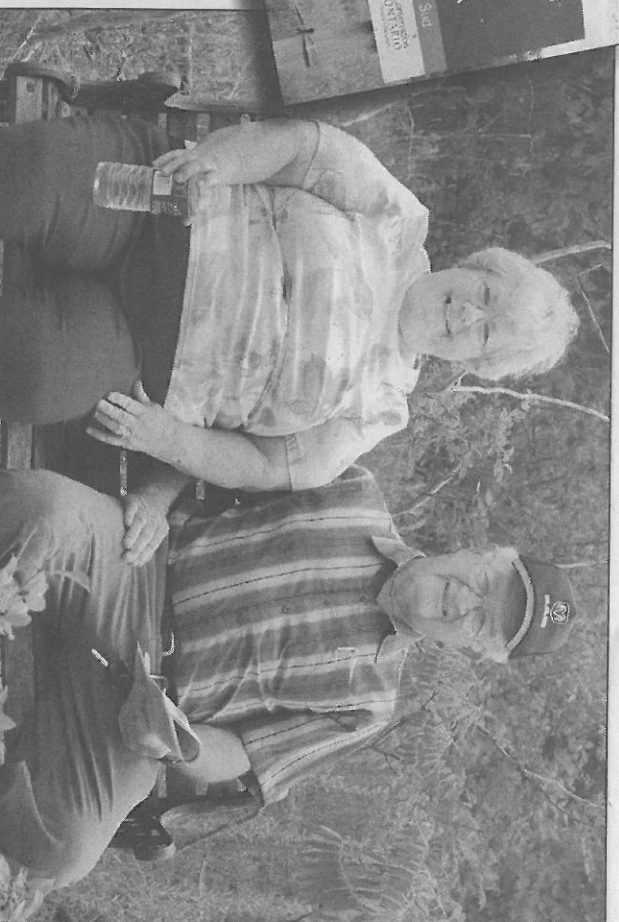


On a tour of the trail, Joan Eadie (one of the 10 Reveler cousins who made the donation possible), and her husband, Murray, rested on a bench.



Press Photos – Casselman

Reveler Conservation Area opens New two-kilometre trail winds through 99-acre 'natural heritage treasure'

CRYSLER – A crowd gathered at the newly designated Reveler Conservation Area, a 99-acre “natural heritage treasure” positioned at the corner of Reveler Road and Concession 10-11 between Morewood and Crysler, during the South Nation Conservation (SNC) hosted official opening.

On Sat., July 26, following remarks from selected community representatives and an official ribbon-cutting ceremony, attendees were taken on a guided tour of the area’s new two-kilometre trail, featuring hardwood forest, grasslands, a pond, vernal pools, hedgerows, rare tree species (butternut, rock elm, and slippery elm), and endangered bird species (Eastern Meadowlark, Bobolink, and Loggerhead Shrike).

Bill Smirle, chair of South Nation Conservation (SNC)’s board of directors, spoke to the crowd at the official opening. SNC currently manages 11,100 acres of land, he said, but would like to increase that number

to 20,000 acres throughout the next 10 years.

The land was donated to SNC by the nieces and nephews of Ray Reveler, who purchased the property

in 1972. Ian Reveler, one of the 10 cousins who inherited a piece of the land, said that if any one of them had chosen not to donate, the entire project would have been im-



The family’s representative, Ian Reveler (right), took guests on tours of the property’s trail.

possible. The decision, he continued, was due in large part to their uncle’s steadfast loyalty to the land and its many inhabitants, both plant and animal.

Although he had plenty of offers from individuals and corporations looking to purchase the land, including someone looking to create a quarry, Ray did nothing with the property when he owned it, Ian said, pointing out that while he did occasionally let people cut down some trees, these were monitored and chosen carefully.

So, following his uncle’s death in 2008, Ian and his cousins made the decision to donate the land to Environment Canada. (The site is managed by SNC under the direction of the governmental agency.)

“The future of this property was in real doubt. All of that doubt is now gone. We know the future of this property is now extremely bright,” Ian said, suggesting that now it could still be here in 100 years for people to walk through and enjoy.