

For Immediate Release
February 1, 2007

ADDITIONAL GREENSPACE TO SERVE BURLINGTON FAMILIES FOR YEARS TO COME

Hidden Valley Park Could Grow By 42 Per cent

BURLINGTON — Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty today said his government is taking action to protect environmentally significant greenspace in Burlington to improve the quality of life in the community.

The natural beauty of our province makes Ontario a great place to live," said Premier McGuinty. "Increasing greenspace at the Hidden Valley Park creates more opportunities for families to get outside and enjoy nature."

The Ontario government is committed to transferring more than 20 acres of environmentally significant land to the City of Burlington on the condition that this land remains protected. This could add an extra 42 per cent to Hidden Valley Park. The woodlands parcel extends south of Highway 403 and the railway tracks, east to Grindstone Creek and west to Howard Road. The area is located within a ravine area known as Grindstone Creek Valley.

"By building a clean, green and healthy Ontario for families, we're ensuring our province is the place to be for years to come," said David Caplan, Minister of Public Infrastructure Renewal. "We are supporting opportunities for tourism and recreation while preserving natural heritage."

Preserving this greenspace expands on the government's plan for cleaner air and water, creating a legacy for future generations to enjoy. Protecting environmentally sensitive land in the province is just one of the ways the McGuinty government is working on the side of Ontario families. Other initiatives include:

- Creating Ontario's Greenbelt, which protects 1.8 million acres of greenspace for families to enjoy now and in the future
- Delivering 650 acres of ecologically significant lands in the Town of Oakville into the care of Conservation Halton
- Protecting 180 acres of provincially significant natural heritage lands to create Hamilton's newest conservation area — Eramosa Karst
- Providing tools to encourage voluntary efforts to conserve and restore natural areas on private land through the Natural Spaces program.

"We're fortunate to live in the greatest province in the best country in the world — but that comes with a responsibility," said Premier McGuinty. "Our government is committed to ensuring that future generations can enjoy the great quality of life that my generation grew up with in Ontario."