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# RVCA News Release

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## Baxter Conservation Area Gets \$35,000 Grant

MANOTICK, JANUARY 21, 2005 — Baxter Conservation Area has received an Ontario Trillium Foundation grant of \$35,000 to upgrade its outdoor education facilities. The Kiwanis Club of Manotick (partnered with Rideau Valley Conservation Authority) submitted the application in 2004 and has just received this good environmental news.

"This is great collaboration between the Manotick Kiwanis, the Conservation Authority and the Ontario Trillium Foundation that will have a long lasting, positive impact on our community," says John Baird, MPP for Nepean-Carleton.

Plans include new educational signs, 300 metres of new boardwalk, summer camp facility improvements and a new education platform and observation tower at the Baxter Marsh. These improvements will allow more people to use, learn about, view and experience the river and marsh environments. Students will benefit from the direct hands-on lessons available at Baxter. Once completed, Baxter will be a safe, accessible, well-appointed outdoor education and public conservation facility second to none in Ontario. The new upgrades will ensure that it is capable of serving the next generation of kids in the southern Ottawa area.

"We are very pleased to help bring in money for important community assets in our area," said Rich McDonald, president of the Manotick Kiwanis. "Many of our schools use Baxter regularly. This type of facility upgrade is much appreciated by everyone."

Plans are to have these upgrades complete for fall 2006 to accommodate the start of a busy outdoor education season. Ducks Unlimited Canada will also partner in the project by providing additional funding for wetland programs.

Since 1976, Baxter has been a leader in providing quality outdoor education programs. It has hosted over 100,000 students and more than 25,000 adults for outdoor education, relaxation, recreation, nature study and stress relief. Baxter is growing into a major outdoor education facility in eastern Ontario.

The Baxter Conservation Area, home of the Eastern Ontario Children's Water Festival, is on the Rideau River about 15 km north of Kemptville.

The Ontario Trillium Foundation, an agency of the Ministry of Culture, receives annually \$100 million of government funding generated through Ontario's charity casino initiative.

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