
RVCA News Release

HUGE LAND GIFT ON THE RIDEAU

MANOTICK, MARCH 2, 2005 — Two local conservation partners have just received an absolutely visionary gift of land from a community-minded donor. Dr Ron Curtis and his wife Laurie have donated a 37-acre parcel of undisturbed Rideau River shoreline just south of the Kars bridge in the City of Ottawa to the Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation (RVCF) with the help of Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC). Dr Curtis donated this superb piece of sensitive, natural land to the Conservation Foundation to keep it in its natural state for future generations to enjoy. The property includes over one km of natural shoreline and marsh, a four-acre island, and several forest and meadow areas. This magnificent piece of conservation land will be set aside for environmental protection and wildlife habitat preservation.

This generous gift of land is very important because much of the natural shoreline along the Rideau within city limits has been altered, damaged or changed with development. Pristine, natural shoreline especially of this size is becoming increasingly rare in Ottawa. An outstanding natural buffer such as the Curtis property will provide some excellent long term protection against water quality loss in the river. The thousands of trees on the property will continue absorbing carbon dioxide from the air and produce life-giving oxygen for years to come. The land provides water purification by filtering contaminants before they hit the river. The Curtis property gift 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. Others including rabbit, beaver, mink, fisher, fox, snakes, turtles and frogs also live there. The property further provides a natural buffer from current development on River Road. It truly is a natural gem within city limits and will only become more important to residents as the years go by.

Mr Curtis and his family purchased the property in 1966. They have planted an additional 7,600 trees through partnership with Wetland Habitat Fund, City of Ottawa and Rideau Valley Conservation Authority over the years. The Conservation Foundation intends to continue the work Mr. Curtis began by ensuring that these 37 acres of natural habitat remain unaltered and protected for future generations. A Management Plan developed in cooperation with Ducks Unlimited Canada will ensure the long term protection of this ecological gift. A ceremony commemorating the gift will be held on site this spring.

The Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation is a registered environmental charity working to help protect and conserve the lands and waters of the valley of the Rideau River in Eastern Ontario. Ducks Unlimited Canada 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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