

2022

ANNUAL REPORT



Baxter Bridge reconstruction,
Fall 2022

2022 Annual Report

For several years we have been focused on resiliency: not just in our natural environment, but in our communities as well. This continued into 2022, but perhaps for different reasons as we moved forward from the COVID-19 pandemic and began to focus once again on the protection of our natural spaces.

RVCF Board of Directors

- Andrew Harkness, Chair
- Tom Scott, Vice Chair
- Jason W. M. Kelly, Past Chair
- Kathy Dallaire, Secretary-Treasurer
- Allison Gibbons
- Gary Howard
- R.E. (Bob) Smith
- Kathy Thomas

Wetlands, forests and shorelines are increasingly under threat; legislative changes, increased development pressure across the watershed and a changing climate all have cumulative impacts on the longevity of these natural features. Thankfully, our community continues to come together to protect and conserve our watershed resources. Many understand the need for continued stewardship of these lands – so they can be protected now and enjoyed in the future.

2022 was a banner year for corporate and governmental support, with multiple major grants allowing us to move forward on several significant capital projects to improve accessibility and biodiversity in our watershed. Our partners also continued to support stewardship programs and outdoor education for the benefit of the entire watershed.

Thank you to our board members, donors and many partners who stepped up to lend their time, expertise and resources to the conservation cause. Your enthusiasm, leadership and generosity are greatly appreciated. With your commitment, we continue to safeguard critical natural spaces, protect species at risk, plant trees, naturalize shorelines and support accessible, outdoor education for our youth.

It is a pleasure to acknowledge and thank the many hundreds of generous and community-minded people who made a gift to conservation in 2022. Thank you for making your local natural environment a priority.

On behalf of the RVCF Board of Directors, I am proud to share our 2022 highlights. We appreciate your continued confidence in our conservation projects and look forward to a healthy, resilient future together.

Yours in conservation,

Andrew Harkness,
RVCF Chair



LEFT: Hulse, Playfair & McGarry President Sharon McGarry joins RVCF Chair Andrew Harkness to plant a ceremonial tree in celebration of the funeral home's 20 years of memorial tree planting.

RIGHT: RVCF Executive Director Diane Downey, left, thanks LiVE 88.5's Dave Schellenberg for the radio station's 10 years of Carbon Neutral commitment. Forestry Manager Ian Cochrane and RVCA General Manager Sommer Casgrain-Robertson joined in to offer their appreciation, too!

In 2022, the RVCF was generously supported by



600

individuals and families



11

corporate partners



3

not-for-profits



3

government partners



8

in-kind donors



8

directors

2022 Highlights

- Celebrated \$429,000 in grants from Canada's Community Revitalization Fund in support of two major accessibility infrastructure projects: Baxter Conservation Area Accessible Bridge and Boardwalk Project and the Chapman Mills Conservation Area Accessible Bridge;
- Honoured year two of our partnership with Modern Niagara, which will provide \$300,000 over five years to help acquire and protect vulnerable land in the watershed;
- Accepted three new land donations to ensure long-term protection of 127 hectares of green infrastructure;
- Raised \$8,270 for the Steve Simmering Conservation Land Endowment Fund during our Giving Tuesday campaign, thanks to generous matching funds from the Simmering Family;
- Continued protection of more than 3,176 hectares of conservation land throughout the Rideau watershed;
- Raised \$134,000 in support for Phase 2 of the restoration of Hutton Marsh 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;
- Partnered with One Tree Planted to plant 40,000 tree seedlings in spring 2022;
- Celebrated 62,700 trees planted by LiVE 88.5 over its 10 years of Carbon Neutral commitments;
- Commemorated our 20-year tree planting partnership with Hulse, Playfair and McGarry with the planting of a ceremonial oak at their Kemptville chapel;
- Planted 807 memorial and special occasion trees in tribute of loved ones;
- Applauded new and returning Carbon Neutral individuals, businesses and events including Capital Pyro, LiVE 88.5, Elephant Print, Greek Fest Ottawa, McCooye Wealth Management – Mandeville Private Client Inc., Somersault Events, and velofix Ottawa;
- Supported the Nature for All Committee in its fundraising efforts for a transformational accessibility project at Baxter Conservation Area;
- Continued partnership with GiveShop to raise funds through its online community marketplace;
- Helped families in need participate in Forest School programming at Baxter and Foley Mountain Conservation Areas;
- Partnered with BOGS[®] Outdoor Fund to reduce or eliminate bus and registration fees for students attending outdoor education programs at Foley and Baxter Conservation Areas;
- Welcomed support from special partners including the City of Ottawa Rural Community Building Grant, FedEx Cares and RBC Foundation;
- 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 bobolink and meadowlark habitat during their business activities. We are currently managing 37 projects.

RVCF has raised

\$ 7.9M

for conservation since 1994.

Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation

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Visit our donor board at rvcf.ca/supporters
or visit us at our office!

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.

