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# RVCA News Release

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## OMYA (CANADA) GIVES GENEROUSLY AGAIN

MANOTICK, NOVEMBER 7, 2005 — OMYA (Canada) Inc of Perth has made another generous contribution to the Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation to help protect water quality and quantity in the Rideau watershed. The recent gift of \$25,000 will be used in the Rideau Valley Rural Clean Water Program. OMYA views this gift as a natural extension of its commitment to a healthy environment and a healthy community.

The funds will be used to help rural landowners do various types of water protection projects such as fencing livestock away from the watercourse, proper sealing of abandoned wells, planting shoreline buffer strips with native vegetation, providing safe chemical storage facilities on farms, repairing or replacing faulty septic systems on lakeshore properties and naturalizing shorelines that have been hardened or harmfully altered. The Rural Clean Water Program is administered by Rideau Valley Conservation Authority and a community-based Steering Committee to ensure best use of the funds for maximum environmental benefit.

The program continues to grow each year. In 2005, about 75 projects will be completed on private land. While each individual project is only a small step in the right direction for water quality, cumulatively, 75 new projects per year start to add up to big gains in better water throughout the Rideau system. Like compound interest in the bank, the old projects keep on working for better water quality while the annual crop of new ones quickly increase the total capital investment in water protection.

Mary Bryden, Chair of the Conservation Foundation, said “This type of donation from the private sector helps enormously in getting the water protection job done. The number of government grants available for this type of basic work is declining while the need, the opportunity and the expectation among the shoreline public is growing. OMYA and our other business sponsors are to be congratulated on their community-minded approach to clean water, one of the fundamental building blocks of healthy communities.”

In the past three years of operation, the Rideau Valley Rural Clean Water Program has done over 200 projects in partnership with rural landowners on most lakes and river sections from Burritts Rapids upstream to the top of the Rideau watershed. The total investment in water protection over the three years amounts to \$588,000. The landowners involved have received over \$182,000 in incentive grants for those value-added projects on their lands. In doing these projects, the landowners have helped keep more than one ton of phosphorus, plus other harmful chemicals and sediment out of the Rideau and its tributaries and out of the groundwater aquifers that all rural residents rely on for daily drinking needs.

OMYA is one of the world’s major producers and suppliers of natural calcium carbonate materials. The Glen Tay plant in Tay Valley Township underwent major expansion in the past few years because of the growing market for OMYA products. Calcium carbonate as a whitening agent is now replacing the traditional and environmentally-harmful chlorine bleach process in paper-making. Calcium carbonate from Glen Tay finds its way into many household products we are familiar with including paint, cleansers, paper coatings, fibers, resins, solvents, dyes, talc products, antacids, many kinds of plastics and construction materials.

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