
LAKE NETWORKING GROUP

RIDEAU VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY UPDATE

APRIL 2018

CORPORATE

- 1) The 2017 Rideau Valley Conservation Authority **Annual Report** is now available for downloading at www.rvca.ca. It highlights the many achievements and on-the-ground projects that happened throughout the year in the over 4,000 square kilometres of the Rideau watershed.
- 2) On December 12, 2017, Bill 139 passed in the Ontario Legislature which included **changes to the Conservation Authorities Act**. While there were many changes, the changes to Section 28 of the Act (not yet in force until a day to be named by proclamation of the Lieutenant Governor) may be most relevant to the interests of lake associations. Section 28 changes will include:
 - Clarifying the scope of activities subject to conservation authority approval
 - Transferring the authority to make regulations concerning development and interference with watercourses or wetlands from individual conservation authorities to the Minister
 - Transferring the prohibitions and corresponding requirements to obtain conservation authority approval for certain development activities and interference with watercourses or wetlands from individual regulations to the Act,
 - Enabling the minister to make regulations to establish exemptions for activities carried out in accordance with rules in regulation and activities carried out within specific areas within an authority's jurisdiction provided they are carried out in accordance with rules in regulation.
 - Clarifying that an authority can only permit activities that do not jeopardize public safety or result in the damage or destruction of property.
 - Confirming that an authority can only permit activities that do not impact control of flooding, erosion, dynamic beaches, pollution or the conservation of land.
 - Enables establishment for refusing or attaching conditions to a permit.
 - Outlines the information to be provided to a conservation authority.
 - Updated compliance and enforcement tools, with powers of entry, stop work orders and increased fines and restoration.

PLANNING & REGULATIONS

- 1) RVCA will be administering the **shoreline alteration regulation** made under Section 28 of the Conservation Authorities Act on **Upper, Big, Lower Rideau and Adams Lake**, effective **May 1, 2018**. This is in addition to the inland lakes where the Regulation is currently administered. Please call RVCA for more information.
- 2) Continue to remind all waterfront owners that permits are required for **shoreline alterations** and for **other types of development** along the **entire Rideau and Tay River systems** and to **PSW areas and adjacent lands where the regulation has been adopted by the RVCA**. Activities that require permits from the RVCA include:

- “Development” including buildings, grading, filling, where hazard mapping has been completed. Hazard mapping includes flood risk studies, wetland evaluations and mapping and slope stability analysis.
 - Interference to Wetlands – applies to all PSW’s.
 - Alteration to Shorelines - applies to all shorelines in the watershed and includes straightening, changing, diverting or interfere in any way
- 3) **Wetland Policy is being developed** to update the RVCA’s “Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alteration to Shorelines” policies approved by the RVCA Board of Directors. This will assist staff with reviewing planning and regulation applications in and around all PSW’s *and including recently those recently* designated by OMNRF in the upper watershed (primarily Tay Valley).
 - 4) **LeBoat** based in Smiths Falls will begin operation this spring, additional traffic on the system from that base, starting with (Town of Smiths Falls, in co-operation with Parks Canada, is undertaking some major works and upgrades of the basin downtown for that purpose). I understand there will only be 15-20 boats this year with plans to expand.
 - 5) **Septic Reinspection program** ongoing for 2018 in Rideau Lakes and Tay Valley. Final details have not yet been released. Contact Eric.kohlsmith@rvca.ca 613-253-0006 ext. 256

WATERSHED SCIENCE & MONITORING

- 1) Watershed Watch
 - Sarah MacLeod-Neilson will be on maternity leave beginning April 30th and will return January 2019. She will be contacting all volunteers soon to announce her replacement and to begin scheduling sampling dates. Sampling will begin May 7th.
 - In Sarah’s absence any questions pertaining to water quality in the subwatershed/catchment reports can be directed to Mike Yee (michael.yee@rvca.ca or 613-692-3571 x 1176)
- 2) Tay Subwatershed Report and Catchment Reports
 - The Tay River Subwatershed report is due to be released later this spring, catchment reports (detailed information) will be available online by the summer.
- 3) Headwaters Monitoring
 - Crews are out over the next few weeks mapping out more than 400 headwaters features in Kemptville and Lower Rideau area (Sampling in the Tay occurred last year).

STEWARDSHIP & RESTORATION

- 1) Shoreline Naturalization Program
 - Will be completing 63 projects this spring, planting 11,000 trees and shrubs throughout the watershed
 - Target area for 2018/2019 is the Tay Subwatershed. We will be providing the program free of charge for landowners in this subwatershed. Contact Meaghan.mcdonald@rvca.ca 613-692-3571 ext. 1192.
- 2) Private Land Forestry
 - 275,000 trees being planted this spring throughout the watershed
 - RVCA forest management plan for CA lands is being completed this year

- Continuing to work with Canadian Forest Service doing parasitic wasp releases to control Emerald Ash Borer
- Milestone: 6 Millionth tree will be planted this year at Perth Wildlife Reserve.
- For more information contact Scott.Danford@rvca.ca 613-692-3571 ext. 1175

3) Rural Clean Water Program

- Landowner grants available for numerous clean water projects including erosion control, well and septic upgrades. Contact Derek.Matheson@rvca.ca, 613-692-3571 ext. 1134

4) Other

- Stewardship Department received a \$25,000 grant from the Great Lakes Guardians Community Fund to do extra projects and outreach in the Tay Subwatershed. Potential grant top ups for livestock restriction fencing, plants and outreach activities this year.
- Fish habitat enhancement/wetland embayment project on Jebb's Creek. Monitoring of the fish habitat structures on Otty lake and Otter Lake will occur in June. Contact Jennifer.Lamoureux@rvca.ca , 613-692-3571 ext. 1108.
- Newly restored Baxter education pond will be unveiled this year as well as a demonstration Rain Garden at this spring at Baxter CA in Kars.