

postage

The Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation  
Box 988  
Manotick, Ontario  
K4M 1A8

ecosystem because of the lack of a small fund to finance the efficient acceptance of a gift. Examples of land donated to the Foundation in the past include the Hickman Conservation Area, the Rideau Ferry Yacht Club Conservation Area, the Motts Mill dam site on Hutton Creek (controlling water levels in Hutton Marsh), the recent donations of the Besley property (a 60 acre Class I wetland on Kemptville Creek), the Bula property (60 acres including 1,500 feet of shoreline on Long Lake in North Burgess Township) and the Dworschak property (a 47 acre headwater marsh feeding the important McLeans Bay wetland on Big Rideau Lake). The transaction costs were a small price to pay for these crucial pieces of the watershed puzzle.

### CARING PROFESSIONALS

The Conservation Foundation is also compiling a list of caring professionals in the valley who will donate the legal, surveying and appraisal services on donated lands. The Foundation then has an important piece of land in public protection in exchange for a tax receipt and very little cash. Such in-kind gifts are not always available in the area or on the short notice required to take advantage of a land donation.

### SUPPLY & DEMAND

There is no more wilderness being made. The supply, especially near the urban areas of Ottawa-Carleton, is remaining stable or appearing to go down as the

population goes up. The trend can only get bleaker.

A donation to the Environmental Land Fund is really an investment in the future. By making an investment now, our children and grandchildren will be in a position to reap big dividends. Accepting gifts of environmental land, even with transaction costs, is by far the most cost-effective way to ensure enough green space and public access to water and woods in the years to come.

### CONSIDER A GIFT

Please, give generously. Consider the vision of the individuals who have gone before us and our responsibility to those who come after. All donors receive a charitable tax receipt. Major donors will be appropriately acknowledged.

Call the Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation with any questions you may have. Thank you for your consideration.

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*Photos courtesy of Terry McEvoy*



## THE LEGACY

Many of us appreciate the legacy of public land we now enjoy in Eastern Ontario. Our parks, Conservation Areas and Nature Reserves are there today because of the vision of people who have gone before. They foresaw the growing need for more public access to rivers and lakes, more recreation space, more wilderness and, most importantly, more protection for sensitive or endangered ecosystems as the human population grew.

Now, it is our turn to think of the next generation's need for green space and all



the good things it brings to individuals and communities. And what better place to consider our obligations than right here at home in the valley of the Rideau River. This is where we live, carry

on our businesses, raise our families and in many cases enjoy the great outdoors close to home. Just think what a clean, green environment has meant to you and your family over the years — the picnics, the camping, the lazy days at the beach and the family memories.



## A HEALTHY WATERSHED

The Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation is interested in protecting, through public ownership, important pieces of natural land throughout the valley for a variety of purposes. It could be for protection of unusual or endangered landscapes, fish and wildlife habitat, sensitive shoreline, wetland or floodplain areas. We work in close partnership with our sister organization, the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority, to ensure that any land being considered by the Foundation meets the criteria set out by the Authority as important to the overall health of the watershed.

## LAND DONATIONS: A WIN-WIN

Protection of the land base and the ecological function of the shoreline areas is central to the mission of the Authority. Because of limited resources, only the highest priority lands are given the green light for public ownership. In the old days, key pieces of land were acquired by purchase when they came on the market. Land in this category include Foley Mountain, Baxter and Dickinson Square Conservation Areas and the Perth Wildlife Reserve. But in the last ten years, new land acquisition has come entirely through

donation. Conservation-minded individuals and families transfer title of their property in exchange for a tax receipt and the satisfaction of knowing that they have left something tangible for the next generation. The family is pleased and the environment also wins.

## THE PROCESS

If a potential land donation meets the Authority's environmental criteria, work can begin on accepting the gift of property. The process can include a Letter of Intent between the donor and the Foundation, a new survey of the land if existing surveys are not adequate, a certified appraisal of the property to establish fair market value, and finally transferring of title in exchange for a tax receipt to the donor. This process can take up to six months or more depending on the complexity of the title, land boundaries and necessary legal work.

This work also brings a bill of somewhere between \$5,000 and \$15,000 for each "gift" of land to the Foundation. These hidden costs of a donation are in large measure funded by the Environmental Land Fund. Obviously, it would be a shame to lose the opportunity to protect an important piece of the Rideau Valley

Name \_\_\_\_\_

P.O. Box \_\_\_\_\_ Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/Town \_\_\_\_\_ Province \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Best Time to call \_\_\_\_\_ Best Day to call \_\_\_\_\_

I would like more information on

- Making a donation  
 Making a bequest  
 The Environmental Land Fund  
 The Robert Legget Endowment Fund  
 The Conservation Area Fund  
 The Rideau Valley Conservation Authority

Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation  
Charitable Business Number: 11911 9501 RR0001