

New Local Initiatives 2009-2010

Agricultural Stream Rehabilitation

This program involves working with Lake Associations to restore streams in their watersheds by providing financial support for local farmers to construct cattle exclusion fencing, to install alternative watering systems, to build water crossings, and to rehabilitate eroded stream banks. Over 6 kilometres of streams have been rehabilitated and over 1,000 cows have been removed from these waters.

-Leeds County Stewardship Council and Charleston Lake Association-

Butternut Recovery Program

This program aims to educate landowners about the endangered Butternut tree species and to conduct monitoring and restoration activities to help restore a healthy population.

Please contact Rose Fleguel, Butternut Recovery Technician, 613-858-3678, (rose.fleguel@rvca.ca)

- Rideau Valley Conservation Authority-

First Annual EnviroCamp

For children aged 6-12 during the week of July 20th to the 24th, the environmental day camp on Cow Island aimed to build understanding and appreciation of the environment among younger lake dwellers.

-Big Rideau Lake Association and the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority-

Foley Mountain Family Nature Program Series

This family program took place most Thursday and Saturday mornings of the summer at the Interpretive Centre and featured topics ranging like beaver pond studies, tree studies, orienteering, and beyond.

-Rideau Valley Conservation Authority-

Great Lakes Marsh Monitoring Program

Using the Marsh Monitoring Protocol for marsh birds and frogs, various routes within the Raisin Region watershed have been initiated to better understand the populations within the wetland areas.

-Raisin Region Conservation Authority-

Gananoque Watershed Project

This project involves researching fish populations and analyzing shoreline health on several lakes on the Gananoque Watershed. From that information, stewardship binders for landowners have been created. The long-range goal is to put in place a watershed plan for the Gananoque system. An initiative was also developed to create templates that facilitate and streamline shoreline analysis for lake. Landowners to the north and south of the "pinchpoint" of the Thousand Islands area will be reached through speaking engagements and partnership projects. A2A has been involved in landscape-level planning through participation in the initiative "Sustaining What We Value." Please contact Emily Conger, president@a2alink.org.

-Algonquin to Adirondacks Conservation Association (A2A) and Centre for Sustainable Watersheds-

Sustaining What We Value

The project seeks to convert detailed information about the region's natural heritage into tools that may assist land use planning, conservation strategies, woodlot management, and other activities that use such information. The project required residents of the eastern Frontenac County, Leeds-Grenville and Southern Lanark Counties to point out where and how they enjoy this landscape. Workshops and public forums have been held around the community, and as details come together further, other workshops will be held. Please visit the new website www.sustainingwhatwevalue.ca for more details, workshop summaries, and an interactive map tool.

-Frontenac Arch Biosphere Reserve, Parks Canada, Eastern Ontario Model Forest, Ministry of Natural Resources and United Counties Leeds-Grenville-

Local Studies, Source Water Protection

The Government of Ontario is funding Conservation Authorities to coordinate source water protection at the local level. Regional conservation authorities are working together to deliver source water protection jointly in their watersheds. Source protection regions include Raisin Region South Nation, Mississippi-Rideau, Cataraqui, Quinte and the Trent Severn Coalition.

Loon Behaviour, Natural History, and Conservation Management Workshop

This well attended workshop educated participants about declining loon populations, their social and reproductive habits and methods of curtailing their decline.

-Frontenac Stewardship Council-

Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program

The *Clean Water Act* created the Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program to provide funding to landowners, farmers and businesses who undertake projects that help protect sources of municipal drinking water (municipal wells and intake pipes). Fundable projects include well and septic system upgrades, runoff & erosion prevention, support for agricultural best management practice, pollution prevention, and business reviews. Farmers, please contact the local Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association or visit www.ontariosoilcrop.org. Property owners, please contact the Landowner Resource Centre representative Kellie Adams or Megan Watters 613-692-3571 or 1-800-267-3504 ext. 1128 (Kellie), or ext. 1132 (Megan), (info@lrconline.com).

Ontario WetlandCare Program

The program aims to bring together a broad range of conservation organizations to give landowners better access to help in managing their wetlands.

-Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority, created by Ministry of Natural Resources Ontario and Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC)-

Precipitation and Lake Level Monitoring

Rideau Valley Conservation Authority is looking for willing participants to volunteer their time in support of precipitation and/or lake level monitoring. The data obtained can be used for a variety of projects, which include low flow and flood warning. Daily collection data is preferable, as well as historical measurements that have been taken beyond this program. Please contact Andrea Larsen, Resource Technician, 613-692-3571 ext 1140.

