



Fiducie foncière de la vallée Ruitier
The Ruitier Valley Land Trust

For immediate release

Press Release

Stansje Plantenga receives the « *Prix d'excellence en environnement des Cantons de l'Est* » Award

It is with great pride that we announce that Ms Stansje Plantenga, President and Founding Member of The Ruitier Valley Land Trust (RVLT), has won the *2011 Prix d'excellence en environnement des Cantons de l'Est* – in the “Personal Contribution” category.



Stansje Plantenga with Émile Grieco (Regional Director at the ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et des Parcs) and Denis Poirier (Administrator, Fondation estrienne en environnement. (photo : Photo SM)

Stansje is the instigator of «*Faune sans frontières*», an innovative training programme in the identification and monitoring of animal signs, inspired by Keeping Track® in Vermont. Thanks to her commitment and determination, the programme currently has about 30 volunteers divided into eight teams active in the Ruitier Valley, Highwater, Lac Bowker, Rivière au saumon and Mont-Chagnon sectors.

Stansje also seized the opportunity in 2002 to adapt the programme to school children. Today, "*Faune sans frontière for Youth*" is highly successful with local schools. Since the beginning of the programme, 400 children from the municipalities of Potton, Austin, East-Bolton, West-Bolton, Eastman, Lac Brome, Saint-Etienne de Bolton, Stukely-Sud and Jay in Vermont have been trained in the conservation of natural areas.

These initiatives were made possible thanks to the vision of Stansje. Her wonderful energy, creative spirit and unique leadership have led her to respond to a need that she considers fundamentally universal: the desire to leave behind a project that will live on, and pay tribute to what she cherishes the most: the Splendour of Nature!

Congratulations Stansje; and a long and successful life to "*Faune sans frontières*"!

The Ruitier Valley Land Trust: www.valleeruitier.org