



Rideau Waterway
LAND TRUST

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Press Release

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RWLT COMPLETES WARREN PROPERTY FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

During these challenging Covid-19 times it is difficult to find bits of good news, but the Rideau Waterway Land Trust has some! The Trust is pleased to announce the successful completion of the fundraising campaign to acquire the Warren property in Chaffey's Lock. The campaign began in late February and by mid April reached its goal of \$435,000. The property closing was completed on April 27.

"This 74 acre parcel has a variety of environmental, historical and educational attributes and this combination has generated enthusiastic community support" reported Peter Hannah, Board Chair of the Rideau Waterway Land Trust. "A total of 175 separate donations were received, ranging from \$20 to a generous contribution of \$55,200 from the ECHO Foundation. The remaining funding came through the generous support of the Greenlands Conservation Partnership Program."

The Greenlands Conservation Partnership will see up to \$50 million invested over four years, the \$20 million the Ontario government is investing, with another \$30 million from non-provincial sources such as individual donations, foundations, and other levels of government. This program secures land to conserve ecologically important natural areas such as wetlands, grasslands and forests that help mitigate the effects of climate change.

"We are expanding the amount of conserved green space across the province not only to preserve the environment, but to promote physical activity such as hiking and improving our mental health" said Jeff Yurek, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks. "By taking this approach our government will be leaving a magnificent legacy for the benefit of future generations. It has been wonderful to be working with outstanding conservation leaders like the Nature Conservancy of Canada and the Ontario Land Trust Alliance to achieve our shared goals."

The property will be added to RWLT's portfolio of 20 protected properties in the Rideau corridor. It will be named the Warren Nature Reserve, in honour of Don and Mary Warren, long time residents of Chaffey's Lock who understood the need to protect key pieces of the natural environment for the benefit of future generations.

"Donors to the campaign mentioned lots of different reasons for their contributions. Some are long term RWLT supporters who get behind every one of the Trust's projects. Some were particularly grateful for Don Warren's community activism in opposing the electrification of the Rideau Canal locks in the 1960s, his role as an educator and his foresight in being a founding member of the RWLT. Others saw the value in preserving an important parcel of land near the Queen's University Biological Station, allowing it to be used for future education and scientific research" said Hannah.

Covid-19 fatigue undoubtedly played a role. The constraints of the past year have generated more interest in the importance of preserving natural areas, getting outdoor exercise and escaping the pressures of lock downs. The Board and supporters of the Rideau Waterway Land Trust are grateful to the community for making this project a reality.

"This project is a great example of how partnerships can result in community benefits", said Steve Clark, MPP for Leeds Grenville, Thousand Islands and Rideau Lakes and Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. "I am pleased to have been able to bring the Greenlands Conservation Partnership to the attention of the Trust in a timely way and advocated to help bring this acquisition to a speedy conclusion."

As with all RWLT property acquisitions, the next steps are to undertake a baseline study to inventory the natural heritage aspects in more depth and complete a management plan which protects key features in perpetuity. The Trust will complete its work as soon as conditions allow. More information about the property can be found at www.rwlt.org/warren.

For more information, contact RWLT staff at info@rwlt.org or 613-305-3507.

The Rideau Waterway Land Trust (RWLT) is an environmental charity-that has been working to preserve significant natural lands within the Rideau Corridor for the last 25 years.

Preserving special places in our community.