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The community of Sturgeon Point turned out to welcome Mayor Ric McGee on Saturday, July 4 to celebrate the grand opening of the recently renovated Park in the Woods. Part of that ceremony included the unveiling of a plaque recognizing contributions of local residents, businesses, and the City of Kawartha Lakes. With the plaque in the photograph above are, from left to right, John Eaton and Sally Horsfall Eaton, who contributed the newly christened Eaton Pavilion at the park, McGee, Sturgeon Point Association president Lynne Manning and Bob Barrett, whose fund raising efforts helped bring the total value of contributions to more than \$125,000.

Community pitches in for park, playground

KAWARTHA LAKES - On Saturday July 4, almost 200 residents of Sturgeon Point gathered to celebrate the official opening of their newly renovated "Park in the Woods."

Children tried out the new playground equipment and then shared a barbecue lunch and birthday cake along with parents and grandparents.

Lynne Manning, president of the Sturgeon Point Association (SPA), hosted the ribbon-cutting ceremony which included the participation of City of Kawartha Lakes Mayor Ric McGee.

Since the land on which the playground is located is privately

held by a trust, the renovations could not be funded by the City of Kawartha Lakes Parks and Recreation department.

This left the community with the significant challenge of upgrading an out-of-date playground on its own.

Cottager Greg Taylor volunteered to head up the playground committee made up of young parents to plan for an upgraded park.

They soon discovered that the project would cost about \$125,000.

A fundraising committee was then struck by SPA and chaired by Bob Barrett.

While SPA contributed funds raised from membership fees, local residents came up with half of the required funds, a remarkable accomplishment. Further support was received from several Fenelon Falls businesses, several Foundations and matching fund grants.

Excavation costs were covered and a covered pavilion was donated.

Thanks to the hard work and support of many, the "Park in the Woods" has already become a favourite gathering place for residents and visitors to Sturgeon Point and a testimony to the spirit of this historic community.