

## **Volunteers “Rock” Otty Lake’s Phase II Fish Habitat Enhancement Project**

OTTY LAKE: OCTOBER 6, 2014 — On September 15 and 16 the Otty Lake Association and Rideau Valley Conservation Authority created and moved an unbelievable amount of wood structures and rock material to create more fish habitat in Otty Lake. This is Phase II of the Otty Lake Fish Habitat Enhancement Project and is the largest smallmouth bass habitat enhancement project in eastern Ontario.

Volunteers gave hours of their time and the use of their personal boats and pontoons to make Otty Lake an enviable habitat for fish. A huge thank you to Otty Lake Association and all their volunteers who worked a total of 240 hours!

Over the two days volunteers installed 83 spawning beds, sunk 185 wooden clusters that provide shelter and feeding habitat and 58 large rocks (cornerstones) at various nests which provides cover for dedicated smallmouth bass fathers as they brood their young. This new habitat brings the totals to 175 spawning beds, 335 sunken wood clusters and 58 cornerstones.

We know from this spring’s monitoring that nests installed in Phase I are being used by smallmouth bass. And, with the new habitat created in Phase II, more bass will have the opportunity to successfully raise their young and increase fish populations in Otty Lake.

“I am thrilled with the results of this productive partnership between RVCA and Otty Lake Association,” said Jennifer Lamoureux, RVCA’s Aquatic and Fish Habitat Biologist. “This partnership has achieved so much with very few dollars and required just a lot of hard work from folks who are passionate about the health of their lake.”

Monitoring of the new habitat will continue and results will be released in late spring 2015.

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For more information contact:

Jennifer Lamoureux  
Aquatic and Fish Habitat Biologist  
Rideau Valley Conservation Authority  
3889 Rideau Valley Drive Box 599  
613-692-3571 Ext 1108  
[jennifer.lamoureux@rvca.ca](mailto:jennifer.lamoureux@rvca.ca)