

RIDEAU VALLEY CONSERVATION FOUNDATION NEWS RELEASE

THE HOPE VOLLEYBALL FOREST OF THE FUTURE

February 12, 2013 — The Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation was the lucky recipient of \$25,000 from the hugely successful HOPE Volleyball Summerfest held last July at Mooneys Bay Beach in Ottawa. Fifty Foundation volunteers from across the valley including members of the Manotick Kiwanis Club worked hard on the hottest day of the summer to help make the event run smoothly.

Our pledge to HOPE was to plant 12,500 trees as the start of a great new woodland known as the HOPE Forest of the Future. The HOPE trees will be planted as seedlings in April 2013 on a large parcel of land in the headwaters of the Jock River in Beckwith Township and will gradually take their place in a vibrant new forest of the future. The HOPE Forest will cover just over 15 acres.

Every one of those 12,500 trees is a little environmental cleaning machine. The rootlets hold and consolidate the soil preventing erosion. The leaves absorb greenhouse gases and release life-giving oxygen to the atmosphere. The plantation provides habitat for wildlife and birds. The new forest itself is a major filter and cleansing system for water that soaks into the ground and feeds our wells and underground water systems. These HOPE trees help build resilience into the Rideau Valley ecosystem and help us be less vulnerable to the unpredictable droughts and unseasonal downpours caused by climate change.

The Jock River is one of the largest tributaries of the Rideau and by improving its health, we ultimately do good for our old friend the Rideau.

“This huge gift to the people of the Rideau Valley is very much appreciated. At a time when we seem to be losing trees to agriculture, residential development and disease, the careful planting and tending of these valuable trees is doubly important,” said Foundation Chair Jason Kelly.

“We give our sincere appreciation to the good people of HOPE who work hard to make a community a better place to live and to our amazing volunteers who really make it all happen,” added Charles Billington, Executive Director of the Conservation Foundation.

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