

NEWS RELEASE

FOLEY MOUNTAIN CELEBRATES PARK IMPROVEMENTS

FOLEY MOUNTAIN CONSERVATION AREA, JUNE 2, 2011 — Dignitaries, board members, staff and friends gathered to celebrate the recent improvements to the Foley Mountain Conservation Area at the Foley Mountain Conservation Celebration held on Thursday, May 26.

The Friends of Foley Mountain (FOFM), Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA) and Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation (RVCF) hosted this event to highlight their three most recent park improvements.

The Honourable Gord Brown, MP for Leeds-Grenville along with Rideau Lakes Mayor Ron Holman and Westport Mayor Bill Thake joined the celebration that highlighted three special projects at Foley Mountain — all made possible thanks to generous friends and sponsors.

For several years, the FOFM have had an anonymous patron supporting their many projects at Foley Mountain. To recognize several years of generous donations, the FOFM convinced their patron to step forward and be recognized with the renaming of the Mobility Trail that was largely funded through his donations. “The Friends of Foley Mountain are very grateful to Jack Herbert for his contributions to this community site,” said Mike Fay, President of the Friends of Foley Mountain. “It is with pleasure that we recognize his generosity and rename the Mobility Trail in his honour. The trail will now be known as the Jack Herbert Mobility Trail.”

Over \$80,000 was invested in 2010-2011 to improve the Foley Mountain roadway. Subject to regular erosion and crumbling asphalt, the RVCF was successful in their proposal for special funding through the Government of Canada’s Economic Action Plan Program. Construction of an erosion control system and fresh new pavement is now complete on the Foley Mountain road to the interpretive centre. Now, the 3,000 students that visit the site each year, can access the interpretive centre safely. Thanks to FED DEV for this wonderful opportunity to improve site access, increase local tourism and create business and employment opportunities in Eastern Ontario.

Thanks to the Government of Canada's Enabling Accessibility Fund, the RVCA was able to enhance the interpretive centre’s existing washrooms by building two accessible washrooms stalls adjacent to the old washrooms. The washrooms are barrier-free and accessible from the inside and outside of the interpretive centre. “The RVCA is pleased to make Foley enjoyable and accessible to a range of outdoor enthusiasts,” said Rob Dunfield, RVCA Board Member and Rideau Lakes Councillor. “These investments continue to strengthen our communities, municipalities and counties.”

The Foley Mountain Conservation Celebration was an wonderful opportunity to thank the supportive community network that helps achieve the conservation goals at Foley Mountain. “We appreciate everyone’s support and how these investments strengthen our local communities in terms of tourism and job opportunities,” said Alan Arbuckle, RVCA Chair.

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Left to Right: FOFM member Sandy Cameron, Rebecca Whitman, Foley Mountain Area Supervisor, Jack Herbert and his wife Terry Dion and FOFM President Mike Fay gather to celebrate the newly named Jack Herbert Mobility Trail.

Mr. Herbert provided key funding for the Discovery Centre and Mobility Trail on Foley Mountain. The Mobility Trail was renamed in his honour on May 26 at the Foley Mountain Conservation Celebration.



Left to right: Tom Dewey, Ray Scissons, John Miller, Alan Arbuckle, Mike Fay Barclay Cormack, MP Gord Brown, Mayor Ron Holman, Mayor Bill Thake and Jason Kelly.

Alan Arbuckle, Chair of the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority and the Honourable Gord Brown, MP for Leeds-Grenville, hold the "Construction Ends Sign" that celebrates the newly improved roadway (rising in background) at the Foley Mountain Conservation Authority.