

Rideau Valley Conservation Authority
2016 Budget
and Work Plan



Celebrating 50 Years of Conservation!

The Rideau Valley Conservation Authority will celebrate 50 years of conservation work in 2016! Since our formation in 1966, we have been partnering with our local municipalities, residents, businesses, schools, service clubs, environmental and lake associations, community groups and provincial and federal governments to deliver programs and services that protect and manage the natural resources we all value and count on in the Rideau watershed.

By working together we have been able to accomplish great things and at a shared cost well below what any of us would pay on our own. We look forward to another 50 years of working with those who live, work and play in the Rideau watershed as we balance human, environmental and economic needs.





Rideau Falls, Ottawa

front cover: Rideau River at Chapman Mills Conservation Area, Ottawa

2016 Budget

The RVCA's total proposed budget for 2016 is \$10.1 million. This is 5.4 percent lower than last year's budget of \$10.7 million because our 2015 budget included three large water control structure capital projects (Haggart Island Dam, Mott's Mills Dam and Britannia Flood Control Structure).

Our proposed budget for 2016 is a status quo budget which can be broken out into three main expenditures:

- 9 percent for Rideau River Ice Management
- 11 percent for ongoing capital projects
- 80 percent for our overall operating budget to deliver all our programs and services

Our proposed budget includes a municipal levy increase of \$186,263 which is in keeping with a two percent tax increase and assessment growth. The municipal levy amounts to half of our revenue meaning another 4.8 million is coming from other sources such as fundraising, the province, grants and special levies. The following sections in this work plan provide additional details about our proposed 2016 budget and the great conservation work that it will support.

Expenditures

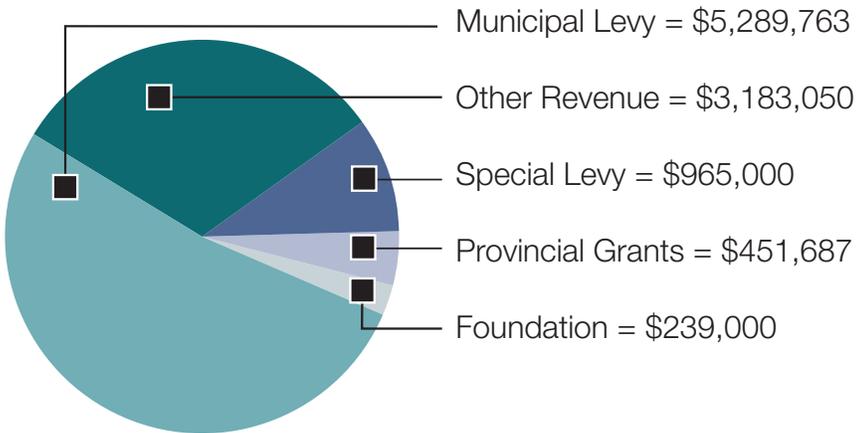
- Spending across most program areas is status quo.
- This budget does reallocate some staff time between various programs and departments to better reflect program costs and better serve our municipalities and watershed residents. The most significant staff change is reassigning a staff member as a second environmental planner in the upper watershed. As development increases in this part of the watershed additional resources will help us meet municipal review and approval timelines.
- Like our member municipalities, salary costs increase annually. While OMERS contribution rates and benefit costs remained unchanged for 2016, payroll taxes (WSIB, EI, CPP and EHT) increased over last year putting pressure on the budget. Additionally, the RVCA uses the Consumer Price Index as our economic adjustment figure. This year the figure was 1.2 percent which has been accommodated in this budget. The RVCA also sets a salary grid increase of 1 to 2 percent for eligible staff who are still moving through their salary band. A grid increase of 1 percent has been accommodated in this budget.

