



# Le point vert

## The Ruitter Valley Land Trust

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### Water, source of life

The Land Trust sees the International Year of Water Cooperation as an opportunity to draw attention on the vital role of wetlands. These ecosystems are key in the regulation of natural phenomena such as water purification, flood control, and shoreline stability. Wetlands are also considered the most biologically diverse of all ecosystems, serving as home to a wide range of plant and animal life.



Photo : Stansje Plantenga

In Québec, wetlands offer habitat to over 50% of the species at risk, such as the Wood Turtle, the Spring Salamander or the Pickerel Frog all present in our region. Many municipalities have taken a decisive step for the protection of wetland. That is the case for Sutton, Saint-Etienne de-Bolton, South Stukely and Brome Lake who have inventoried the wetlands on their respective territory. The Land Trust is pleased to learn that Potton is about to do the same.

### Youngsters Connected to Wildlife An eco-blog on the diversity of wildlife

For an eleventh consecutive year, the Land Trust has given the opportunity to over 150 children from Potton, Eastman, Saint-Etienne-de-Bolton, East-Bolton, Austin et Brome Lake to discover nature's treasures just in their backyard. Since 2003, over 1000 children have been initiated to ecology.

This year, the North Missisquoi and Coldbrook rivers served as a common thread in the development of our environmental program. In February, children from Val-de-Grâce, du Baluchon and Mansonville Elementary schools explored the Missisquoi Nord pathway, which links the villages of Saint-Etienne-de-Bolton, Eastman, East-Bolton and Mansonville. On the Knowlton side, Saint-Edouard and Knowlton Academy visited the Coldbrook stream, a Brome Lake tributary which flows from the mountains of West Bolton.

Guided by Isabelle Grégoire, Environment Educator, the children learned about the importance of wetlands and natural corridors for the protection of wildlife which depend upon them: Moose, Black Bear, Fisher, Lynx and other four-legged friends. To learn some more on the discoveries of our young scientist, we invite you to visit their blog: <http://branchessurlafaune2013.blogspot.ca/>. Our Faune sans frontière Program was made possible this year, thanks to:

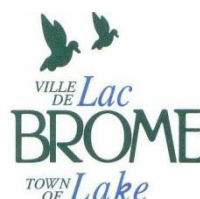




Photo : Stansje Plantenga

## Protecting the Ruitter Brook... one waterfall at a time

A big THANK YOU to Marie-Claire Planet and Daniel Sultan who donated a conservation servitude to the Land Trust over a section of their property straddling the brook. This small parcel represents an important link between the Land Trust and the réserve naturelle des Montagnes-vertes. If all landowners in the Ruitter Valley decide to join forces, the brook's water will be pure and clear forever. To date, over 3,500 hectares of natural habitats are protected by the Ruitter Valley Land Trust, in full ownership or by way of conservation servitudes.

## Conciliating Environment and Development

The Land Trust salutes the initiative of the Municipality for the creation of the Conciliation Committee, which aims at bringing citizens to work together to improve the well-being of our community and overcome the difficulties related to differing interests. Marie-Claire Planet and Stansje Plantenga from the Land Trust are on this committee. We continue to monitor closely the outcome of the by-law that had been proposed to allow the installation of a permanent race track at the door step of the Land Trust and the Réserve naturelle des Montagnes-Vertes.

## Trail Work Bee: Saturday, June 1st

June 1st is National Trail Day. Anyone interested in lending a hand with minor chores such as brush cutting is welcome. More details will follow in May.

## Annual General Meeting

If you missed our last meeting in December 2012, we invite you to read our President's report available on line at: [http://www.valleeruitter.org/eng/PresidentsReport\\_2011.pdf](http://www.valleeruitter.org/eng/PresidentsReport_2011.pdf). Our next Annual general Meeting will be held in the fall. Details will follow in September.

## Membership Renewal

The time has come to renew your membership for 2013 if you have not already done so. Thank you to all those who have already sent in their contribution. Your support early in the year helps us to better plan our activities. The attached renewal coupon is also available on our web site: <http://www.valleeruitter.org/eng/CouponDAdhesion-web.pdf>. In parallel, we are exploring the possibility of offering on-line payment facilities for next year.

Your comments and suggestions are always welcome.