

News Release

RIDEAU VALLEY CONSERVATION CENTRE BLENDS INTO THE PARK SETTING

MANOTICK, November 14, 2007 — As the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA) prepares to take over their new building going up at the corner of Prince of Wales Drive and Rideau Valley Drive in Manotick, the final landscaping details are being applied. One of the key elements of the new Rideau Valley Conservation Centre is the situation within the beautiful, natural setting of Beryl Gaffney Park. RVCA made a commitment to all partners that the new building would blend in with the park setting and hopefully entice more people to enjoy this greenspace in the heart of one of the fastest-growing communities in Ottawa.

Both the major site works and the final landscaping details were done by local landscaping brothers Doug and Greg Clunie who operate D & G Landscaping. All of the attractive features around the building itself are the work of this talented crew: the stream that follows the building outline and directs rainwater towards the on-site pond, the bike racks and benches, the timber bollards for the staff parking area, the flagstone terrace for outdoor meetings or lectures at the back, the pond itself, the berms which provide topography, the seeding/sodding and planting of trees, shrubs and ground cover on the construction site, and the roughing out of trail connections around the building to trails throughout the park.

D & G Landscaping was also one of the three most generous and community-minded donors during the fundraising for LEED certification of the new RVCA building. LEED is the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design system and is considered to be the worldwide standard in measuring building sustainability. It is a pleasure to acknowledge D & G Landscaping's commitment and assistance in bringing this lovely public asset to our community.

All of the highly-visible pieces of landscaping work provide some very useful amenities to people who want to access the park or the building. Whether it is just to enjoy the view, wander down a natural trail, get a breath of fresh air between meetings or walk the dog after supper, the landscaping around the Conservation Centre will make it easy, enjoyable and safe.

The Rideau Valley Conservation Centre is scheduled to be turned over to the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority on November 16. Two weeks are then needed to commission all the systems such as air circulation, heating, internet, telephone, and to get all the bugs out. It is scheduled to open for full conservation business on Tuesday, December 11 at 8:30 am.

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