



Possibility grows here.

Greenbelt Foundation

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John Russell Powell

2020 Friend of the Greenbelt Recipient for the Oak Ridges Moraine



For over 50 years, John Russell Powell (Russ), was an influential and critical figure in natural resources. Russ was born in Strathroy, Ontario and grew up with his three younger siblings in Watford. He graduated from the Faculty of Forestry, University of Toronto in 1965 and received a diploma in Public Administration from the University of Western Ontario in 1984.

He spent most of his career serving the people of Ontario through the Conservation Authorities program at both field and provincial levels, becoming the Inaugural Chair of the Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation in 2004. Russ was known for his leadership, dedication, insight, passion and mentoring. He was a man of the land, ahead of his time, who steadfastly pursued his vision with a good dose of common sense and dry wit. In 2003, Russ and his wife, Dawn, donated a conservation easement from their land in Pontypool, Ontario to Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust to preserve and protect the property in perpetuity. It has always been a labour of love they shared.

On Wednesday, October 23, 2019 – a perfect fall day – he died in his beautiful bush with only Mother Nature and perhaps a Great Horned Owl witnessing the event.

