

# NEWS RELEASE

## RVCA CELEBRATES WATERSHED'S FOUR MILLIONTH TREE

NORTH GOWER, July 14, 2011 — The Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA) celebrated a milestone: the planting of its four millionth tree since it started its tree planting program back in 1983. Watershed dignitaries, sponsors and staff celebrated this achievement at a small ceremony on July 12 at the home of Dawn and Kent Daniels, located just outside North Gower. The Daniels are landowners who have recently participated in the program with the planting of over 12,000 trees.

"The Conservation Authority and its member municipalities are committed to our tree planting programs, said Alan Arbuckle, RVCA Chair. "We are delighted to work with landowners, like the Daniels, in our continuing campaign to green the Rideau watershed."

Dawn and Kent Daniels have participated in two planting projects — the first in 2008 with the planting of 8,000 seedlings and the second in 2011 with the planting of 4,000 seedlings. They are just one the many landowners from across the Rideau watershed who have contributed to the success of the program.

The RVCA tree planting program helps landowners, like the Daniels, to reforest larger parcels of idle or marginal lands with native Canadian trees. There are very generous incentive grants available that can reduce landowner costs by up to 90% and includes tree seedlings, site preparation, planting and tending costs. It also provides landowners with technical advice and guidance.

"A single tree is a little environmental cleaning station," said Smiths Falls Councillor and RVCA Board Member Ken Graham. "It cleans the air, provides wildlife habitat and helps prevent soil erosion. Multiply one tree by four million and you have some very significant community benefits for a long time for a small investment."

"The City of Ottawa is delighted to be part of this long-term investment in our green infrastructure," said City of Ottawa Councillor Scott Moffatt. "Over 2,500,000 trees have been planted in the City of Ottawa alone — that means over 1,070 hectares of land have been converted back into thriving forests."

Although staff just finished their 2011 tree planting, there is no rest. Now is the time to prepare for the 2012 planting season. Any rural landowner with one acre of land or more and a commitment to order a minimum of 500 trees is encouraged to call the RVCA for more information at 613-692-3571 or 1-800-267-3504.

These projects would not be possible without the support of our many generous funding and conservation partners including City of Ottawa, LiVE 88.5, Ottawa, Leeds & Grenville Stewardship Councils, McGarry Family Chapels, Monterey Inn Resort & Conference Centre, Tree Canada Foundation, Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation, Home Depot Foundation, Ferguson Forest Centre, Eastern Ontario Model Forest, Pratt & Whitney Canada, Lumenera Corporation, Carleton University Charity Ball, Ducks Unlimited Canada, RVCA Staff and the Rideau Valley Rural Clean Water Program.

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**For more information:**

Dan Cooper  
RVCA Private Land Forestry Program Manager  
613-692-3571 or 1-800-267-3504 ext 1124  
dan.cooper@rvca.ca