

Champion Country

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& Wellington County

Exhibit features Hilton Falls' natural wonders

Discovery Centre brings park's story to life

By **STEPHANIE THIESSEN**
The Champion

Trees beginning to show just a hint of autumn colour provided a picturesque backdrop for the opening of a new exhibit at the Hilton Falls visitors' centre October 1.

The exhibit is designed to encourage learning about the natural wonders at Hilton Falls Conservation Area in a fun and interactive setting.

"Educating people about the natural environment is critical to create healthy watersheds," said Jean Williams, chair of Conservation Halton, the agency that operates Hilton Falls.

The new Discovery Centre features a series of illustrated panels showing how Hilton Falls — a 10-metre cascading waterfall — was formed. It also details the pioneer sawmills that were constructed nearby.

The exhibit includes information on the water control reservoir and the wide range of plants and animals inhabiting the park.

A computer at the exhibit allows visitors to see a wide variety of birds found at the park and, with the click of a button, to hear them in an identifying challenge.

"Hilton Falls is one of our more beautiful parks, especially this season with the fall colours," said watershed communications specialist Hassaan Basit, who spoke

"Educating people about the natural environment is critical to create healthy watersheds."

JEAN WILLIAMS

at the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Burlington and regional councillor Carol D'Amelio said the exhibit is the result of teamwork.

"Today's exhibit is reflective of the tangible outcome of a shared vision," she said, referring to the partnership between the Conservation Halton Foundation and financial sponsors Canada Life, the Burlington Community Foundation and the Canada Trust Friends of the Environment Foundation (Burlington chapter).

Milton councillor Brian Penman said: "The Hilton Falls exhibit tells a great story and will have a great future."

The 645-hectare Hilton Falls is recognized as one of the largest and most significant natural areas in southern Ontario. It features a number of unique and rare species of animals and plants, plus the ruins of three pioneer sawmills.

Stephanie Thiessen can be reached at sthiessen@miltoncanadianchampion.com.



From left, Conservation Halton Chair Jean Williams, TD Friends of the Environment Regional Co-ordinator Roger St. Louis, Halton MPP Ted Chudleigh and Conservation Halton Foundation Chair Don Ford cut the ceremonial ribbon to open Hilton Falls' new exhibit in the visitors' centre (shown at left).

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