

# RIDEAU VALLEY CONSERVATION FOUNDATION NEWS RELEASE

## RAIN BARRELS SAVE WATER

April 7, 2014 — In the past two years, the Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation and our local partners have sold 870 barrels at four partnered sales all over the valley. The Foundation and the local partners each earned some money for community activities. In addition, we know that each barrel captures 220 L of rainwater per storm event which is then used by the householder in the garden (infiltrating the water into the ground). During each storm event, our 870 barrels capture about 191,000 L of rainwater and stop it from running directly into the surrounding streams or storm sewers (a good thing).

Assuming six storms per growing season, that means 1.1 million litres of rainwater are diverted from a nasty career of direct runoff into a much more honorable role of producing flowers, vegetables and kitchen herbs. If we further add the hundreds of other rain barrels sold by other groups in the Rideau Valley, it is reasonable to imagine literally millions more litres of potentially damaging runoff being diverted from the Rideau system for use in beautiful gardens every year. This is indeed a very good thing.

It makes perfect sense to save and use what Mother Nature gives us rather than making the expensive municipal drinking water system or your private well work hard to produce water for gardening.

Inexpensive, fully-equipped, recycled rain barrels now available for order online through the Riverside South Community Association and the Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation. Visit the secure website <http://rainbarrel.ca/riversidesouthconservation> to order for guaranteed delivery. Pickup is on Saturday, May 31 at Claudette Cain Park on River Road near Earl Armstrong.

You don't have to be a resident of Riverside South to order a rain barrel. Everyone welcome.

We're working hard to have the rainbarrelest communities in all of Ontario! Just one more step in the movement to protect our property and our families in the face of climate change, uncertain weather and the water conservation challenges ahead.

More information:

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