Revenues

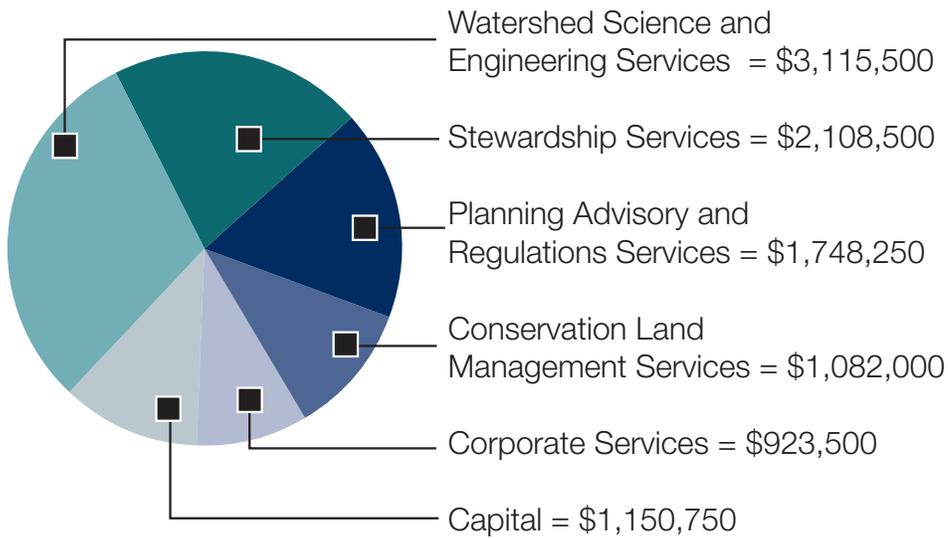
- Provincial Funding from MNR and from the MOECC for drinking water source protection is expected to remain unchanged from last year.
- Contributions from the Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation will return to normal levels in 2016 after a significant spike in 2015 as a result of a large contribution to our Mott's Mills Dam capital project.
- Other revenue will decrease by 18 percent due in large part to two capital projects wrapping up in 2015 as well as a projected decrease in revenue for site specific plan review.
- Special levies will remain unchanged next year, except for an increase to the City of Ottawa's special levy for Rideau River Ice Management. Costs for this program have increased significantly over the past few years because of challenging ice conditions.
- The municipal levy will increase by \$186,263 in 2016. This is a 3.6 percent increase which is the third lowest increase since 2008. This increase equates to a 2 percent tax increase as 1.6 percent comes from new assessment growth in the watershed.

2016 Budget

Where does the money come from?



Where does the investment go?



Municipal Levy

Being a municipal organization, the bottom line financially for the RVCA is the municipal levy. That said we are committed to minimizing pressure on the levy by using this investment from our member municipalities to leverage other monies. For every dollar invested through the municipal levy, the RVCA has been able to double that investment to deliver a variety of programs and services in the Rideau Watershed. Other revenue includes:

- Charging fees for education programs, conservation areas, permits and planning comments
- Getting grants for special projects, students and interns
- Fundraising through the Foundation
- Special levies for specific projects that benefit one municipality
- Joint programming and staff sharing with neighbouring conservation authorities
- Landowner contributions for services they receive
- Contracts to provide services to external organizations and sectors

Municipal Levy Apportionment

Based on assessment apportionment, the City of Ottawa will pay almost 91 percent of RVCA's levy in 2016. This amounts to \$4.8 million leaving our other 17 municipalities to share the remaining \$0.48 million. Levy costs for these municipalities range from \$1,300 to \$83,661 depending on their assessment.

