
RVCA News Release

\$75,000 OTF GRANT PLANTS SEEDS FOR FUTURE FORESTS

KEMPTVILLE, JANUARY 13, 2006 — The Ferguson Forest Centre in Kemptville and the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA) have been awarded \$75,000 from the Ontario Trillium Foundation for a two-part, two-year forestry program in the Rideau watershed. Most of the Foundation's grant money is being used to plant 60,000 native Canadian trees per year in both 2006 and 2007, under the Trees for Tomorrow Program. The grant will also be used to finance the local Butternut Recovery Program, aimed at selecting and producing 2,000 healthy, disease-free butternut trees that will help to re-populate forests in Eastern Ontario.

"Tree planting has become one of the major tools in the continuing campaign to maintain the quality and quantity of clean water available in the Rideau watershed," said Ruby Dyck, Forestry Program Manager. "We traditionally plant over 100,000 trees each year. We will be planting the 3 millionth tree in the spring of 2006 thanks to the support of the Ontario Trillium Foundation and our other partners in conservation."

With the planting of these trees, especially the endangered butternut species, the organization is hoping to not only increase the size of local forests, but reduce greenhouse gases as well. Butternuts in Eastern Ontario, as well as across North America, have been hard hit by the butternut canker, to the point that they are now considered an endangered species. The Butternut Recovery Program is an on-the-ground effort to find and grow disease-resistant seeds at the Ferguson Forest Centre. According to the plan, 2,000 healthy seedlings will be planted across Eastern Ontario.

RVCA's Trees for Tomorrow program is a full-service reforestation program planting trees throughout the Rideau Valley watershed south and west of Ottawa. The focus is on planting shoreline buffer strips of trees and shrubs and to reforest larger parcels of idle or marginal farmlands with native Canadian trees of local stock.

Rural landowners with a minimum of one acre of land and who are interested in placing a minimum order of 500 seedlings for reforestation in 2007 are encouraged to contact the RVCA's LandOwner Resource Centre at 613-692-2390 or 1-800-387-5304 for more information and to arrange a site visit.

The Ontario Trillium Foundation, an agency of the Ministry of Culture, receives annually \$100 million of government funding generated through Ontario's charity casino initiative.

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For more information, please call:

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