



# The Trillium

November 2011

## Welcome to The Trillium

Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation (RVCF) is pleased to share some of our most popular programs with you all. We hope this annual newsletter will be a reminder of how your generous donations are slowly growing into a magnificent, practical and sustainable program of protection for our own local environment right here at home in the Rideau Valley. We invite you to join us in the exciting environmental task ahead!

Whether you like trees, fishing, city streams, quiet walks in the woods, cottaging at the lake or good old fashioned peace and quiet in a natural setting, we invite you all to get involved in a Foundation project of your choice and become part of the solution.

A huge thank you to all of the donors who make our communities better places to live!

## What is the Conservation Foundation?

### Conservation Foundation project locations:

- Athens
- Central Frontenac
- City of Ottawa
- Drummond/North Elmsley
- Elizabethtown-Kitley
- Merrickville-Wolford
- Perth
- Rideau Lakes
- South Frontenac
- Tay Valley
- Village of Westport

RVCF is a small, local, reliable, registered environmental charity that works to protect the Rideau River and its tributaries like the Tay River, the Jock River and Kemptville Creek. Our particular focus is clean water, public natural land and outdoor education opportunities for kids right here in Eastern Ontario. We are proud members of **Imagine Canada** and the **Canadian Land Trust Alliance**. And we promise that at least 90 cents of every dollar raised goes directly to conservation work on the ground. We can do this thanks to the outstanding support

we receive from the good people at **Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA)**.

Some of the best result-oriented environmental programs in Eastern Ontario from turtle habitat to tree planting to natural land acquisition are available at RVCF in Manotick. Please take a look at our website at [www.rvcf.ca](http://www.rvcf.ca) and see how you can help make a difference in your family's local environment.

We aim to be the best little local conservation charity in Eastern Ontario. Will you help us get there?

No matter where you live in the valley. We are all connected.

## What We Do:

### City Stream Watch and Making Shorelines Natural

The City Stream Watch program takes real people (we had over 200 volunteers this past summer) and trains them as citizen scientists to measure the features of 20 of Ottawa's most neglected creeks and streams. We collect valuable information and perform stream therapy such as cleanups,

erosion control and shoreline planting. We are now making the shorelines of several of these forgotten streams natural (and beautiful) again. It's easy, it's fun and it's very good for the environment.

Close to 1,000 volunteers have gone through the City Stream Watch program since its start in 2004!



River Redhorse



Northern Map Turtle



City Stream Watch Program on Sawmill Creek, Ottawa



Baxter Conservation Area



Chapman Mills Conservation Area

**Foley Mountain Conservation Area**

The Foley Mountain Conservation Area at Westport is the flagship for outdoor education in the upper Rideau watershed. The FRIENDS OF FOLEY MOUNTAIN are a busy, imaginative group of local residents who have provided many improvements to the outdoor education program including an all-season Discovery Centre, viewing platforms at the beaver ponds, trail improvements, summer personnel, the new and very welcome Jack Herbert Mobility Trail and fully accessible washrooms.

**Sister Island Land Donation**

Each year, the Foundation (with the assistance of RVCA technical staff) reviews and accepts one or two land donations from families that wish their beloved rural or lakeshore properties to remain in a natural state in perpetuity. One of the latest donations is a lovely one acre island paradise in the Rideau Lakes that will eventually join the conservation land network as a paddler's rest stop or scientific station for studying the lake environment.

**Steve Simmering Conservation Land Endowment**

The Simmering fund is growing nicely into the best and most reliable source of funds for conservation land work in Eastern Ontario thanks to your generosity. The fund ensures that we all have enough natural public land well into the future. Because it is an endowment, a gift to the fund stays invested and keeps on working for conservation forever! Thanks to an anonymous friend of Mr Simmering who created the matching challenge gift program last summer and our many remarkable donors, the fund received a magnificent boost of \$52,000 during the 2011 campaign!

**Memorial Tree Planting Program**

With our Forestry colleagues at the RVCA, we plant real, living trees as a long-lasting tribute to lost loved ones and friends. A special memorial on one hand and a very thoughtful and community-minded action on the other ... the trees will probably outlive us all and provide huge environmental benefits to Eastern Ontario such as clean air, clean water and wildlife protection for up to 80 years. Check the Foundation website at [www.rvcf.ca](http://www.rvcf.ca) or call 613-692-3571 or 1-800-267-3504 ext 1116.

**Carbon Neutral Tree Planting Program**

If your family is interested in reducing your energy impact on the planet, we can help you become carbon neutral by three simple steps: we calculate your family's carbon emissions; we calculate the number of trees needed to offset those emissions; we plant the number of trees required. Result: you're carbon neutral!

Three Ottawa businesses have already gone "carbon neutral": the Monterey Inn Resort & Conference Centre, Christopher Simmonds Architect Inc. and LiVE 88.5 Radio. Hats off to all these folks who not only talk conservation but who also do their personal and professional share to make things right.

- Some recent Corporate community partners:**
- Carleton University Charity Ball
  - Pratt & Whitney Canada Inc.
  - Bytowne Cinema
  - M.P. Lundy Construction
  - Natural Resources Canada Internship Program
  - Community Foundation of Ottawa
  - CH2M Hill
  - Monarch Homes
  - Community Foundation of Kingston & Area
  - Newcap Radio
  - Morrison Hershfield
  - RBC Foundation

Trees absorb carbon from the air and incorporate it in their wood cells for up to 80 years. We produce it, they absorb it.

**Gifts to the RVCF**

When you make your annual gifts to charity this year, would you please consider a gift to your local environment? Perhaps a cheque or an online donation when you open the cottage each spring, or on your grandchild's birthday, or in October

after another wonderful summer on the water. Of course, you are very welcome to participate in our annual appeal campaign each spring. To get on our mailing list and for all other information, please contact us.

Online donations can be confidently made at [CANADAHELPS.ORG](http://CANADAHELPS.ORG). Thank you so much!

**For information ... we're easy to reach:**

- ☎ 613-692-3571 ext. 1116, 1-800-267-3504 ext. 1116
- ☎ 613-692-0831
- ✉ [info@rvcf.ca](mailto:info@rvcf.ca)
- 🌐 [www.rvcf.ca](http://www.rvcf.ca)
- ✉ Box 988, 3889 Rideau Valley Drive  
Manotick, Ontario K4M 1A8