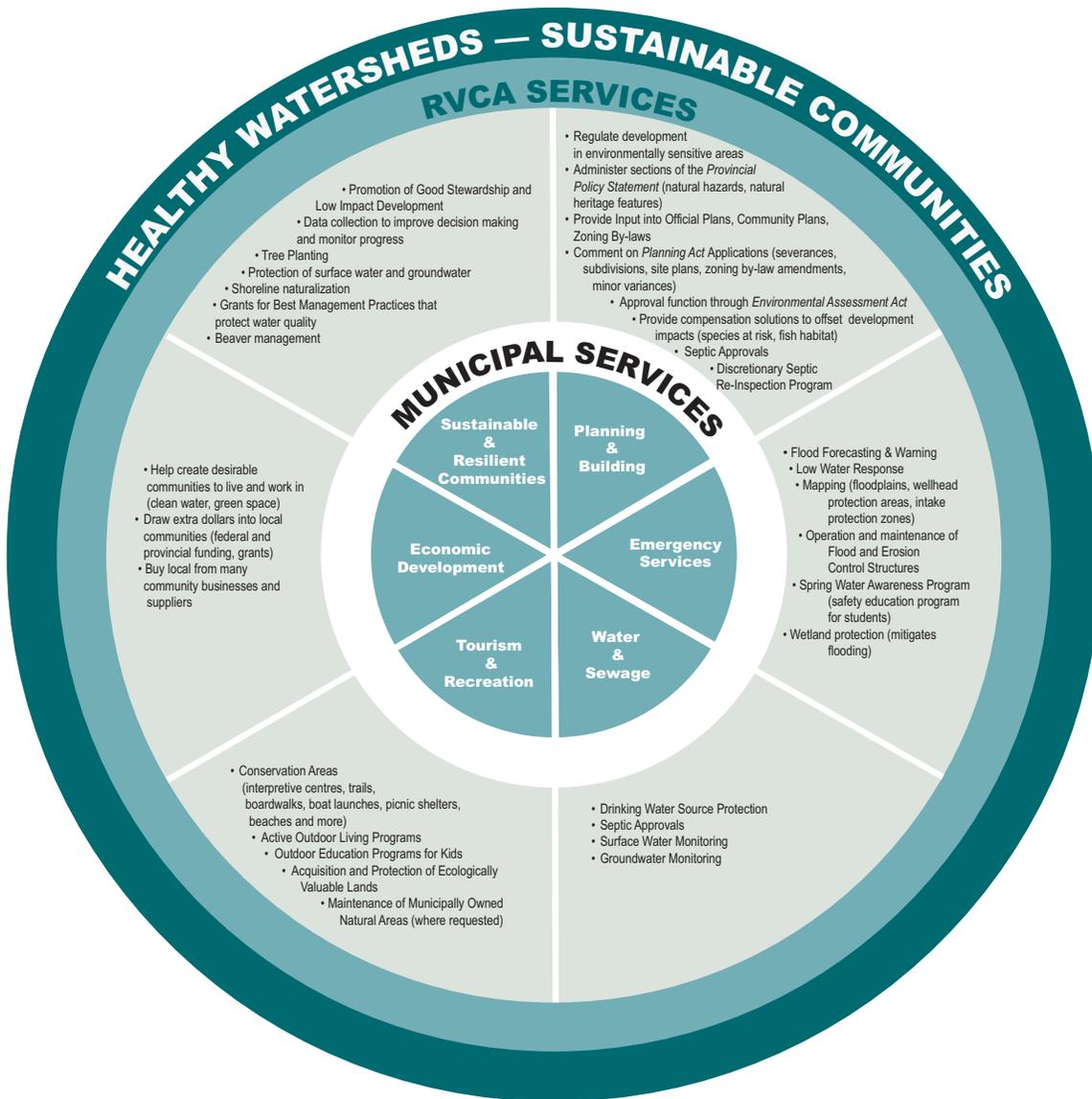
Levy Rates Over the Years				
Year	Municipal Levy	Levy Increase	Current Value Assessment (modified)	Levy Rate*
2016	\$5,289,763	3.6 percent	\$99,512,530,071	\$5.31
2015	\$5,103,500	3.2 percent	\$97,988,860,174	\$5.21
2014	\$4,943,500	3.6 percent	\$96,748,734,271	\$5.11
2013	\$4,770,000	3.9 percent	\$77,361,085,801	\$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	\$5.75
2009	\$4,081,000	5.6 percent	\$60,589,220,174	\$6.75
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.



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
Ecological Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • atmospheric regulation • climate regulation • disturbance avoidance • water regulation • water supply • pollination • habitat • recreation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • atmospheric regulation • climate regulation • water supply • waste treatment • pollination • biological control • habitat • biodiversity • recreation • culture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • climate regulation • water regulation • water supply • soil formation • nutrient cycling • waste treatment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • water regulation • water supply • soil formation • waste treatment • habitat • biodiversity • recreation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • atmospheric regulation • climate regulation • water regulation • water supply • recreation • culture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • climate regulation • pollination • habitat • recreation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • climate regulation • pollination • habitat 	
Estimated value (\$) per capita per year	94	67	247	19	25	10	28	490
Estimated annual value (\$ millions)	70.9	51.0	186.8	14.5	18.7	7.8	21.4	371.1

Estimating the Value of Natural Capital in the Credit River Watershed

Watershed Science and Engineering

A watershed approach is the most effective framework to address today's water resource challenges. For Conservation Authorities, the management of land and the management of water go hand-in-hand. This is the basis of the ecosystem approach to natural resource management. Failure to adequately recognize and incorporate the value of our natural services into decisions about the use and management of watershed resources will reduce the net benefits that societies receive from watersheds.

