

News Release

OFFICIAL DEDICATION OF THE NEW CURTIS CONSERVATION AREA

MANOTICK, September 29, 2006 — Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA), Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation (RVCF) and Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) are very pleased to announce the official dedication of the new Curtis Conservation Area, a 37-acre parcel of Rideau River shoreline and adjacent land just south of the Kars bridge in the former Osgoode Township, City of Ottawa.

Dr Ron Curtis and his family donated this huge piece of sensitive land including natural marshlands, forest, meadows, one kilometre of natural shoreline and a four-acre island to the Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation. At the September 28th official dedication ceremony, this wonderful environmental gem of a property was set aside forever for environmental protection and wildlife habitat preservation.

The property has been in the family since 1868. Dr Curtis purchased it from an uncle in 1965 and has since planted 7,600 trees through a partnership with Rideau Valley Conservation Authority and the Wetland Habitat Fund. RVCF and RVCA intend to continue the work Dr Curtis began by ensuring that these 37 acres of natural habitat remain unaltered and protected for future generations. “We have enjoyed walking, watching and learning from this property for years and we prefer to know that it will stay in a natural state long after we’re gone. We think of it as our legacy that will benefit the whole Rideau community in the decades ahead”, said Dr Curtis.

This gift of land is very important to the Rideau Valley. Much of the natural shoreline along the Rideau River within city limits has been altered or changed by development. Pristine, natural shoreline, especially of this continuous length, is becoming increasingly rare in Ottawa.

The outstanding natural shoreline buffer found within the Curtis Conservation Area will provide excellent long term water quality protection for the river. The environmental protection of the Curtis Conservation Area will have a positive effect on biodiversity along the river by maintaining significant habitat for a rich variety of animals. Songbirds, migratory birds and raptors all nest, breed and live there. It truly is a natural gem within city limits and will only become more important to residents as the years go by.

The Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation is an environmental charity working to help protect and conserve the lands and waters of the valley of the Rideau River in Eastern Ontario. Ducks Unlimited is a national, private, not-for-profit organization that has been committed to wetland and natural land conservation for more than 65 years.

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