



# Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation The Trillium

December 2018

Welcome to the wonderful world of friends, business, families and neighbours caring for our own local environment right here at home!

The Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation (RVCF) is one of the best little local environmental charities in Eastern Ontario. We work hard to protect the greenest little valley in all of Ontario with lots of trees, wildlife, natural shorelines and conservation lands. We do this for families and communities — for today and tomorrow.

RVCF is a proud and practicing member of the Canada Land Trust Alliance and Imagine Canada, the national umbrella group for ethics in fundraising.

We hope you will join us in our ongoing pursuit for a clean and healthy environment ... right here at home in the Rideau Valley.

Did you know?

**90%**

of every dollar raised goes directly to on-the-ground environmental projects.

## Baxter's ASL Pond Restored!

Thanks to the amazing support of several funding partners, the pond at Baxter Conservation Area was restored and ready for students this spring.

Located at the Baxter Conservation Area, the Baxter ASL Pond is visited annually by over 5,000 students from kindergarten to university looking to learn about pond ecology. It is home to frogs, fish, turtles, birds and aquatic invertebrates. It is a

special spot where visitors get to observe the diversity of life hiding along its shores and in its cool waters. Equipped with nets, basins and sporting good old-fashioned rubber boots, students get up close and personal with the animals that call the pond home.

Funding partners and special friends gathered to celebrate the restored pond in May. Special thanks to the funders who

made the restoration project possible: ASL Agrodrain, the Canadian Armed Forces Fish and Game Club, Canon Canada, City of Ottawa, Don Maciver Memorial Fund, Kiwanis Club of Manotick, Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters Zone F, TD Friends of the Environment, along with Rideau Valley Conservation Authority and Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation.



Funders of the Baxter Pond Restoration Project gather to unveil the new interpretive sign developed as part of the improvement efforts — (left to right) Jeanine Maciver (Don Maciver Memorial Fund), Michael Poliwada (former RVCF Executive Director), Adrian Smith (Manager TD Bank, Manotick), Ryan Polkinghorne (Project Manager Surface Water Engineering Support Services, City of Ottawa), Bill McShane (ASL Agrodrain President), Sommer Casgrain-Robertson (RVCA General Manager), Sandro Ricci (ASL Agrodrain Vice President of Business).



## Six Million Tree Milestone Reached

RVCF is proud to congratulate our tree planting partner, the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority, as they surpassed the six millionth tree mark in 2018. Thanks to the many, community-minded funding partners, over \$5.7 million has been raised to support tree planting since 1983 — much of these funds come through the continued support of key RVCF green investors including Carleton Refrigeration, Little Ray's Reptile Zoo, Hulse, Playfair and McGarry Funeral Homes, Meeting Planners International – Ottawa Chapter, LIVE 88.5, Pratt & Whitney Canada, Queen's Tea Room and Vélofix. Of course, each new tree does its part — working hard to clean the air, purify the water, welcome wildlife, reduce soil erosion and flooding and many more environmental services for its 80-year life span. Now that's a major return on investment!

### Carbon Neutral Company Commitments Continue

Local businesses, like Carleton Refrigeration, Little Ray's Reptile Zoo, LIVE 88.5 and Queen's University Tea Room continue to offset their carbon footprint by planting trees through the RVCF's Carbon Neutral Program. The process is simple — the RVCF's carbon calculator tells us the amount of carbon emissions for each business and then converts it to the number of trees that need to be planted to offset (or absorb) that same amount of carbon dioxide over the tree's 80-year life span. Companies, events, families — anyone can do it. To learn more, visit [rvcf.ca/carbon\\_neutral](http://rvcf.ca/carbon_neutral)

### RVCF Welcomes New Executive Director

Need help connecting to an RVCF program or service? Simply contact the new Executive Director Diane Downey. Diane brings over 25 years of conservation communication and outreach work to the Foundation. She can be reached at 613-692-3571 ext. 1126 or through [info@rvcf.ca](mailto:info@rvcf.ca).

