

## **ONE MILLION VIGOROUS NEW TREES**

The City of Ottawa's Green Acres Program is the proud patron of one million vigorous new native trees planted in the rural parts of the city over the past ten years. This milestone was reached during the Spring planting season which ended in May.

The Green Acres program started in 2000 as a partnership between the City of Ottawa, Ottawa's three Conservation Authorities (Mississippi Valley Conservation, RVCA and South Nation Conservation) and the Ottawa Stewardship Council. The results are overwhelming with one million trees planted, 1,150 acres reforested and 1,087 land owners served. And even more impressive is that these trees will reach free-to-grow status because the city and its partners go that extra step to provide monitoring and maintenance of the Green Acres plantings.

Each of these one million trees is a little environmental cleaning station. Each one cleans the air, cleans the water, enriches the soil, provides wildlife habitat and life-giving oxygen and helps prevent soil erosion. Multiply that by one million and you have some very significant community benefits for a long time for a small investment.

"The City of Ottawa's commitment to supporting and investing in tree planting is greatly appreciated," said Mr. Alan Arbuckle, Chair of the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority. "To my knowledge, the City of Ottawa's investment in green infrastructure is second to none in Ontario. We congratulate the City for their vision and their commitment to a healthy urban and rural environment."

The program helps cover up to 50% of the costs for the tree seedlings, site preparation, planting and tending. It also provides landowners with technical advice and guidance.

Now is the time to prepare for the 2011 spring planting season. Interested rural landowners with one acre of land or more and willing to plant a minimum of 500 trees are encouraged to contact the LandOwner Resource Centre at (613) 692-3571 or 1 800 267-3504 at ext.1128 or 1132 and see if they are eligible for the Green Acres Program.

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For more information, contact:  
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