

Independence Day arrives for Country Heritage Park

After lengthy negotiations, Province transfers park to non-profit operators

By Robin Downton-Poirier
SPECIAL TO THE CHAMPION

March 30, 2006 will forever be known as Independence Day at Country Heritage Park.

That day the park's purchase by Country Heritage Experience Inc. from the Province was finalized following almost six years of negotiations.

The new ownership was announced by Country Heritage Experience Inc. president David Pelletterio at the annual general meeting Friday.

"It has been a long and complex process since negotiations began with the Province of Ontario in the summer of 2000, but as of March 30, 2006, the transfer was completed," said Pelletterio.

"This is another major milestone in the preservation and development of one of Canada's premier agricultural heritage attractions."

Huron-Bruce MPP Carol Mitchell, representing the Province, told those at the meeting that she feels comfortable



MELANIE HENNESSEY / CANADIAN CHAMPION

DONE DEAL: Huron-Bruce MPP Carol Mitchell, representing Queen's Park, congratulates Country Heritage Experience Inc. president David Pelletterio on finalizing the deal to purchase the park from the Province.

"passing over the baton" to Country Heritage Experience Inc.

"I know you will do a wonderful job," she remarked.

Ward 1 Councillor Brian Penman brought greetings and congratulations on a "major, major accomplishment" from the Town.

"Now, it's Independence Day and you can go forward and build this site in ways that

weren't possible in the past," he said. "This site is now in tremendously competent hands."

Country Heritage Park was opened to the public in 1979 and boasts a vast collection of rural heritage artifacts and buildings on its 80-acre site on Tremaine Road.

The property was owned by the Province of Ontario but

• see FUNDRAISING on page A11

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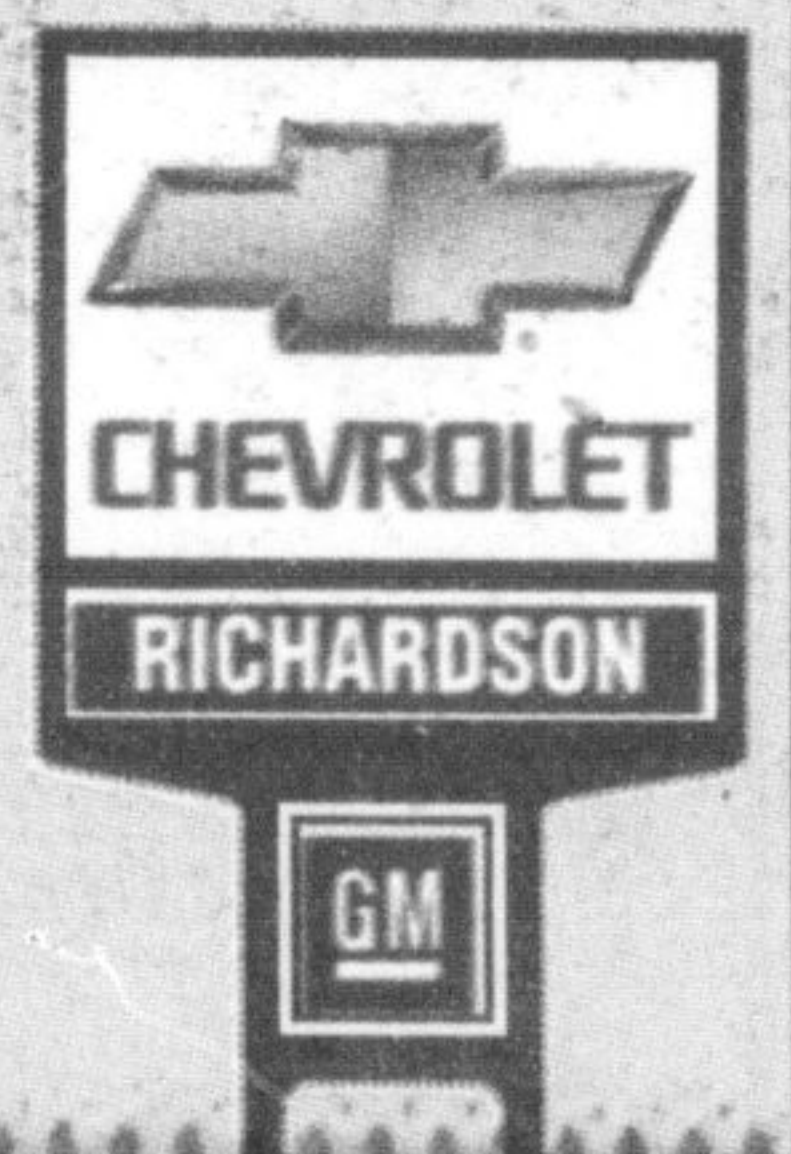
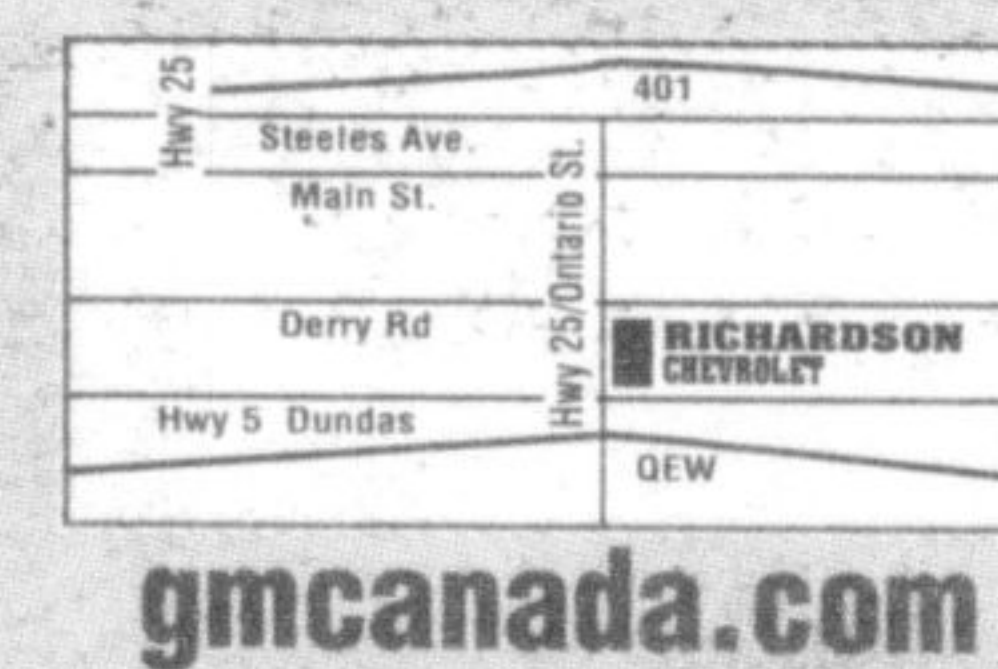
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