

## **Landowners Lining up to Plant Trees in Rideau Valley This Spring**

*Local Conservation Authority has commitments to plant more than 200,000 trees through Forests Ontario's 50 Million Tree Program*

**Ottawa, ON [February 25, 2020]** – Local landowners are planting plenty of young trees in the Rideau Valley region this spring, thanks to Forests Ontario's 50 Million Tree Program (50 MTP), says the local conservation authority.

“Landowners are already planning for the 2021 planting season,” said Scott Danford, Forestry Program Manager at the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA). “If you are thinking about planting trees, now is the time to contact us.”

Since 2008, RVCA has planted over 1.5 million trees in Leeds & Grenville County, Lanark County, and the City of Ottawa. This spring, RVCA has commitments to plant more than 200,000 trees, including 120,000 trees in Ottawa.

It takes about a year to prepare for a planting project, says Danford. The preparation includes visiting sites, developing a planting plan, placing tree orders, completing site preparations, coordinating planting contractors, and securing financial assistance. “We would be happy to speak to you now and get you started towards a successful planting project in 2021,” Danford said.

Forests Ontario has facilitated the planting of more than 29 million trees through the 50 MTP since 2008. They are the leading non-profit organization for the delivery of high-quality, large-scale tree planting.

Some landowners may also be eligible for the Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program (MFTIP), which can reduce property taxes on forested portions of land by up to 75 per cent. Increasing forest cover promotes healthy natural landscapes and trees can reduce the risk of severe flooding by soaking up excess water.

“Thanks to the Government of Canada's support for the 50 MTP, we are looking forward to a robust 2020 planting season,” said Rob Keen, Registered Professional Forester and CEO of Forests Ontario. “If you have room to plant a minimum of 500 trees – which is usually less than an acre – contact us. We would be happy to discuss your options for this coming spring and beyond.”

The Government of Canada committed up to \$15 million over four years to support the 50 MTP. Funding also comes from corporate sponsors and donors.

Landowners who want to learn more about tree planting and funding assistance through the 50 MTP, and/or tax savings through the MFTIP, are encouraged to call Forests Ontario at 1-877-646-1193 or visit [www.forestsontario.ca](http://www.forestsontario.ca).

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### **About Forests Ontario**

Forests Ontario is a not-for-profit charity dedicated to re-greening the province through the support of forest restoration, stewardship, education and awareness. We promote Canada's greatest natural resource – our forests – because healthy forests sustain healthy communities and healthy economies. Forests Ontario is the voice of our forests. Visit [www.forestsontario.ca](http://www.forestsontario.ca) or follow us @Forests\_Ontario to find out more.

**For more information, photos, or to arrange an interview please contact:**

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