



RIDEAU VALLEY
CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

News Release

Little Ray's Reptile Zoo Goes Carbon Neutral

OTTAWA, May 20, 2015 — As part of the continuing improvements in its already environmentally-friendly operations, Little Ray's Reptile Zoo is planting 1,204 young, vigorous, native-Canadian trees in the Ottawa area to capture all of its carbon emissions from 2014. This makes Little Ray's Reptile Zoo the first carbon neutral zoo in North America.

Little Ray's Reptile Zoo worked with the Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation (RVCF) to calculate the amount of trees required. The RVCF calculator tells us the amount of carbon emissions (in tonnes of carbon dioxide) and then converts that to the number of trees needed to offset (or absorb) that same amount of carbon dioxide over their 80-year lifespan.

Each of Little Ray's Reptile Zoo's trees is a little environmental cleaning station giving us better air, better water, more wildlife habitat, noise and wind buffers, increased forest cover in Ottawa and lots of plain old peace and quiet. Research shows that our hectic urban lives are soothed and improved, hospital recovery times are shortened and certain common problems such as stress, Attention Deficit Disorder and overwork become more manageable when we are in regular contact with trees, greenspace and natural lands.

Little Ray's Reptile Zoo joins some distinguished local companies such as Chris Simmonds Architect, LiVE88.5 Radio, the Canadian Public Relations Society's Annual Conferences and many community and family events around town in making a huge gift of cleaner air to the people of Ottawa.

"We are delighted to see more and more local businesses taking responsibility for the emissions they produce," said Jason Kelly, Chair of the Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation. "It means more trees are being planted for a greener, healthier community — now and in the future."

The reptile zoo has the largest and most diverse animal education outreach program in Canada and has trained zookeepers and zoo facilities on site and off site. Their facility is one of a kind in the Ottawa area. Since 2000, Little Rays has offered a series of dynamic school and daycare programs, children's birthday parties, and has hosted corporate events and fair exhibition tours across Canada.

Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation is a registered environmental charity working to improve the lands and waters of the Rideau River right here at home in Eastern Ontario and proud to be associated with Little Rays Reptile Zoo.

To learn more about the RVCF Carbon Neutral Program, visit www.rvcf.ca or call Dan Cooper, RVCF Executive Director at 613-692-3571 ext. 1124.

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