

August 23, 2006

## **New provincial park to be created in Alberta**

3,246 acre park will span 14 kms of Bow River shoreline between Calgary and Cochrane

Calgary... A fragile and majestic stretch of the Bow River valley between Calgary and Cochrane will be preserved through a land agreement between the Harvie family of Cochrane and the Alberta government.

The Harvie family has agreed to sell the Alberta government 3,246 acres of the Glenbow Ranch for less than market value for park purposes, a size roughly equal to Fish Creek Provincial Park.

"This once-in-a-lifetime opportunity allows the Alberta government to create a new provincial park that will be a legacy of conservation, education and recreation opportunities for all Albertans to enjoy," said Premier Ralph Klein.

"With development pressures mounting from both Calgary and Cochrane, we are very pleased the Alberta government decided to support a park that our family has thought about for decades," said Tim Harvie on behalf of three family generations who have ranched the historic valley for more than 70 years.

"Our late father Neil Harvie dreamed this beautiful landscape could be protected from development and conserved for all time," added Harvie, whose grandfather, Eric Harvie, purchased the first land for the ranch in 1933 before passing it on to his son Neil in 1953. "Today, our family would like to thank the Government of Alberta for helping to make this dream come true."

Public access to the planned Glenbow Ranch Provincial Park will be prohibited for about a year to protect the landscape and its sensitive ecological balance while the government and Harvie family complete the transition from ranch to parkland.

An independent appraisal completed late last year placed the land value at about \$67 million. Recent land sales place the estimated value of the land at about \$80 million. The government agreement reached includes the purchase price of \$40 million along with a \$27 million charitable donation tax receipt for the Harvie family. The family will also provide \$6 million to establish the Harvie Conservancy Foundation. The Foundation will divide the funds between the planned Glenbow Ranch Provincial Park and the recently-created Lois Hole Centennial Provincial Park near Edmonton.

"This landscape is breath-taking, with a rich ranching story to celebrate, exceptional historic value and unique ecological attributes," said Denis Ducharme, Minister of Alberta Community Development, responsible for parks and protected areas.

Tim Harvie and his sister, Katie Harvie, who both currently ranch the land, were joined at the announcement by their sisters, Pauli Smith and Carol Raymond, and their mother, Robin Harvie. The four siblings own the land that will become the new park.

The new park will help meet a growing demand for walking, biking and other trails between Calgary and Cochrane. It will also help meet the growing demand for environmental education that already is greater than the existing education centre at Fish Creek Provincial Park. Since its opening 23 years ago, close to a half-million students, 15,000 teachers and 85,000 parent volunteers have participated in programs at the Environmental Learning Centre in Fish Creek Provincial Park.

Editor's Note: A map of the new park is located on the park's website at [www.cd.gov.ab.ca/parks/glenbow](http://www.cd.gov.ab.ca/parks/glenbow).

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