

News Release

COMMUNITY INVESTMENT IN FOLEY MOUNTAIN TOPS \$1 MILLION!

MANOTICK, March 19, 2007 — Total investment in the Foley Mountain Conservation Area since 1998 zoomed past the \$1 million mark in 2007 thanks to the outstanding work and commitment of the Friends of Foley Mountain (FOFM) and the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA). The consistent investment and upgrading of Foley Mountain facilities and trails has made it one of the best and most attractive conservation areas in Eastern Ontario.

The 400-acre natural area now has an extensive network of walking trails through some of the most scenic landscapes in the province including a picturesque two kilometre section of the world-renowned Rideau Trail. Within a three-hour visit, park users can experience a beach and the refreshing waters of Upper Rideau Lake, inspiring and entertaining interpretive programs, alpine hiking trails, winter deer yards, beaver ponds and Canadian Shield landscapes that would inspire the Group of Seven.

The core land area was purchased from the Foley family by RVCA in 1970 during its infancy as an inter-municipal conservation agency. The Interpretive Centre was built two years later as the home base for the conservation education programs which were being developed by young Barry McQuay. Close to 100,000 youngsters and two generations of kids have studied at Foley over the past 34 years.

The Friends of Foley Mountain have done an outstanding job of fundraising far and wide to sustain the education programming at Foley. They have donated almost \$100,000 of the \$1 million invested over the past ten years. They provide the local sparkle and the local face of this Rideau Valley property. Friends of Foley Chair Duncan MacDougall added, "The people of Westport and area are very proud of Foley Mountain. It is always a pleasure to work with such an enthusiastic and dedicated group."

The Village of Westport is also very pleased in having the Foley Mountain Conservation Area next door. Mayor Bill Thake said, "The mountain is a major attraction. The business community, local volunteers and the Conservation Authority have all had a hand in making Foley Mountain a natural complement to the products and services available in our community."

For more on Foley Mountain and the Friends of Foley Mountain, please visit the website at www.rideauvalley.on.ca and choose Conservation Areas on the left hand side.

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