management practices and potential project opportunities

### What it means for residents?

- Access to full-service tree planting at an average savings of over 90 percent
- Site visits with a forestry professional to discuss the importance of trees, forest cover and proper forest management.
- Professional planting, tending and maintenance to ensure long-term establishment of the trees
- Access to other forestry services (MFTIP information, woodlot advisory services, contractor contacts)



# Stewardship Services

## Shoreline Naturalization Program

- Complete over 40 projects which will result over 8,000 trees and shrubs planted on two kilometres of shoreline
- Promote the many benefits of natural shorelines throughout the watershed
- Provide a simple and affordable option for landowners to complete naturalization projects on their shoreline by providing free advisory site visits, customized planting plans, subsidized native trees and shrubs, project management and monitoring and assistance with planting installation
- Work closely with municipalities, Parks Canada and RVCA regulatory staff to facilitate planting requirements for planning and permit applications when needed
- Fundraise for special large-scale projects and stewardship targeting

## Special for 2019

- Assist with the Bilberry Creek Shoreline Restoration Project funded by the City of Ottawa's *Water Environment Strategy*
- Complete Great Lakes Guardian Community Fund project "Rideau Valley Healthy Watershed — Targeted Stewardship Project" in partnership with the Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation
- Complete targeted projects in the Tay River Subwatershed and begin targeted outreach within the Lower Rideau Subwatershed for projects to be implemented in 2020
- Continue to promote small-scale runoff-reduction stewardship projects
- Provide full cost-recovery shoreline naturalization projects in partnership with local developers
- Complete planting projects on Mosquito Creek in partnership with the Riverside South Community Association

## Lake Planning

- Provide information, resources, templates, fundraising information and contacts to support lake planning efforts
- Review and technical vetting of lake planning related documents or reports by RVCA staff



## Butternut Recovery

- Continue to conduct site visits with local land owners who have butternut trees on their property
- Continue to collect seed from tolerant butternut trees to support the Species at Risk Program
- Produce a manual describing RVCA's Butternut Recovery Program



## Beaver Management

- Track nuisance beaver calls, distribute the Beaver Management package to landowners and municipalities and assist with advice on managing beavers and dams
- Work to balance flooding and property damage concerns with the benefits to the aquatic ecosystem created by beavers







**Rideau Valley  
Conservation  
Authority**

## Questions?

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