

NEWS RELEASE

ONTARIO LAND TRUST ALLIANCE SUPPORTS LOCAL WETLAND PROTECTION

RIDEAU WATERSHED, February 6, 2012 — The Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation (RVCF) is pleased to announce a generous gift from the Ontario Land Trust Alliance (OLTA) to assist with the costs of securing a one-acre parcel of shoreland known as the Beals Property.

The Beals Property is located in Montague Township on the north shore of the Rideau River west of Merrickville. This small but important parcel of wetland is part of the Merrickville Marsh, a Provincially Significant Wetland.

OLTA's gift of \$4,050 was used to help defray the administrative costs of bringing the land into public ownership (legal and appraisal costs) and to assist with the cost of an assessment of the property as habitat for species at risk. Initial assessment shows that the property is likely habitat for the Least Bittern and potentially provides a buffer for preferred habitat of the Loggerhead Shrike.

OLTA's gift comes through the Ontario Land Trust Assistance Program (OLTAP) which assists eligible recipients with the costs of land securement to help conserve Ontario's biodiversity. OLTAP is a program of the Ontario Land Trust Alliance made possible by the financial support of the Government of Canada provided through the Department of Environment and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources.

The Conservation Foundation is very grateful to Stephen Beals for deciding to donate this beautiful wetland to the people of the Rideau Valley. RVCF holds 700 acres of valley land in trust for future public use including biodiversity protection, habitat maintenance, tree planting, protection of water resources and public recreation.

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More information:

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