



Le point vert

Summer 2009

Volume 2 - Number 1

The last few months have been quite productive for the Ruitter Valley Land Trust in terms of accomplishments. Here are a few of the most noteworthy initiatives:

INAUGURATION OF SHEPHERD'S DREAM SECTOR



Robert's daughter, Anne, with her son Michael and Stansje, the founder's spouse.
Photo : Daniel Sultan

The week-end of May 17th was marked by RVLT's Donor's Day celebration. The event provided an opportunity to express our gratitude to our donors, members and volunteers who contributed to RVLT's success towards land conservation over the years. Indeed, our conservation project would not have been possible without the generous contribution of donors such as Joyce Booth, Stanley Lake, Anne Shepherd, Max Cowan, Stansje Plantenga and, of course, Robert Shepherd. The day started with a fascinating walk on spring flowers guided by well-known botanist Louise Gratton, and was followed by the inauguration of the Shepherd's Dream Sector in honour of the founder of our Land Trust. The event attended by over fifty people was wrapped up by a BBQ enhanced with music by Stanley Lake and the

« Jazz Heads » quartet. RVLT took the opportunity to thank its many partners: La Table des MRC de l'Estrie, the Fondation Hydro-Québec pour l'environnement, the Memphrémagog MRC and the Municipality of the Township of Potton.

ECO-GIFTS

Together, Max Cowan and Stansje Plantenga recently concluded the donation of 35 acres of natural habitat to the Land Trust. This brings the total area of protected land under RVLT's stewardship to 242 hectares. The properties, located in the Fullerton sector and composed mainly of Maples and Trembling Aspen, provide habitat for many wildlife species, including vulnerable and endangered ones. The process, managed under Environment Canada's Eco-gift Program, was carried out with support from our partner, the Appalachian Corridor. To find out more about the eco-gift program and its fiscal benefits, you may visit Environment Canada's website at www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca/egp-pde.

NEW ON THE TRAILS

RVLT's trail network is now linked to the village of Mansonville via the North-Missisquoi trail. More work aimed at linking the Réserve naturelle des Montagnes-Vertes and, by extension, the Sentiers de l'Estrie is underway in cooperation with the Municipality of Pottton. A new bridge was built in the sector located on the western side of Ruiter Brook Road, now known as Shepherd's Dream Sector. You are welcome to stop for lunch under the gazebo. Also, look for our new nature interpretation signs installed along the way. To download our new trail map, follow the link: <http://www.valleeruiteur.org/engl/map.asp?pos=carte2.0>

Reminder: Users are asked to stay on the trails so that wildlife can flourish undisturbed and the private domain is respected.

RÉSERVE NATURELLE DES MONTAGNES-VERTES

Last June 15th, the Appalachian Corridor and the Fondation Hydro-Québec pour l'environnement proceeded with the official inauguration of the largest nature reserve in Canada, east of the Rockies. A property of Nature Conservancy Canada, the territory of over 50 km² spans the municipalities of Pottton, Sutton and West Bolton. A total of 15 km of trails linked to RVLT's trail network and the Sentiers de l'Estrie is now accessible to hikers. For more information, you may visit www.rnmv.com or www.apcor.ca

FLORA COURSE

The interest generated last year by participants in the botanical course has prompted us to offer the course again this year. This training program on the identification of Flora species given by well-known botanist, Louise Gratton, includes five days of field training on various species, including ferns, trees and shrubs, winter buds, spring, road side and meadow open space flowers. Courses will be given on Sundays from 9:00 to 16:00 between August 16th 2009 and July 11th 2010. Deadline for registration is July 15th 2009. For more details, please contact Stansje@sympatico.ca or consult the registration form <http://www.valleeruiteur.org/pics/RegistrationFormFlora2009.pdf>



A FACE LIFT FOR OUR WEBSITE!

By glancing through the various sections of our new website www.ruitervalley.org you will discover many new features, including a calendar of activities for all seasons, an interactive trail map, a section dedicated to outdoor activities and trail conditions, information cards on wildlife and natural habitats of the Ruiter Valley, a photo album, and much more. Your comments and suggestions are welcome at info@ruitervalley.org

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

If you have not already done so, we invite you to renew your membership for 2009 by returning the attached coupon with your membership fee. Your support is essential for our conservation, education and outdoor activities. A big "thank you" to those who have already sent in their membership renewal and a wonderful summer to everyone!