

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Pat Mighton
Chair, Country Heritage Park Board of Directors
519-696-3021

NEW LEADERSHIP TEAM AT COUNTRY HERITAGE PARK

January 11, 2010, Milton – The Board of Directors of Country Heritage Park (CHP) is pleased to announce the appointment of David Nattress to the position of General Manager effective February 1, 2010.

Nattress succeeds Reg Cressman who has served as CHP General Manager since 1998. During a two-year period of transition to full retirement Cressman will manage business development projects and fundraising initiatives for Country Heritage Park.

“David Nattress brings an outstanding set of skills and qualifications to Country Heritage Park,” said CHP Board Chair, Pat Mighton. Nattress has a B.Sc. in Agriculture from the University of Guelph. He began his career in agriculture as a sales representative and area supervisor for United Co-operatives of Ontario. He then moved on to Monsanto Company, where, over twenty years, he served in various senior positions, including: world-wide product Manager in St Louis, Missouri, USA; Vice-President, Agriculture Products, Canada; Vice-President, Chemicals Division, Canada; and Director, Animal Science, Canada/India. More recently Nattress has worked as a consultant in the agricultural industry and as a real estate broker with Royal LePage.

Nattress’ interest and involvement in Country Heritage Park date back to 1996 when he joined the Ontario Rural Heritage Preservation Committee. At that time the Government of Ontario had announced its intention to close the site, which had been operating since 1979 as the Ontario Agricultural Museum, and to divest the collection of agriculture and rural life artifacts. The Preservation Committee was formed to save this unique collection and keep the site open to the public. Nattress wrote the business plan used to steer Country Heritage Park through its early years as a non-government entity. He has been a CHP board member since 1999 and prior to his appointment to the position of General Manager, served three years as Board Chair.

Mighton also acknowledged Cressman’s significant contribution to CHP over the past 11 years. “Thanks to Reg Cressman’s leadership we have progressed from a government-owned facility slated for closure to a thriving enterprise now owned and operated by a not-for-profit corporation. In the last year alone, more than 12,000 students participated in our hands-on agricultural and heritage education programs, which are closely aligned to the Ontario school curriculum.”

In addition, CHP offers special events, tour group programs, day camps, an outstanding collection of antique tractors, steam engines, farm equipment and rural life artifacts, and facilities for weddings, trade shows, corporate and family celebrations and business meetings. Recent approval by the Ministry of Natural Resources of the CHP Master Development Plan ideally positions the Park to move aggressively into the next decade.

Country Heritage Park, is nestled in the shadows of the Niagara Escarpment, south of Highway 401, at 8560 Tremaine Road on the west side of Milton, Ontario. For directions and information on other programs offered by the Park go to www.countryheritagepark.com.