

News Release

ENVIRONMENT CANADA INVESTS IN OTTAWA'S LOCAL CREEKS

RIDEAU VALLEY, October 25, 2010 — **Environment Canada's EcoAction Community Funding Program recently approved a \$75,000 grant to the Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation to work with streamside landowners in the City of Ottawa to replant and improve up to four kilometres of tributary shoreline over the next two years.**

Making Shorelines Natural is a two-year, community-based project to improve water quality and wildlife habitat by renaturalizing the streambanks of small tributary creeks in the lower Rideau watershed. The goal is to plant 12,000 young, vigorous, native trees and shrubs along degraded portions of the shorelines of local creeks.

Monitoring efforts and recent studies, including the Lower Rideau Watershed Study, provide evidence that the feeder streams of the Ottawa and Rideau rivers show signs of poor environmental conditions due to various factors, including, the removal of shoreline vegetation and forest cover, nutrient loading from land use activities and land drainage changes for agricultural and urban use. This project is a major step in the right direction to turn that situation around. The project will be managed by the environmental professionals at the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA).

Vegetated shorelines – an area often called “the ribbon of life”- are important for water quality as they reduce erosion by stabilizing banks, filter incoming nutrients and contaminants from surrounding properties and absorb water during wet weather which can help reduce flooding downstream. Vegetated shorelines also provide food, shelter and transportation corridors for local wildlife while reducing the need for costly and time-consuming lawn maintenance.

RVCA is currently calling on property owners along **Black Rapids Creek, Mud Creek** and **Stillwater Creek** to participate in the project. Eligible property owners will receive a site visit by an RVCA staff member who will work with the landowner to develop a site-specific planting plan as well as 100% cost coverage for all plant material, equipment and labour needed to carry out the plan. There is no cost to eligible landowners.

“This is a great opportunity to start to make a difference in the health of our many tributary streams in Ottawa. Working with landowners is always a pleasure but especially when there is no cost to these important stream stewards,” said RVCA project manager Andrea Klymko. “Hats off to Environment Canada for funding a top priority in terms of long term health of the Rideau River”.

Property owners on Black Rapids Creek, Mud Creek and Stillwater Creek are encouraged to participate in this free environmental service. Contact project representatives for more information.

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