RVCA'S Watershed Science and Engineering team collects, monitors and analyses watershed information. Understanding our watershed 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 the 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 of 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 2016

- *Middle Rideau Subwatershed Report* — having completed a full cycle of subwatershed reports, we are able to revisit the Middle Rideau in 2016 and see where we have come since the 2009 subwatershed report

Drinking Water Source Protection



- Administer the province's Drinking Water Source Protection Program in the Mississippi and Rideau watersheds
- Continue working with municipalities, provincial ministries, property owners, businesses, health units and others

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 2016

- Publish surface water chemistry data on RVCA website for internal and external use
- Wrap-up study of excessive algae and aquatic plant growth (funded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation)



Watershed Science and Engineering

Hydrometric Monitoring & Forecasting

- Collect, manage, analyse and disseminate data and information about the abundance or scarcity of surface water resources within the watershed

What it means for your municipality?

- Effective flood forecasting services help to minimize damage and public safety risks during flood events
- 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



Flood, Erosion & Drought Studies

- Identify hazard lands as delegated 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 ungauged watersheds and for investigating the potential impacts of land use and climate change on a watershed scale
- Maintain RVCA flood hazard knowledge base by amending flood lines and associated data sets as changes on the ground are brought to RVCA's attention and as floodplain modeling is refined and improved over time

Special for 2016

Produce hazard mapping for:

- Becketts Creek
- Billberry Creek
- Flowing Creek
- Kings Creek
- Rideau River (Kars to Rideau Falls)



Groundwater Monitoring

- Fulfill RVCA's obligations under the Memorandum of Agreement with Ontario respecting the Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network (PGMN)
- Work in the field and office to download data, perform data correction and QA/QC tasks, and perform basic maintenance at existing PGMN monitoring wells
- Develop and populate a groundwater information database, and develop tools to enable the creation of conceptual models (visualizations) of hydrogeological conditions at scales that are relevant to watershed management planning and environmental impact assessment activities

Watershed Science and Engineering

Aquatic & Terrestrial Habitat Monitoring

- Undertake Ontario Stream Assessment Protocol — characterizing the amount of water, sediment transport and storage capacity within headwater drainage features
- 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 planning/regulations, ecosystem management and conservation objectives for the conservation authority 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

Special for 2016

- Monitor recent habitat creation/enhancement projects at Otty Lake, Brewer Park, Remic Rapids and Richmond Conservation Area
- 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



Watershed Information System

- Provide access to electronic information
- Produce maps and data summaries for Subwatershed Reports and Data Catchment Sheet
- Support monitoring efforts with maps, data models (place to store data), provide mobile tools for data entry
- Support floodplain mapping projects
- Develop RVCA's 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

Special for 2016

- Launch public geoportal — allowing public to access data and maps online

Water Control Operations

- 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)



Motts Mills Dam prior to 2015 decommissioning, Elizabethtown-Kitley

Special for 2016

- Modernize records management
- Complete Haggart Island dam decommissioning and river restoration plan in collaboration with the Town of Perth
- Complete construction of the Britannia Flood Control Project in cooperation with the City of Ottawa — flood control measures will consist of earthen dykes, reinforced concrete flood walls, rip-rap and armour-stone shoreline protection measures
- Monitor newly constructed Motts Mill berm

Planning Advisory and 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. Experienced and well trained 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 (experienced in water resources engineering, biology, ground water science, municipal planning and stewardship of our natural resources) 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 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

What it means for your municipality?

- Brings both professional expertise and provincial policies and standards on environmental matters into the municipal decision-making process
- Our knowledge helps municipalities meet statutorily established review timelines
- Our municipalities benefit from the pooling and sharing of specialist staff expertise — resulting in lower cost service delivery than most member municipalities would be able to undertake were they to retain these services themselves
- Implementation costs to the municipality are minimized
- Provide support to municipalities when other review or approval functions are involved which relate to the watershed (examples would include the *Environmental Assessment Act* process for new roads, bridges, pipes and other infrastructure, permits to take water, source water protection, etc.). Our involvement flags watershed constraints and regulatory requirements which some projects may need to address before proceeding; the earlier this happens in the planning process the better
- Bringing provincial requirements and watershed needs into larger scale community development planning such as community design plans, environmental management plans and neighbourhood plans

