



ACRE (July 12, 2021, Chelsea, Quebec)

Press Release

Couple near Gatineau Park choose conservation over development

When it came time for Ken and Debbie Rubin to consider the future of their organic farmland, which looks up at the Eardley Escarpment, near Luskville, they decided its conservation value was high and to donate the property as an “ecological gift.”

The nearly 15-hectare section of land adjacent to the Gatineau Park, which they owned for forty-four years, has been donated to ACRE Land Trust, a Chelsea-based citizen-run conservation organization. It will become known as “Place Eco Rubin” and be held in perpetuity as part of Quebec’s conservation-protected areas.

At a time when housing developments are popping up around the edges of Gatineau Park, donating their land is a way to ensure a future for this cherished landscape. “This is our way of trying to counter the development going on in the Eardley corridor and provide some stewardship for the land we have treasured for over 40 years,” the Rubins say. They plan to play a role in the ACRE local stewardship committee.

The Rubins have a long history of community involvement and giving. Debbie has been working with community music and arts. Ken is well-known for his freedom of information and investigative research work and as a consumer and environmental advocate. They have funded dozens of advocacy projects through The Ken and Debbie Rubin Public Interest Advocacy Fund.

Since the inception of the Ecological Gifts program in 1995, there have been 1610 ecological gifts valued at over \$977 million donated across Canada, protecting over 211,000 hectares of wildlife habitat. Many of these ecological gifts contain areas designated as being of national or provincial significance, and many are home to some of Canada’s species at risk.

Stephen Woodley, President of ACRE, said, “this donation is a generous gift and one more step to protecting and enhancing the Gatineau Park and the area’s conservation nature. It’s a place with much biodiversity and vulnerable species like butternut trees, chorus frogs and whip-poor-will birds. It has a stream, a wood lot and hay fields that will eventually be naturalized.”



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Woodley notes that 'Place Eco Rubin' "will be primarily a location to protect, observe and enhance the natural habitat and be a site of low-impact ecological research and environmental education."

"Giving up a beautiful property is made easier when the land will be kept in the public domain and preserved," the Rubins add. "We have a respect for the land in the special surroundings of the Eardley Plateau and are glad to be of any help in its future stewardship".

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