

2020 marked the 50th Anniversary for our small but industrious foundation. We had big plans to celebrate this momentous milestone, but instead we were met with a global pandemic. It's been a tough year for everyone, but if we've learned anything from the pandemic, it's that the health and resiliency of our watershed communities matter – to people, to businesses and to the planet. Investing in clean water, healthy habitats, accessible open-air spaces and outdoor learning is critical to our collective well-being.

And so, our conservation work continues – with more drive and purpose than ever!

I thank our generous, like-minded donors who continue to invest in practical and sustainable programs that protect our local environment. With your support, we will continue to plant trees, naturalize shorelines, conserve natural spaces, protect species at risk, educate our youth and so much more. A thank you, as well, to the staff and board of directors at the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority for their dedication and support.

We are pleased to share this snapshot of our accomplishments. With 50 years behind us, we are more excited than ever about the future of conservation in our beautiful watershed. Thank you for making your local natural environment a priority. Together we can make it our legacy.

Yours in conservation,
Jason W. M. Kelly, RVCF Chair

Board of Directors

Jason W. M. Kelly, Chair
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Kathy Dallaire, Secretary-Treasurer
Allison Brown
Matthew Frye
Allison Gibbons
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Bob Ryerson
Tom Scott
Anne Simmering
R.E. (Bob) Smith
Kathy Thomas
Cynthia Wagner
Richmond Wilson

2020 Highlights



24 hectares
donated for
conservation



276,550
trees and
shrubs planted



935 metres
of shoreline
publically protected



484 tonnes
of carbon offset
through agreements



79
ongoing species
at risk restoration/
enhancement projects



6.8 million
dollars raised for
conservation since 1970

- Celebrated our 50th year as the watershed's best little environmental charity
- Continued our 2020 Conservation Campaign to protect our conservation lands through the Steve Simmering Conservation Land Endowment Fund and gratefully accepted donations from our valued private donors.
- Raised more than \$10,000 on Giving Tuesday for the Steve Simmering Fund thanks to private donors and matching funds from Enbridge Gas.
- Celebrated and acknowledged the continuing support of more than 330 watershed businesses and private donors who are recognized on our "Partners in Conservation" wall at our office in Manotick.
- Raised funds to reduce or eliminate bus and registration fees for students attending outdoor education programs at Foley and Baxter Conservation Areas. Thank you to the Ottawa Community Tree Foundation Community Grants Program, The North Face Canada Explore Fund, Starbucks Foundation Green Apron Grant and BOGS[®] Outdoor Fund for their support
- Partnered with One Tree Planted to plant 70,000 tree seedlings in spring 2020, with a continued partnership for planting in 2021
- Planted trees thanks to Hulse, Playfair and McGarry who have supported tree planting in the watershed since 2003
- Welcomed new and returning Carbon Neutral individuals, businesses and events including LIVE 88.5, CIBC Wood Gundy - McCooeye Financial Group, Evergreen Window Solutions and vélofix
- Completed phase 1 of the restoration of Hutton Marsh thanks to a dedicated group of local stakeholders and funders who made this project possible, including Ducks Unlimited Canada, Leeds and

- Grenville Stewardship Council, Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters Zone F, the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville (UCLG), Wildlife Habitat Canada and the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority
- Participated in the Nature for All Committee as we look to increase accessibility features at Baxter Conservation Area
 - Enjoyed the continued confidence of several land development companies who use the Foundation's Species at Risk Compensation Program to compensate for unavoidable loss of butternut, barn swallow habitat or bobolink habitat during their business activities. We are currently managing 78 projects
 - Continued delivery of Special Occasion Trees, Memorial Tree and Memorial Bench Programs
 - Supported the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 314 Manotick by accepting donations directed to maintaining Remembrance Park's Memory Gardens
 - Accepted two new land donations of ecologically sensitive lands from willing landowners, adding another 24 hectares (including 935 metres of shoreline) to the Foundation's current complement of conservation lands
 - Remained a proud and practicing member of both the Ontario and Canada Land Trust Alliances
 - Supported donors through CanadaHelps.com for safe and easy acceptance of donations to RVCF's special programs and services
 - Maintained accreditation from Imagine Canada's Standards Program – providing public confidence in the RVCF that has demonstrated excellence in board governance, financial accountability and transparency, ethical fundraising, staff management and volunteer involvement.

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