S. 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 stretch of the Ottawa River at the northern extent of our watershed as well as along the full length of the Rideau River and several of its tributaries including the Jock River, Stevens Creek, Kemptville Creek and the Tay River. Flood levels have been identified on six lakes (and will be mapped in the next year or so). Wetland areas are also mapped. We are 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 S. 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 such 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 differences cannot be resolved at a staff level
- Information allows for municipal emergency response planning
- Controlling development reduces municipal liability when severe weather events occur



Planning Advisory and Regulatory Services

Fisheries

Conservation Authorities provided fish habitat protection services for more than a dozen years under agreement with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO). Fish are a resource that provide value not only to the natural environment but also to several economic sectors including commercial and recreational fisheries, outdoor education and leisure as well as tourism. The Government of Canada made changes to the *Canada Fisheries Act* in 2014 that ended our formal agreements

with DFO. However, fish remain an important component of a healthy watershed and we continue to provide advice to our member municipalities and others on the protection and management of aquatic habitat consistent with our mandate.

Pt. 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
- Provide review and approval functions in Tay Valley Township — a partnership with Tay Valley Township and the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority



What it means for participating municipalities?

- Cost-effective, not-for-profit, cost recovery service available to your municipality
- Access to experienced, well-trained, accountable staff who are designated Provincial Offenses 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 — 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

Septic Re-Inspection Program

- Delivery of Mandatory Inspection Programs and Discretionary Programs as per the *Building Code (Ontario Regulations 350/06)* which was recently amended by *Ontario Regulation 315/10* to establish and govern mandatory on-site sewage system maintenance inspection programs at a municipal level

Pt. IV Clean Water Act

- Provide Risk Management Officials and Inspectors to administer Part IV of the *Clean Water Act* on behalf of 12 of our watershed municipalities. This service implements policies in our 2014 approved Source Protection Plan.

What it means for participating municipalities?

- Protection of water quality
- Education and promotion of the importance of maintaining a healthy septic system
- Increase of 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



Corporate Services

Management & Members, Finance & Human Resources

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

Special for 2016

- Continued education opportunities for new and returning Board members
- Complete modernization of our financial system

Communications

- Increase awareness, knowledge, and understanding of RVCA services, programs and initiatives
- Focus on consistent, time-sensitive, transparent, 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, plain language services
- Distribute corporate information through annual reports, *Watershed Briefs* (municipal newsletter), *Around the Rideau* (general corporate newsletter), municipal information sheets, program brochures, displays, media releases, website, social media (Facebook and Twitter) and public events/workshops

Special for 2016

- Develop new website allowing for improved access to information and data
- 50th Anniversary celebrations



Foundation

- Increase fundraised revenue by 10 percent per year with the goal of long term sustainability of donors (we have exceeded our revenue targets in the last four years)
- Encourage more contributions to the Steve Simmering Endowment Fund to support the annual maintenance costs associated with property ownership
- 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 2016

- Develop a partnership with municipalities to encourage riparian planting in new developments
- Work with Finance Committee to review the Investment Policy Statement to increase contributions from the Steve Simmering Endowment Fund
- Review and update by-laws for Foundation's purposes and to prepare for the introduction of Ontario's *Not-for-Profit Act* (2017)



Conservation Land Management

The RVCA manages conservation areas for strategic protection of vulnerable habitats and valuable natural resources. Over 2,300 hectares of sensitive natural environments, including nine developed conservation areas, are available for public use and enjoyment — providing local communities with affordable recreation, education and tourism opportunities.

What it means for your municipality?

- Affordable, attractive and well-maintained sites and facilities
- Safe swimming and beach area with good water quality
- Year-round use — hiking, snowshoeing, swimming, picnicking, group camping
- Habitat and biodiversity conservation
- Self-guided accessible trails for municipal residents or tourists
- Environmental education for local students

Special for 2016

- Continue trail improvements and accessibility at Chapman Mills and Baxter Conservation Areas
- Launch Perth Wildlife Reserve fundraising campaign to improve trail accessibility, enhance fish and wildlife habitat, produce interpretive signs and develop invasive species strategy
- Initiate Baxter education fundraising campaign to improve boardwalks, reconstruct wetland and develop interpretive signs
- Complete Natural Areas Management Plans for recently acquired lands

