

For Immediate Release

BRIDGE DESIGNED TO ACCOMMODATE WILDLIFE

Edmonton, Alberta – August 31, 2015

The Walton Group of Companies (“Walton”) is pleased to announce that Hawks Ridge Pass, the new wildlife bridge in the community of Hawks Ridge at Big Lake in Edmonton, Alberta, officially opened on August 19, 2015. The \$4 million wildlife underpass was built to accommodate moose and other wildlife migrating through the region. The bridge has a concrete deck and an off-centre pillar below to allow wildlife more room to travel through the environmental corridor with little impediment. The project was designed in conjunction with Alberta Environment, City of Edmonton staff and local environmental advocates. The structure is the first one of its kind in Alberta, outside of Canada’s national parks.

This project is one of multiple initiatives with special interest environmental groups to minimize the development impact of roughly 1,200 new homes in three communities at Big Lake (Hawks Ridge at Big Lake accounts for upwards of 400 homes in the area). As part of the initiative, residents are also provided with rain barrels, limited on the amount of hard surface landscaping and are not allowed to use pesticides or chemical de-icers on the pavement or concrete during winter. Additionally, land has been graded to prevent run-off from entering the lake before it is treated in a sequence of bio-swales and naturalized storm water management facilities. Protecting local wildlife is essential to Walton as we strive to build sustainable communities for present and future generations, while minimizing impact to the surrounding environment.

Hawks Ridge Pass makes up a portion of 215th Street (Winterburn Road), which was opened with the completion of the bridge. 215th Street is planned as a four-lane arterial road, allowing residents easy access to the neighbourhood via Yellowhead Trail. With improved and convenient access to the community completed, Walton can proceed with the next stage of residential development and marketing, including new showhomes that are scheduled to open on October 3, 2015.

Hawks Ridge at Big Lake is a 136-acre community located in northwest Edmonton. The community is adjacent to Lois Hole Centennial Provincial Park and is surrounded by open, natural space. Additional amenities include a future school site and a mixed-use commercial space. To learn more about Hawks Ridge at Big Lake, please visit HawksRidge.ca

About Walton

Walton is a multi-national real estate investment, planning and development group concentrating on the research, acquisition, administration, planning and development of strategically located lands in major North American growth corridors. Walton currently has nine developments in Edmonton, including six residential communities and three industrial sites.

Walton has been in business for more than 30 years. It has a generational perspective to land use planning and development, with over 97,000 acres of land under administration and management, including 21 development projects currently underway. For more information, visit Walton.com.

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