

Champion Country

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& Wellington County

New Crawford Lake facility a haven for learning



Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

From left, Conservation Halton Chair Jean Williams, Mayor Gord Krantz, Conservation Halton Foundation's Don Ford, Halton MPP Ted Chudleigh and Professor TV the turkey vulture unveil the building marker sign for Crawford Lake's Gathering Place Learning Centre.

By **STEPHANIE THIESSEN**
The Champion

The misty rain may have dampened feet Wednesday afternoon, but did little to dampen spirits at the opening of Crawford Lake Conservation Area's Gathering Place.

A ceremony was held to officially open the new multi-purpose building in the 219-hectare park, which sits adjacent to the reconstructed 15th-century Iroquoian Village.

Each year, Crawford Lake hosts more than 27,000 school children in its educational programs. The Gathering Place will accommodate an extra 4,000 eager learners.

"The new building is already solidly booked by school groups for the entire school year," said Amy Schnurr, manager of Crawford Lake.

The building offers full multi-media presentation capabilities, seating for 120 people, a fully-equipped kitchen and a deck offering a scenic view of the park.

Funds for the Gathering Place were raised by the Conservation Halton Foundation.

"Crawford Lake is a unique park and loved by many, from near and far," said foundation chair Don Ford, adding the park's rare glacial meromictic lake is a geologically significant feature. "The

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