Baxter and Foley Mountain Conservation Areas

- Provide 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



Land Donation

- Seek funding and support for acquisition and protection of ecologically significant and/or vulnerable lands
- Offset land acquisition activities i.e. surveys, severance, legal fees

Conservation Lands

- General operation, maintenance and visitor use of the more developed conservation areas that are not permanently staffed
- Provide resource management of ecological features of the more natural areas that require maintenance and limited management and only have local use or are for natural preservation only
- Continued development of property management plans for strategic land-use planning and efficient use of resources



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, landowner incentive programs, landowner information services, 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 2016

- Deliver projects in the Rideau Lakes watershed resulting from Stewardship Targeting efforts based on recommendations in the *2014 Rideau Lakes Subwatershed Report*.
- Undertake outreach and promotion of programs in Middle Rideau subwatershed stemming from distribution of the *2015 Middle Rideau Subwatershed Report*



LandOwner Resource Centre Storefront and Production Centre

- Provide front counter service for all RVCA programs and “one-stop shopping” for members of the public interested in finding out about environmental information, programs or legislation of a variety of agencies
- Maintain publications for distribution — meeting various MOUs
- Produce high quality environmental products for a wide range of internal and external clients

Private Land Forestry Assistance

- Provide a quality, cost-effective tree planting program
- Plant 200,000 trees on private land in 2016 — exceeding our target for 180,000 trees annually
- Fundraise for more tree-planting in 2016 — MNRF’s 50 Million Program will continue to provide \$1.35 per tree and we expect to raise about \$400,000 from other sources to support this effort
- Continue with targeted tree planting efforts in Elizabethtown-Kitley as part of our Adirondack to Algonquin partnership
- Provide species at risk compensation projects that assist municipalities and private contractors in meeting their permit requirements

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 species at risk compensation projects

What it means for residents?

- Access to full-service tree planting at an average savings of over 90 percent
- Provide forestry services beyond tree planting (MFTIP information, woodlot advisory services, contractor contacts)



Stewardship Services

Butternut Recovery Stewardship



- Increase the number of healthy native pure trees available for seed and scion collection
- Plant seedlings using volunteer landowners
- Grow 2,000 seedlings for out planting in 2017
- Generate revenue from the sale of native pure Butternut seedlings

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



Clean Water Program

- Provide financial and technical assistance to farmers and rural landowners undertaking projects to protect and improve water quality in the watershed
- Support a large number of best management practices that address both surface and groundwater issues

Special for 2016

- Distribute \$226,000 in grants to qualifying projects
- Increase the uptake of projects in categories that have a direct benefit to water quality, habitat improvement and farm projects that are not supported through the Canada Ontario Farm Stewardship Program
- Promote 2014 & 2015 program additions which include Manure Storage/Treatment, Cover Crops, Land Retirement and Controlled Tile Drainage, woodlot management and other conservation plans.
- Continue to develop a partnership with NCC — working with NCC staff, NCC agricultural properties are being assessed to identify where they may benefit from the implementation of best management practices
- Continue to develop a partnership with Ducks Unlimited — working together we may be able to share the project costs, allowing both to stretch grant dollars further
- Assist landowners affected by *Source Protection Plans* — Source Protection Plan implementation will require some landowners to implement best management practices in order to meet the requirements of their Risk Management Plans; work with some of these landowners, and assist with the costs associated with implementation



Stewardship Services

Shoreline Naturalization Program

- Work for clean water, natural shorelines and sustainable land use throughout the watershed
- Provide incentive grants, on-site visits, project planning and management support (planting plans, types/sources of native, local plants, planting advice/assistance)
- Complete shoreline restoration and enhancement projects on private and public lands in partnership with private landowners and community groups
- Provide shoreline naturalization information, resources, workshops and talks

Special for 2016

- Fundraise and pursue shoreline restoration projects (including bioengineering and fish habitat enhancements) on public lands in partnership with internal staff and external partners
- Complete Rideau Lakes subwatershed shoreline projects and target shoreline naturalization projects in the Middle Rideau subwatershed



Beaver Management

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

Special for 2016

- Manage contracts with trappers for Perth Wildlife Reserve, Mica Mines Conservation Area, Kemptville Creek and Motts Mills
- Continue our beaver management partnership with Otter Lake and Drain Wolford landowners at their request





Otty Lake

Questions?

Contact Sommer Casgrain-Robertson, General Manager
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