

# 2023

## ANNUAL REPORT



Open fields at the newly acquired ParMc property will provide space for species at risk habitat projects and other stewardship efforts.





The new bridge at Baxter Conservation Area.

## Letter from the Chair

Dear Friends,

Thank you for an incredible year.

Looking back at 2023, I'm amazed at the impact of our work. In many ways, it was the culmination of many years of work as we moved forward with several significant campaigns, including the installation of a new accessible pedestrian bridge at Chapman Mills Conservation Area and the construction of our accessible bridge and education platforms at Baxter Conservation Area.

We also continued our important work as a land trust, welcoming more than 130 acres of forest, wetlands and shoreline in new donated lands through the Foundation and continuing to protect another 7,350 acres of conservation land through the Steve Simmering Conservation Land Endowment Fund.

Our generous donors and supporters make it all possible; this and our many other conservation projects including tree planting, shoreline restoration, invasive species removal and outdoor education.

The RVCF is delighted to be the vital bridge between ideas and actions, bringing together individuals, partners and businesses to achieve our shared goals through funding, in-kind support and volunteer hours. Together we channel our efforts towards the protection of the Rideau's natural environment – ensuring a sustainable future for generations to come.

As we reflect on the past year, I am filled with immense gratitude for your unwavering support and commitment to our shared mission – thank you.

Yours in conservation,

**Andrew Harkness,**  
*RVCF Chair*

### RVCF Board of Directors

- Andrew Harkness, Chair
- Tom Scott, Vice Chair
- Jason W. M. Kelly, Past Chair
- John Batson
- Allison Gibbons
- Gary Howard
- Mark Mortimer
- Jake Rice
- R.E. (Bob) Smith
- Kathy Thomas

### Support Team

Diane Downey,  
RVCF Executive Director  
Kathy Dallaire,  
Secretary- Treasurer

## 2023 Highlights

- Renewed accreditation from Imagine Canada’s Standards Program. Earning the Imagine Canada Accreditation Trustmark verifies RVCF’s excellence in governance and non-profit management.
- Constructed Baxter Conservation Area’s accessible boardwalk bridge and education platforms thanks to funding from Canada’s Community Revitalization Fund, City of Ottawa Rural Community Building Grant, RVCA support and many generous donors.
- Installed the Chapman Mills Conservation Area accessible pedestrian bridge thanks to funding from Canada’s Community Revitalization Fund and private donors.
- Retrofitted Baxter’s Interpretive Centre washrooms to include accessibility features thanks to funding from the Government of Canada (Employment and Social Development Canada).
- Honoured Year 3 of our partnership with Modern Niagara, which will provide \$300,000 over five years to help acquire and protect vulnerable land.
- Celebrated two land donations to ensure the long-term protection of two small islands and 133 acres of green infrastructure including shorelines, wetlands, forests and meadows.
- Secured funds from Ontario Land Trust Alliance and the Government of Ontario to support the acquisition of conservation land.
- Protected more than 7,350 acres of conservation land throughout the Rideau watershed.
- Invested \$152,000 into the Steve Simmering Conservation Land Endowment Fund to support perpetual care of conservation lands.
- Raised \$128,100 in support of Phase 2 of the Hutton Marsh Restoration Project, thanks to a dedicated group of local stakeholders and funders including Ducks Unlimited Canada, Leeds Grenville Stewardship Council, Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters Zone F, the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville (UCLG), Wildlife Habitat Canada, Ontario Land Trust Alliance and the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority.

RVCF has raised

**\$8.3M**

for conservation since 1994.



The new bridge at Chapman Mills Conservation Area.





Several Carbon Neutral and Tree Planting partners joined RVCF board members, RVCA staff and many volunteers to celebrate the 7 millionth tree planted across the watershed in May.

## 2023 Highlights *(continued)*

- Planted 30,000 trees with support from One Tree Planted.
- Continued partnership with Hulse, Playfair and McGarry to plant 1,500 trees seedlings annually.
- Planted 652 memorial and special occasion trees in tribute of loved ones.
- Welcomed returning Carbon Neutral individuals, businesses and events including Capital Pyro, LIVE 88.5, Elephant Print, Greek Fest Ottawa, McCooeye Wealth Management – Mandeville Private Client Inc., Somersault Events and Velofix Ottawa.
- Celebrated the official opening of the Foley Mountain Story Trail made possible thanks to the Lawson Foundation, Westport Lions Club, Friends of Foley Mountain and the RVCF.
- Received funding from TD Friend of the Environment to install a permanent Story Trail Adventure at Baxter Conservation Area.
- Supported the Nature for All Committee in its fundraising efforts for accessibility projects at Baxter Conservation Area.
- Raised funds to eliminate bus and registration fees for priority schools attending outdoor education programs at Foley and Baxter Conservation Areas. Special thanks to supporters of the Don Maciver Memorial Fund for their continued commitment.
- Helped families in need participate in Forest School programming at Baxter and Foley Mountain Conservation Areas.
- Welcomed support for stream protection and invasive species removal from Ferguslea Property Inc.
- Enjoyed the confidence of several land development companies who use the Foundation's Species at Risk Compensation Program services to compensate for the unavoidable loss of butternut or barn swallow, bobolink and meadowlark habitat during their business activities. We are currently managing 55 projects.

**Thank you for your continued trust in the RVCF. We appreciate you supporting programs and projects that protect our beautiful watershed – for today and the future.**



Left to right: Friends of Foley Mountain president Rob Struthers, Foundation board member Mark Mortimer, Foley Mountain Conservation Area Site Supervisor Rebecca Whitman, Foundation board member Allison Gibbons and Lawson Foundation’s Tim and Nancy Gardiner celebrate the opening of a new permanent Storybook Trail at Foley Mountain.

## Donor Milestones

We recognize the following donors who have reached new cumulative giving milestones in 2023:

- **Patrons (\$100,000+)**  
Modern Niagara, K.A. McClure & R.D. Partridge, Ontario Land Trust Alliance, Thomas Cavanagh Construction Limited
- **Sponsors (\$25,000 to \$99,999)**  
One Tree Planted
- **Benefactors (\$5,000 to \$24,999)**  
Norman Lepointe, Gillian Shaw
- **Supporters (\$1,000 to \$4,999)**  
Benjamin Doyle, Elephant Print, Bruce Fanjoy, Fidus, Maureen Gabe, Alain & Maureen Gauthier, HR Ottawa, LP, Melissa Kruyne, Ottawa Greek Fest, Tarandeep Sehgal
- **Friends (\$500 to \$999)**  
AlphaPlus Centre, Amazon YOW, John Kenneth Barr, Hilton, Peter Ide, Maria Yousaf

For a complete list of our valued donors, visit our digital donor board at [rvcf.ca/supporters](https://rvcf.ca/supporters) or in person at 3889 Rideau Valley Drive in Manotick.

In 2023, the RVCF was generously supported by



**230**

individuals and families



**10**

corporate partners



**7**

not-for-profits



**5**

government partners



**2**

in-kind donors



**10**

volunteer directors

### Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation

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The RVCF is proudly accredited under Imagine Canada’s Standards Program having demonstrated excellence in board governance, financial accountability and transparency, ethical fundraising, staff management and volunteer involvement. RVCF is also a proud and practicing member of both the Ontario and Canada Land Trust Alliances.

