



Canada Lands Company Opens Memorial Park

Ottawa, September 15, 2003 – Canada Lands Company today officially opened its newly constructed Rideau Veterans Memorial Park located on the former Rideau Veterans Home lands on Smyth Road in Ottawa. The park is located on Remembrance Crescent in Canada Lands' recently developed Oak Park subdivision. The park was planned and developed to recognize the heritage of the lands and buildings that once graced this site. The park has been dedicated by Canada Lands to the city and the community in memory of the Canadian Veterans who once resided there and called it home.

The Rideau Veterans Home opened in 1946 as a short-term stay facility where Veterans could undergo rehabilitation prior to reintegration into the community. It soon evolved into a home where Veterans resided for many years. Given the age and poor condition of the old facilities, the Rideau Veterans Home was relocated to the Perley and Rideau Veterans Health Centre site in 1995.

Canada Lands acquired the site in 1998 and developed a re-use concept plan based on input from the community and key project stakeholders. The demolition and environmental remediation work was successfully completed in 2000, and Canada Lands was able to recycle and save 85% of the demolished materials from entering a landfill. In addition to the Rideau Veterans Memorial Park, the concept plan includes a mixed density housing development, and anticipates a retirement residence and a small office building. The site of the park was chosen to protect and make use of a 300 year-old Burr Oak tree that has become a living legacy to the history of the site and is the magnificent backdrop for a memorial plaque at the centre of the park. The memorial plaque itself is supported by cairns made of stones recovered from the old fireplaces that adorned the Veterans' cottages.

"As the son of a veteran, I am proud that a permanent honour will be dedicated to the men and women who fought for Canada - and especially those who lived here when this was the Rideau Veterans Home," said the Honourable John Manley, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and the local Member of Parliament for Ottawa South. "After all, this site was not just a building. For most of a half-century, it was a home for people who had given so much to Canada at a time when they needed the services it offered."

"I believe that the Rideau Veterans Memorial Park will be an open space for all to enjoy for many years to come," said the Honourable Steven Mahoney, Secretary of State (Selected Crown Corporations).

"This project celebrates the contribution the former Rideau Veterans Home residents and their families have made to this community and to our country," said His Worship Mayor Bob Chiarelli. "This park recognizes the importance of honouring Canada's Veterans and will represent and solidify their legacy for future generations to come."

"Canada Lands is committed to improving the communities in which it operates," said Jim Lynes, Vice President of Real Estate for Canada Lands' Eastern Region. "Over the past two years, numerous veteran volunteers, along with our many partners on this project, worked tirelessly to make this park a reality."

Canada Lands is a federal Crown corporation established in 1995 to create financial and community value from properties no longer required by the Government of Canada. The company is self-financing and implements innovative property solutions to enhance the quality of life in communities where it operates.

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