



A Place of Peace

Ignatius Jesuit Centre
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PLANT AN OLD GROWTH FOREST CHRISTMAS GIFTS

The Ignatius Jesuit Centre of Guelph (IJC) has what it believes is the most unique Christmas gift of all.

For a very modest outlay of \$20, you can give a square metre of land just north of Guelph's city limits in perpetuity to a loved one or friend.

The \$20 donation to the IJC's Plant an Old Growth Forest Project helps to protect and preserve land on 40 hectares alongside the Guelph Lake Conservation Area, where Marden Creek meets the Speed River. The square metres are part of an ambitious project to recreate some of the old growth forest that used to cover vast areas of south-western Ontario.

Bill Barrett from Guelph International Resource Centre (GIRC), one of the project partners, says the \$20 gift will endow the lucky recipient with a certificate of permanent ownership of one square metre of the project.

"Our Old Growth Forest will take generations to complete, but once re-created will stand for centuries," he said.

The Old Growth Forest will be legally protected under a conservation easement that forever restricts how the property will be used. Funds raised from donations and gifts will support the design, planting and nurturing of the new forest using ecological restoration techniques. They will also contribute to the development of an education program that will turn the growing forest into a living classroom. A portion will also be set aside in a legacy fund to ensure long-term support for our growing forest through the centuries.

"Setting ourselves the task of growing an old growth forest close to the city and in a highly urbanized setting is an exceptionally positive challenge. Given that most of the news we hear about global ecology is bad, this project gives us an opportunity to support an initiative of real and lasting beauty," said Bill.

Those wishing to buy certificates can call 519.824.1250 x 224 or e-mail info@oldgrowthforest.ca. They can also log onto www.oldgrowthforest.ca and click the link marked "How do I make a donation?"

"We think this will be the most re-creative Christmas gift you can give, and Santa certainly agrees," said Bill.

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For more information contact:
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