
RVCA News Release

MATTAMY HOMES HELPS NATURAL AREAS

MANOTICK, September 22, 2005 — Mattamy Homes has made a major donation and long-term pledge to the Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation's (RVCF) Environmental Land Fund. Money from this fund helps pay for the cost of bringing donated land in the Rideau watershed into public ownership. This generous and community-spirited gift to the Environmental Land Fund helps ensure that the people of the valley will have sufficient natural, public greenspace and water access in the future.

Many individuals and families are considering donating their property to the RVCF or similar groups in the watershed. There is no purchase price since the land is a donation. The donor family receives a charitable tax receipt for the fair market value of the property according to Canada Customs and Revenue Agency rules. But there is often a "hidden" cost of up to \$15,000 in legal fees, land transfer fees, surveying and appraisals to be paid by the receiving agency. In many cases, our Caring Professionals program has enthusiastic lawyers, surveyors and appraisers who will help with the work of bringing these environmental properties into public ownership at a pro-bono or subsidized rate. Other times, busy professionals are not in a position to donate all or part of their services, and these are the costs that the Environmental Land Fund will pay.

The Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation receives several inquiries per year about potential land donations. On average, about two parcels of particularly pivotal environmental lands are accepted annually. These parcels include wetlands, shorelines, cottage lots, headwater lakes/pond areas, properties in recharge areas, floodplain lands and other lands with an ecological or hydrological function. Mattamy Homes' gift will reinforce this cost-effective system of protecting key environmental lands and building future stock of conservation areas for the benefit of watershed residents.

Mattamy Homes is currently developing Fairwinds, a new community of their distinctive WideLot™ homes in west Kanata. They will also be building in Ottawa's South Urban Community along the scenic Jock River. Mattamy Homes has been in the business of creating exclusive residential homes since the late 1970s. Mattamy is Canada's largest new home builder, and has won many awards for their people-friendly community planning.

Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation is an environmental charity working to help protect and conserve the lands and waters of the valley of the Rideau River in Eastern Ontario. The Foundation's Environmental Land Fund is used to ensure that important natural land donations are acquired quickly and efficiently for the benefit of the public.

Tax deductible contributions to Environmental Land Fund or inquiries about possible land donations can be made through the Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation at 692-3571 or 1 800 267-3504, ext. 1116.

- 30 -

For more information, please contact:
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