

NEWS RELEASE

MAKING SHORELINES NATURAL PROJECT PLANTS 6,200 TREES AND SHRUBS THANKS TO THE 200+ VOLUNTEERS!

RIDEAU WATERSHED, June 20, 2011 — During April and May, the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority's Making Shorelines Natural Project planted 6,200 native trees and shrubs along 3.4 kilometres of targeted shoreline properties thanks to the willingness of many conservation-minded landowners and community volunteers. These new plants will help stabilize banks, reduce erosion, protect water quality and improve linkages of wildlife habitat.

Working closely with private landowners, businesses and agencies, with property along Stillwater Creek, Black Rapids Creek, Mud Creek and Jock River, the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority staff were able to successfully complete the first phase of this two-year shoreline naturalization project with help from community groups and more than 200 enthusiastic volunteers.

The Making Shorelines Natural Project would like to thank all the hard-working volunteers who helped with the planting efforts. Volunteers and partner groups were many and included All Saints Catholic High School, City Stream Watch Program, Friends of the Jock River, Girl Guides of Canada, Ottawa Fastener Supply Ltd. staff, Ottawa Stewardship Council, Perth & District Collegiate Institute's GeoVenture Program co-op students, Sacred Heart Catholic High School, Scouts Canada, St. Francis Xavier High School and Rideau Valley Conservation Authority staff.

A special thanks goes to the many landowners who welcomed site visits and to those who allowed us to plant on their properties. The high level of project uptake, especially by the landowners along Mud Creek in the Kars/Manotick area, allowed us to achieve a significant corridor of naturalized shoreline between participating properties.

Project sponsors and supporters include Environment Canada - EcoAction Community Funding Program, Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation, Carleton University Charity Ball 2011, Community Fisheries & Wildlife Involvement Program, Community Foundation of Ottawa, City of Ottawa, City Stream Watch, Ferguson Forest Centre, Friends of the Jock River, Green Acres- Ottawa's Rural Reforestation Program, Mr. C. Elliot, Myers Volkswagen, National Capital Commission, Nepean National Equestrian Park, Ottawa Fastener Supply Limited, Rideau Valley Conservation Authority, and Turpin Auto World.

Phase 2 of the Making Shorelines Natural Project is now underway. Project staff would be pleased to talk with property owners along Becketts Creek, Bilberry Creek, Nepean Creek, Sawmill Creek and Stevens Creek who are willing to provide access to their creek-side property and are committed to letting the new plants grow for a minimum of five years.

For more information or to book a free site visit, please contact Shoreline Stewardship Program Manager Andrea Klymko at 613-692-3571 ext 1173 (andrea.klymko@rvca.ca) or Stewardship Assistant Meaghan McDonald at 613-692-3751 ext 1192 (meaghan.mcdonald@rvca.ca).

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Photo of volunteers at work available upon request.

For more information, contact:

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