

REAL 2023 Shoreline Clean-up Day

The Event

The 2023 Rideau Environmental Action League shoreline clean-up event took place on Saturday, April 29. It was part of the Pitch-In week, which is a nationwide initiative to clean-up garbage in our communities. It was a cold and rainy spring day, but the volunteers' passion to make a difference for the river and the community was greater than any desire to avoid discomfort.

The event took place in Smiths Falls, picking-up garbage along the shoreline of the Rideau River. It started at 10 a.m. with 9 volunteers from the area. They started the morning session around the Bascule Bridge along the shoreline and parking area. Once we finished cleaning around this area, we continued the morning behind the Heritage House Museum along the side of the Rideau River near the Old Slys overflow dam.

The second phase of the clean-up started at 1 p.m. at the boat launch near Edmonds Lockstation off of Jasper Avenue, near its intersection with Eric Hutcheson road. 10 community members came out to help with this part of the clean-up, 5 of them continued from the morning session.

In total, there were 14 helpers who came out for the clean-up effort. Thank you all very much for your commitment on a cold rainy day, and for helping us make a difference!

Below are the areas we picked garbage from: Bascule Bridge parking and surrounding area (top left), park area below Old Slys overflow dam (top right), parking area by the boat launch off Jasper Ave (bottom).



The Results

We worked hard and filled many garbage bags. Everything put together totaled 372 pounds of mostly plastic garbage.

Last year and the year before we have gone to these same places to clean up trash. Last year we picked over 400 lbs from these areas. These are clearly problem spots which should be addressed by the community, and those who go there need to do a better job of keeping those areas clean! This a bit of an understatement, considering the large mass of trash that is removed every year.

23 large garbage bags were gathered in total, along with other miscellaneous pieces of trash including tires and other pieces of plastic and metal.

The garbage was disposed of Municipality of Smiths Falls as part of the Pitch-In initiative. Unfortunately because most of the recyclable materials are so dirty so they can't be recycled (and most of the clean stuff doesn't get recycled anyway), we decided not to put in the extra work to sort them this year.

Here are the total amounts collected:

Type of garbage and amount	Total weight
Garbage - General (23 bags)	321 lbs
Scrap metal	21 lbs
1 tire	18 lbs
Other general pieces of garbage	12 lbs
Total	372 lbs

Pictures

See the next page for pictures!

There's a group picture of the young people who came to help out, a picture of the large pile of garbage we accumulated sitting by the road awaiting pickup by the municipality, and some pictures of people in action!

