

News Release

Celebrating the New, Improved Brewer Pond

OLD OTTAWA SOUTH, July 13, 2015 — The landlocked Brewer Park Pond and former artificial swimming hole is once again part of the Rideau River. The transformation is complete, high hoes and shovels are put away. It is now up to Mother Nature to let things take their course and let the pond and shoreline flourish and grow.

“All the pieces are in place,” says Jennifer Lamoureux, RVCA Biologist. “It is now just a matter of being patient to let everything grow and wildlife to settle-in. We will quietly monitor the site to gauge the effectiveness of the project and respond to concerns should they develop.”

By reconnecting the pond to the main channel of the river, project partners look to increase overall biodiversity with the creation of a new, vibrant wetland and pond with shoreline plantings, breeding bird habitat, amphibian habitat, turtle nesting beds and basking logs. The pond will provide improved spawning, nursery, rearing and feeding habitat for the local fish community in the Rideau all year round.

The heavy on-site work began onsite in October 2014, but the concept for enhancement in this area was identified years ago.

“The pond was subject to fish kills in the past,” says Lamoureux. “With no connection to the nearby river it meant fish could access the pond during the spring high water, but eventually low oxygen levels would take their toll which is a shame given the robust fish community that is in this reach of the Rideau.”

This lower reach of the Rideau River is home to very good populations of smallmouth bass, largemouth bass, yellow perch, northern pike, walleye and muskellunge. For a small river going through the heart of a large city, the river is in excellent condition and the pond was seen as a special feature worth restoring to its original wetland state from over half a century ago.

This project is made possible thanks to Minto, Richcraft, the City of Ottawa, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forests, Muskies Canada, the Institute of Environmental Science at Carleton University and the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority. The Ottawa South Community Association was vital in bringing the residents and the partners together to ensure a project with environmental and social benefits acceptable to the community.

“Many people deserve a big thank you for the long hours they have dedicated to returning Brewer Park Pond to a healthier, more natural state,” says Capital Ward Councillor David Chernushenko, a nearby resident. “Their efforts will benefit not only Old Ottawa South, but the entire river system and the wildlife that depends on it.”

You can view the transformation of the Brewer Park Pond Restoration Project on the RVCA website at www.rvca.ca under Special Projects.



Project partners join Capital Ward Councillor David Chernushenko and Ottawa Mayor Jim Watson to unveil new Brewer Park Pond Project sign at a special event held on Friday, July 10, 2015.

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Project Highlights:

- 16,000 square metres of new, functioning wetland and fish habitat in the heart of the City of Ottawa
- 1,000 truckloads of soil removed to contour pond into more productive habitat
- 120 community volunteers helped plant over 1,600 trees, shrubs and aquatic plants in and around the pond
- 8 weeks of construction from October to December 2014
- Numerous basking logs, root wads and log piles installed as habitat for turtles, fish, amphibians

More information:

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