

News Release

300,000 Trees Taking Root in the Rideau Valley This Spring

May 6, 2014, RIDEAU VALLEY WATERSHED — The Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA) is excited to announce that over 300,000 trees are scheduled for planting this spring. RVCA and partners are well on the way to planting 5 million trees by 2015!

Trees for Tomorrow, RVCA's private landowner tree planting program available throughout eastern Ontario, is the perfect way to get the direction, planting plan and any available incentive funding for reforestation projects. In cases where landowners plant over 2,000 trees, RVCA works with the Ministry of Natural Resources' 50 Million Tree Program to keep costs as low as \$0.15 per tree. Landowners with at least one acre of land who are willing to plant 500 or more trees are encouraged to contact the RVCA's LandOwner Resource Centre at 613-692-2390 or 1-800-387-5304 to book a site visit or get more information.

Trees improve our land and air by acting as miniature environmental cleaning stations. Rootlets help hold the soil in place to protect against erosion and improve water retention. Leaves absorb CO₂ and release oxygen helping to reduce the effects of climate change. In one year, an acre of trees absorbs as much carbon as is produced by a car driven 14,000 kilometres. They also act like natural air conditioners; the evaporation from one tree has the same cooling effects as 10 room size air conditioners working 20 hours a day.

Tree planting is one of the most practical ways to take care of our watershed and the wider environment. Trees improve local biodiversity by providing shelter for birds and wildlife, while at the same time providing us with windbreaks, screening and shade. Forests act as a major filter and cleansing system for water that soaks into the ground and feeds our wells and underground water systems. The newly planted trees take a little tender loving care in their early years, but once they are "free-growing", they provide all of these advantages for up to 80 years or more. Trees are vital for a healthy and sustainable future; start planning now for planting next spring.

"We have numerous community-minded partners who support our tree planting program and reduce landowner costs," says Dan Cooper, RVCA Forestry Program Manager. "Simply, we need enthusiastic stewards to partner and plant with throughout the Rideau watershed."

Interested landowners should call now to plan and prepare for next year's planting.

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For more information contact:

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