

## **Successful community tree planting day near Pembroke a win for wildlife, nature and the climate**

*For immediate release*

(Pembroke, September 23, 2019) Community volunteers came together recently to plant 170 trees and shrubs on land owned by the County of Renfrew near Pembroke. The event was hosted by the Ottawa River Institute and sponsored by the TD Tree Day program, through which TD Canada Trust is committed to planting one million trees by 2030.

“Planting trees is one of the best things we can do to address the climate crisis,” according to Ottawa River Institute president Ole Hendrickson. “As trees grow they take carbon dioxide from the air, store carbon in their trunks, branches and roots, and release oxygen to the atmosphere.”

More than 30 volunteers planted 14 different kinds of oak, maple, birch, spruce, cedar, and other native species, working together in the unseasonably hot and humid weather on September 22. Tree planters ranged in age from three to 80 and included Ottawa River Institute members, TD bank and County of Renfrew employees, students from Algonquin College and two candidates in the upcoming federal election, Ian Pineau of the Green Party and Eileen Jones-Whyte of the NDP.

There’s another good reason to plant trees, according to Hendrickson, and that is to provide habitat for birds and other wildlife. “Renfrew County is blessed with many natural areas and an impressive degree of biodiversity that other places lack. We can help keep it this way with tree planting events and other efforts to protect and restore natural areas.”

The planting took place at the County of Renfrew’s 150 Anniversary Forest near Pembroke, one of 53 tracts of land covering over 16,000 acres managed by the County’s Forestry and GIS Division.

The Ottawa River Institute is a non-profit charitable organization based in the Ottawa Valley. Its mission is to foster sustainable communities and ecological integrity in the Ottawa River Watershed. For more information, please visit [www.ottawariverinstitute.ca](http://www.ottawariverinstitute.ca)

Ole Hendrickson ~ 613-234-0578

Sandra Palmer (TD Bank and ORI board) `613-635-1495

Lynn Jones ~ 613-735-4876