

NEWS RELEASE

ACCORA VILLAGE VALUES HEALTHY STREAMS

RIDEAU VALLEY, December 6, 2012 — In a very generous community gesture, Ferguslea Properties Limited, owner of Accora Village, has donated \$5,000 to help with the restoration of a portion of Graham Creek in the west end of Ottawa. The restoration work is being carried out by the shoreline and aquatic biology staff at Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA).

Graham Creek travels through the west edge of Accora Village, a residential rental community that is home to 7,000 people. Few residents know how interesting Graham Creek is, winding its four kilometre path through the Greenbelt and Accora Village and passing under the 416/417 junction before joining the Ottawa River in Andrew Haydon Park. Despite considerable modification of its banks and despite receiving considerable stormwater runoff from its small watershed, the creek is home to several cold and cool water fish including the mottled sculpin, the brook stickleback and the pearl dace as well as a whole community of aquatic insects, mammals, songbirds and stream vegetation.

Graham Creek is an interesting but struggling aquatic community that needs a hand to thrive. RVCA biologists have devised a low cost plan to improve fish habitat by installing two root wads along the shoreline. Woody debris is an important component of creek health as it provides shady spots, refuge areas and food in the stream. These root wads were installed with the invaluable help of Ottawa Hydro in mid-November.

RVCA's shoreline improvement plan includes a second major part: the creation of a 15-metre buffer along the shoreline by planting native trees and shrubs. This new forested area will shade and cool the stream, intercept much of the garbage and help keep the water clean by intercepting nutrients washing in from the land. The site preparation and tree planting of this buffer will take place next spring by volunteers from the Accora Village community and the City Stream Watch program.

The main financial support for the project comes from Ferguslea Properties Limited with some additional funding from RVCA and other community partners. "Accora Village is a caring and welcoming community that values the environment. We have several sustainability projects on the go, demonstrating the commitment that Accora Village has made to their residents and to the larger community" added Steve Ryan, Ferguslea's Vice-President, Asset Management.

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For more information:

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