



RIDEAU VALLEY
CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

FONDATION POUR LA PROTECTION DE
LA VALLÉE DE LA RIDEAU

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Media Release

March 28, 2011

CONSERVATION FOUNDATION AND THE SIMMERING FAMILY

ANNOUNCE THE

STEVE SIMMERING CONSERVATION LAND ENDOWMENT

The Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation and the Simmering family are very pleased to announce the establishment of an exciting new source of funds for local land conservation in the Rideau Valley. Known as the **Steve Simmering Conservation Land Endowment**, the purpose of the new fund is to help maintain a sufficient amount of public wilderness and waterfront land for the people of the Rideau Valley in the years ahead.

Steve Simmering was a well-respected, successful businessman in the Ottawa area for many years. Steve's work was in the engineering consulting field; his passion was walking and hiking in the open air. Mr Simmering was Vice Chair of the Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation and a member of several other area foundations in addition to his busy professional life. Steve passed away unexpectedly in September 2009 leaving some very large community shoes to fill ([click here](#) to view the brochure).

The new Steve Simmering Conservation Land Endowment was set up in honour of Steve's love of outdoor recreation and his community involvement with a major gift from the Simmering family, the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority and the Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation.

As the city expands every year, the amount and quality of our nearby greenspaces and natural areas will become more important. Close-to-home conservation areas and riverside parks provide an instant antidote to the daily grind and stress of our city lifestyles. Whether it's for fishing, birdwatching, dog walking, exercise, swimming, recreation, peace and quiet or quality family time, local conservation lands in the Rideau Valley will welcome you. That's our pledge. They are safe, well-equipped and, above all, close to home...within a 30-minute drive of Ottawa, Perth, Smiths Falls or Westport.

We need a source of future conservation lands as the population of Eastern Ontario grows. Fortunately, more and more families are donating their beloved summer and rural properties to the Conservation Foundation to be kept in a natural state in perpetuity. This is where the new Steve Simmering Conservation Land Endowment plays such a crucial role. It will provide a reliable and consistent annual source of funds to take care of these lovely environmental properties as they become active public parks in our conservation lands network.

Because it is an endowment, only the annual interest from the fund is taken for conservation work while the principal remains invested and keeps on working forever to produce, when augmented with new gifts, a growing annual stream of money to improve our public conservation lands.

Your gifts remain invested forever. But what would the interest on your gifts buy? The endowment will help pay for public safety features such as guardrails, access points, basic signage, mapping, trail improvements, fencing (if necessary), monitoring through field inspection and perhaps a small gravel parking lot for the safety of visitors.

The Simmering Endowment will grow in the years ahead. That too is our pledge ... to build the Simmering Endowment into the major Conservation Land Endowment fund in Eastern Ontario in order to provide the visiting public with the very best, most interesting and safest close-to-home wilderness walks and hikes around. Anyone who knew Steve would know that he would be very pleased with such an arrangement.

In a big sense, a gift to the Simmering Endowment is an investment in the future health of your family and your community.

Would you please consider a donation to the environment when you're making out your charitable donations this year? We accept gifts by phone, by mail or through our secure online donation button on the Foundation website (www.rvcf.ca). All gifts receive a charitable tax receipt. Appropriate recognition of major gifts will be made.

Thank you for considering a gift to the Steve Simmering Conservation Land Endowment.

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