-Rideau Valley Conservation Authority-

Rideau Regional Profile

This initiative will profile water stakeholders in the entire Rideau Region to foster collaboration and partnerships among these stakeholders by making their information accessible.

-Centre for Sustainable Watersheds-

Shoreline Naturalization Program

The program provides simple, cost-effective advice and hands-on guidance on how to enhance or naturalize shorelines. Landowners may be eligible for one-on-one site visits to develop a shoreline planting plan that harmonizes land use needs with the concepts of shoreline naturalization. The program also provides financial assistance (75 per cent to a maximum \$1,000) for planning, purchasing and planting of approved projects. Interested landowners, municipalities, lake associations, and non-profit group are welcome to contact Andrea Klymko, Shoreline Stewardship Technician for more information. 613-692-3571 ext 1173 (andrea.klymko@rvca.ca).

-Rideau Valley Conservation Authority-

A Shoreline Owners' Guide to Healthy Waterfronts

The 2009 booklet is available for individual or bulk order through the LandOwner Resource Centre, or through the Mississippi Valley Conservation.

-FOCA, Mississippi Valley Conservation and Rideau Valley Conservation Authority-

Tay River Flood Risk Mapping

New draft Tay River Flood Risk Maps from Christie Lake to Glen Tay were created by the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority, public consultation is underway. Once approved, further work will be done to enable these maps to be used for regulatory purposes sometime in 2010 (depending on the Provincial approval process).

-Rideau Valley Conservation Authority-

Trees for Tomorrow Reforestation Program

As part of the Trees for Tomorrow Reforestation Program, the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority is implementing the Ministry of Natural Resources 50 Million Tree Planting Program. Helping landowners meet reforestation needs, increasing watershed tree cover, and supporting source water protection through tree planting are other project goals. Please contact the RVCA's LandOwner Resource Centre at (613) 692-3571 or 1 800 267-3504 ext 1128.

- Ministry of Natural Resources, Rideau Valley Conservation Authority-

Walleye Restoration

Plans have been prepared for the installation of cribs and concrete pipes at various sites in Lake St. Francis to investigate their effectiveness in increasing habitats of declining walleye populations, which is thought to be caused by zebra mussels.

-Raisin Region Conservation Authority-

Yellowfish Road Program

In June 2009, a 'Green Team' from a local school painted yellow fish and the message 'Rainwater Only' on prominent stormwater drains in the village of Tweed.

-Friends of Stoco Lake, Municipality of Tweed and Quinte Conservation-

World Water Monitoring Day

Participate in World Water Monitoring through the end of 2009; then again in 2010! The goal of the program is to increase public awareness and involvement in the protection of water quality around the world. It is a program of the Water Environment Federation and the International Water Association. Choose any lake, stream, or bay where you can safely monitor the water. A

WWMD kit is available to test for Dissolved Oxygen, pH, Turbidity and Temperature. Then enter your results into the World Water Monitoring Day Website. In the winter, check the collated results from around the world!

Contact: The Ontario partner is the Ontario Clean Water Agency

www.worldwatermonitoringday.org

- World Water Monitoring Day-

Well Aware, Home Energy Audits, REAL Deal Store

These initiatives aim to provide community-wide environmental benefits and to promote environmental improvements within Smiths Falls, Lanark, and Leeds and Grenville Counties. Well Aware is a guide to caring for personal wells, Home Energy audits are conducted to measure household energy consumption, the REAL Deal Store diverts household goods from landfills by reselling them, while other programs promote shoreline cleanups and climate change awareness. Volunteers are needed! Please visit www.realaction.ca or contact Lynn Preston, Volunteer Co-ordinator Rideau, (613)283-9500.

-Rideau Environmental Action League-

Algae Workshop

In July 2009, at the Rideau Canal Museum in Smiths Falls, the Rideau Roundtable offered an enormously successful half-day algae-identification workshop, led by founding Board Member Paul Hamilton, curator of the Phycology collection at the Canadian Museum of Nature. 15 participants practiced naked eye, magnified and microscopic identification of specimens in 6-7 algal groups common to rivers, lakes and ponds across the Rideau River Region. A discussion on water quality (specifically nutrification) and toxic algae (especially cyanobacteria) were also included in the agenda. *Algae Algae Everywhere* will likely be repeated in 2010.

Check www.ridearoundtable.ca for news of all of our initiatives.

-Rideau Roundtable-
