

Lake Networking Group- RVCA Update

Thursday, September 26, 2024

1) Stewardship

- Tree planting is full for spring 2025 with 210,000 seedlings planned through our full service program. Over the counter/plant yourself orders for smaller projects are still open (minimum 100 tree order). **CONTACT: ian.conchrane@rvca.ca.**
- Shoreline Naturalization Program is still offering site visits for spring 2025 planting projects. Projects are free on Bobs & Crow Lake thanks to top ups from the Bobs & Crow Lake Foundation. Outside of those lakes we cover up to 90% of the cost of projects. We also provide assistance and funding for bulk plant sales with community groups, demonstration sites, and targeted outreach. **Contact meaghan.mcdonald@rvca.ca**
- ALUS Program- now Watershed-wide in RVCA and MVC! This program is for farmers by farmers and provides funding for farm projects that provide ecosystem services. These include:
 - Wetland creation, enhancement, or restoration
 - Reforestation, windbreaks, shelterbelts, and buffers
 - Grassland restoration
 - Pollinator habitat and wildlife food plots
 - Delayed cut and delayed grazing
 - Erosion control and livestock exclusion
 - Habitat structures
 - Other ecologically beneficial projects

CONTACT: Derek.Matheson@rvca.ca, [Marissa Okum mokum@mvc.on.ca](mailto:Marissa.Okum@mvc.on.ca)

2) Sustainable Drainage Pilot Project

- This project is all about promoting ways you can reduce the impact of your stormwater runoff. It includes:
 - Five sustainable drainage fact sheets were published to the RVCA website in the Spring.
 - A swale demonstration site was installed in Portland on St. Mary's St. Demonstration site signage is still being worked on and will be installed later this year. This is in addition to two rain gardens located at Hannah Park and Portland Conservation Area.
 - Discussions are on-going with staff at Rideau Lakes Township to install a second swale demonstration site within the village of Portland and the installation of additional CB shields (filter mechanisms) in additional catch basins within the village of Portland.
- **COMING SOON-** A sustainable drainage workbook "Reduce your Runoff" is still on-going. We are working towards a publication date later this fall.
- [Sustainable Drainage Pilot Project \(Portland\) \(rvca.ca\)](#)

- **Contact: Haley.Matschke@rvca.ca**

3) Water Quality Monitoring

- All three rounds of lake sampling were completed at the end of August. The final round of lake sampling for 2024 will get underway starting October 1st.
- Five of six RVCA baseline (stream sampling) rounds have been completed to date. A final sampling round will get underway in November.

4) Source Water Protection

- The Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Region is co-hosting the Drinking Water Wise Webinar series, alongside 3 other eastern Conservation Authorities (Cataragui, Trent and Quinte). Their next upcoming webinar is on **October 23rd** at 12PM and will focus on Climate Change impacts on drinking water safety. All 8 past webinars are available to watch online. Registration and other webinar resources are [available here](#).
- For more information, please contact **marika.livingston@mrsourcewater.ca**

5) Other

- New policy documents are still in the works to reflect the changes to the Conservation authority mandate and regulation.
- Changes to our wetland regulations (specific to Rideau Valley) have been put on hold. Currently in RVCA we regulate 30 meters around evaluated (provincially significant) wetlands.
- Our *Planned Giving Workshops* were well attended this year and we plan to offer future dates (potentially online) over the winter months