



SOUTH NATION
CONSERVATION
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DAY-LONG CELEBRATION TO INAUGURATE CONSERVATION CENTRE

May 26, 2009

A \$300,000 conference centre is the focal point of South Nation Conservation’s new headquarters at Finch to be officially opened June 12 with a day-long celebration at what was a former elementary school.

The idea behind the elaborate all-day opening, 10 am-8 pm, is to get as many SNC stakeholders involved as possible, said General Manager Dennis O’Grady.

“The Conservation Centre will be a people-friendly place where we intend to welcome guests regularly for any number of activities and we decided to get the ball rolling on opening day,” O’Grady said.

Inauguration day will include school tours, Eco-Adventure displays, entertainment, exhibits by watershed wildlife artists, “100-Mile Diet” refreshments, special guests, and free barbecue. All are welcome.

Converted from the former school gym into one large and two smaller meeting rooms, kitchen services and full audio-visual capability, the conference centre within the Conservation Centre can handle up to 175 people. The project was made possible by the provincial Rural Economic Development program.

“I’ve already had one local businessman tell me how happy he is to no longer have to leave the community to host major meetings.”

SNC spent most of its first 60 years in a converted school in Berwick which it outgrew. That building now serves as North Stormont municipal offices. The new Finch headquarters features 15 offices reconfigured from five former classrooms, a distinctive reception area, water quality, fisheries and chemical sampling lab, and plenty of storage.

O’Grady said the SNC board of directors is proud to have been able to retain its offices within the Township of North Stormont, remaining its largest employer.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Dennis O’Grady, SNC, 1-877-984-2948, ext. 226.

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