

News Release

NEW LIFE AT THE OLD PERTH WILDLIFE RESERVE

RIDEAU VALLEY, June 6, 2008 — Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA), the Rideau Valley Field Naturalists (RVFN) and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources have invested in several new projects to demonstrate wildlife rehabilitation at the beautiful Perth Wildlife Reserve. A Special Opening Ceremony is being planned for Friday, June 20th at 11 am at the Reserve to kick off the summer visiting season, to acknowledge all the supporters of the Reserve, and to provide guided tours of the new projects.

One of the main new features is a series of wildlife habitat and visitor service improvements developed in coordination with the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Species at Risk Stewardship Fund. Turtle nesting platforms, squirrel nests, buckthorn removal, brush piles are some of the examples of habitat features installed for wildlife. A new trail brochure, colourful species at risk interpretive signs and improved lookouts are sure to make the experience a memorable one for visitors.

Wildlife is always abundant at the Reserve. Visitors regularly see deer, ducks, geese, grouse, several species of birds and an abundance of turtles. Some of the species you will learn about while traveling along the trail at the Reserve are blanding's turtles, flying squirrels, black tern, dragonflies, eels and even ratsnakes.

In addition, the RVFN have now completed several planting phases of the Butterfly Garden. Four new garden plots have been installed filled to overflowing with perennials such as Purple Coneflower, Heliopsis and Lemon Balm which are all attractive to many kinds of butterflies. A bench has also been erected in memory of a past member for visitors to take the time to rest and enjoy the gardens. There is always a good chance of some spectacular butterfly sightings in the gardens.

We are pleased to report that the University of Kansas has certified the Butterfly Garden at the Reserve as a Monarch Waystation. This means that the site has been entered into the Monarch Waystation Registry, which helps an international organization known as Monarch Watch map where all the Monarch Waystation habitats are located throughout North America. As well, the garden has been certified through the Backyard Habitat Program with the Canadian Wildlife Federation.

During the Special Ceremony to start the 2008 visitor season, a sign will be erected to recognize the Monarch Waystation status to convey the message that these gardens contribute to monarch conservation, which may encourage visitors to create their own garden.

The Stewardship Council of Lanark County and the Trailblazers from the Smiths Falls District High School also assisted with many of the wildlife projects.

The Perth Wildlife Reserve is located at 100 Wildlife Road off of County Road 1 (Rideau Ferry Road) between Perth and Rideau Ferry.

For more information about these projects, the Special Opening Ceremony and the Perth Wildlife Reserve please contact Kristy Giles, RVCA, 613-692-3571 ext. 1178, or Gloria, RVFN at 267-7896.

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