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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Photo attached, location: Swords Bridge site over the Little Seguin River, Seguin Recreational Trail.

Seguin Recreational Trail Bridge to be Replaced Before Snowmobile Season Starts

Parry Sound: The Swords Bridge on the Seguin Recreational Trail will finally be replaced after years of temporary repairs. The bridge was closed this summer after one of the cribs failed. 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. It was apparent that the bridge would require replacing especially before the busy snowmobile season.

With an approximate price tag of \$75,000, a cooperative approach was vital. Seeking 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 new bridge will be placed on the old railway trestle abutments which will restore the historic view for trail users.

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. "When bridges are closed, it affects all trail users all seasons. It is more difficult to accommodate snowmobiles and groomers on public roads. We had many people who didn't come up to the area last winter because they heard the bridges were closed. We want to tell people to come back as the bridges are open and safe because of partnerships like this one." said Kirsten Spence, Project Coordinator for Park-To-Park Trail. "

The bridge is scheduled to be finished mid December. Schlager Excavating and Seguin Welding will be undertaking the work. Cec Smith, Park-To-Park Trail President commented "It is nice to have local businesses undertaking the work in their backyards. We try to use local services wherever possible to increase the economic impact in the area generated by the Park-To-Park Trail."

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.

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Connecting Killbear to Algonquin Provincial Park

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