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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Seguin Recreational Trail Bridge Now Open

Parry Sound: The Swords Bridge on the Seguin Recreational Trail was officially opened today by Park-To-Park Trail Association and Parry Sound Snowmobile District. The bridge was closed this summer after one of the cribs failed and it was apparent that it couldn't be repaired. Replacement was the only option and a funding plan was assembled to reach the \$75,000 price tag. The closure of the trail affected all trail users until Seguin Township approved a bypass around the bridge through Orrville. The council also approved ATV's to temporarily use the roads to bypass this bridge.

With an approximate price tag of \$75,000, a cooperative approach was vital. Funding sources for the project was a partnership between Park-To-Park Trail and the Parry Sound Snowmobile District. Funding was provided by Northern Ontario Heritage Fund, Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs, Seguin Township and the Fisheries Improvement Fund through the Ministry of Natural Resources.

The bridge was opened by Norm Miller, MPP Muskoka Parry Sound, Bill Park, Parry Sound Snowmobile District, Steve Alcock, Park-To-Park Trail and David Conn, Mayor Seguin Township.

The Seguin Trail brings about \$7 Million Dollars in the Parry Sound economy during the winter months. With an average of 1,000 snowmobiles a day during peak times, the impact of having a bridge closed is large. The new bridge was placed on the old railway trestle abutments which restores the historic view for trail users.

"The opening of this bridge on the Seguin Recreational Trail is a historic moment as the bridge restores the major east west trail link for all users, four seasons, between Parry Sound and Muskoka regions and restores the glory of the JR Booth Railway." Steve Alcock, Co-Chair, Park-To-Park Trail Association.

The Park-to-Park Trail is 230 kms of multi-use, all-season trails that extends between Algonquin and Killbear Provincial Parks. The trail is nearing completion with the last portion of the trail developed through Carling Township in the Fall of 2005 with a few minor upgrades to be finished in the Spring of 2006. The wild and natural corridor between Algonquin and Killbear – was first conceived in 1999 by two councillors, one residing in Huntsville the other in Parry Sound. Since that time, 10 municipalities have embraced the trail development connecting seven provincial parks and traversing historic rail beds, colonization roads, scenic wetlands, ghost towns, Precambrian shield and primary forests.