

Old farm becomes Reveler Conservation Area

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CANNAMORE — YEARS AGO, A MEMBER OF THE FARMING REVELER CLAN DELAYED CUTTING A BIG DAMAGED TREE FOR FIREWOOD WHEN HE SPOTTED AN OWL SITTING IN ITS BRANCHES.

Late air-force veteran Ray Reveler exemplified this attitude, and thanks to his actions and that of his next of kin, a new Conservation Area now exists for posterity in this corner of North Stormont Township.

Although an Ottawa resident, he grew up on the farm next to the fallow and

rugged 99-acre parcel officially unveiled as the new Reveler Conservation Area on July 26.

Reveler snapped up the property in 1972 and doggedly refused to sell it for quarry development purposes, despite several offers over the years.

Today, South Nation Conservation owns the

property, after 10 of Reveler's surviving relatives declined monetary shares for the satisfaction of continued preservation of the site after his death in 2008.

"Uncle Ray did not do anything with the property," explained Ian Reveler at the official opening ceremony for the Reveler

Conservation Area, an event attended by nine of the heirs, including Ian Reveler's sister from PEI.

He marvelled that the property would remain preserved, even 100 years from now, and expressed relief at completing the lengthy process of turning over ownership.

"To see a property like

this preserved for future generations is exactly the kind of thing we want to see," observed SD&G Warden Eric Duncan, one of several dignitaries to speak at the event.

The Canadian shield juts out of the property, creating a stoney, alvar-like environment. Featuring a loop of publicly accessible trails, the site includes a 10-acre hardwood forest, wild grasslands, a small pond and two vernal pools, hedgerows, limestone outcroppings, and rare tree species including butternut, rock elm and slippery elm.

Visit the spot at 14255 Concession 10-11 Rd., near Reveler Rd.



Cutting the Ribbon

At left, members of the Reveler family pose with officials at the July 26 opening of the Reveler Conservation Area in N. Stormont. From left, North Stormont Deputy Mayor Bill McGimpsey, Joan Eadie, Margaret Reveler, Jim Ibbetson, Ian Reveler, Doug Reveler, South Nation Conservation Chair Bill Smirle, Helen Hamblin, Janet Dickie, SD&G Warden Eric Duncan, Elaine Reveler and SNC Past Chair Lawrence Levere. Zandbergen photo