### Local Leader Awarded the Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers

Jason Kelly, Chair of the RVCF, philanthropist and well-known Ottawa businessman, was recently honoured for his service to Canada and the community with the Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers. This award is presented to individuals who have made significant, sustained and unpaid contributions to their community in Canada or abroad and is considered the highest volunteer honour in Canada. Jason puts in thousands of volunteer hours and provides enormous charitable support to many environmental, community and tourist-related projects. His involvement in some landmark projects include the Ottawa Chinatown Gateway on Somerset Street West, the Can-Go-Afar Foundation providing humanitarian relief in Ethiopia, development of the Rideau Heritage Tourist Route between Ottawa and Kingston, construction of the Chapman Mills Community Bridge and especially his visionary leadership of the RVCF. Congratulations Jason and thank you for your continued leadership at the RVCF.

His Worship, Jim Watson, Mayor of the City of Ottawa presented Jason Kelly with the Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers at Ottawa City Hall this spring



### Wonderful Wetland Protected

The RVCF is pleased to protect another parcel of ecologically sensitive land. A 1.55 acre property, nestled along the shore of the Rideau River just north of Kemptville, with a beautiful nature shoreline and well-functioning wetland was recently donated by Wally Kaczowski. The Kaczowski property also provides value habitat for many species including the endangered Henslow's Sparrow and the rare Eastern Musk Turtle which have both been seen at the site. Thanks to Mr. Kaczowski for working with the RVCF to protect this wonderful property in perpetuity.

**"The Foundation gave me a charitable tax receipt for the fair market value of my land and the satisfaction of providing a lasting gift to future generations of watershed residents."**

**Mr. Kaczowski**

### Help Make it Possible

We are always grateful to those who choose to work with us. Donations to our special programs and endowment funds make great conservation work happen throughout the watershed. Thanks for your support.

- ASL Agrodrain
- Bell Baker LLP
- Canadian Armed Forces Fish and Game Club
- Canon Canada
- Carleton Refrigeration
- Chris Napior
- Don Maciver Memorial Fund
- Golder Associates Ltd.
- Hulse, Playfair and McGarry Funeral Homes
- Kiwanis Club of Manotick
- Little Ray's Reptile Zoo
- Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters Zone F
- Mattamy Homes
- Meeting Planners International — Ottawa Chapter
- LIVE 88.5
- Pratt & Whitney Canada
- Queen's University Tea Room
- TD Friends of the Environment
- Vélofix

And private individuals and families from throughout the watershed — people like you.

The RVCF has an active procurement plan and an established track record in receiving land donations. Some donors are looking to keep property in a natural state forever — others welcome the tax benefits of their donation — some want both. Regardless of the motivation, the RVCF reviews the environmental benefits of the property prior to acceptance. The RVCF is particularly interested in land that is ecologically sensitive or has unique water-related features (wetlands, shorelines and aquifer recharge areas).

How you can help with land donations here in the Rideau Valley?

**Idea 1 — Consider a donation to the RVCF's Environmental Land Fund.** Although donated, gifted lands are not free. Each land donation can cost up

to \$12,000 due to legal, surveying and appraisal fees.

**Idea 2 — Consider a donation to the Steve Simmering Endowment Fund.** This fund supports the ongoing costs of maintenance and ownership. The best thing is, your gift continues to give, year after year. Funds are held in perpetuity, with the principal invested and only the income generated used to support the maintenance and ownership costs of valuable, conservation lands.

Either choice is a fantastic choice and commitment to the protection of vital, natural spaces. Secure online donations, with charitable tax receipt, can be made at [canadahelps.org](http://canadahelps.org).

RVCF is a member of the Canadian Land Trust Alliance and adhere to the Standards and Practices set out in the Land Trust documents. Guiding principles in our land donation program include integrity, perpetual responsibility, and excellence in public service and good governance.

### Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation ... we're easy to reach

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