



A NEWSLETTER FOR MUNICIPAL COUNCILLORS
October 2009

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The Tri-Valley Conservation Awards

We all know that environmental protection is not a question of government grants or municipal programs. Those things help but it will really be won or lost by each and every one of us doing the small daily things that will make a difference. . .and that's what these awards are all about. Recognizing the teachers, the farmers, the students, the parents, the business people and community groups who strive to voluntarily and quietly make the world a better place one step at a time with little or no fanfare beyond the personal satisfaction of making our local world healthier for our kids and grandkids.

The Mississippi, Rideau and South Nation Conservation Authorities and their respective Foundations are very proud to shed a little light on these great people telling their stories and recognizing their efforts on behalf of us all.

We extend our sincere appreciation and applause to the winners for 2009 as well as to all the nominees and to the thousands of other people and projects of which we are not yet aware. You probably know several in your own community who would make excellent candidates in 2010 (please don't lose that thought!).

And the Winners for 2009 Are . . .

Primary Schools

- Teacher Maggie LeMay provides the awesome leadership for the 400 students in Ottawa's Featherston Drive Public School to become environmentally aware and engage in many long-standing Green Projects.
- St. John Catholic School in Perth has also started many school-wide environmental projects to compost, recycle, protect and cleanup the environment and the community.

Intermediate/High Schools

- Perth & District Collegiate Institute took top honours with its famous GeoVenture Program introducing grade 11 and 12 students to environmental science and leadership skills.
- St. Thomas Aquinas in Russell prides itself in Promoting Environmental Awareness and Knowledge (PEAK) throughout the entire student body with cleanups, education, community days and the personal 3Rs.

Agriculture

- Jim and Nancy Wert of Stanlee Farms in Avonmore are recognized leaders in the farm community and lead by example in agricultural best management practices on their 400 acre Holstein operation.
- The Oak Valley Pioneer Park Volunteers from Mountain Township have transformed a scarred parcel of land along the South Nation into a public recreational and educational park and arboretum of regional significance.

Community Groups

- McDonald's Corners ReUsers scooped the hardware in this category by diverting usable items from the landfill and into the hands of folks who could use them- all for free. Toys, books, clothes, furniture etc with a new lease on life.



- The monarch butterfly received some welcome assistance this year with the installation of a butterfly garden by the Rideau Valley Field Naturalists in Perth...butterfly habitat and a strong public awareness campaign to help people do the same in their own backyard. Caring and sharing...

Individuals

- Tom Van Dusen of Russell has been an avid agricultural and environmental communicator for years through many kinds of community committees and groups including CAs, Planning Boards and forestry agencies. Tom won the winning paddle for his lifetime of conservation achievement.
- Lindley McPhail, also of Russell (world headquarters of conservationists), is an enthusiastic and tireless steward of the earth with on-the-ground influence and a following in horticulture, parks, community gardens and municipal properties.

Businesses

- Franziska and Douglas von Rosen own and operate Pinegrove Productions in Lanark where they turn their multimedia talents to producing outdoor education materials for schools across Canada.
- Lafleche Environmental in Moose Creek is a leader in waste management and state-of-the-art landfill processes including their famous Lafleche BioReactor transforming waste into methane to power regional homes.

Municipalities

- The City of Ottawa's Public Works Department has successfully developed the Spring and Fall Cleaning the Capital campaign into the biggest volunteer litter pickup program in Canada with over 80,000 people participating in 2009!

We are very proud to know these people and would invite you all to consider making nominations for the 2010 Tri-Valley Conservation Awards in the Mississippi, Rideau and South Nation watershed next Spring. Watch for announcements or write charles.billington@rvca.ca to get on the announcement mailing list.

May we also offer sincere thanks to the six community sponsors who stepped up to the plate and helped us out with funds, food, advertising, audio expertise, prizes and an outstanding Master of Ceremonies (huge thanks to Brian Perkin, LAKE 88.1):

- Ballygiblin's Restaurant & Pub in Carleton Place
- LAKE 88.1 Radio in Perth (Voice of the Lake Country)
- Mountain Equipment Co-op on Wellington Street in Ottawa
- Ottawa Regional Media Group (Print and Digital Media)
- ROGERS TV (serving much of the Tri-Valley area)
- TD Friends of the Environment Foundation (who help with hundreds of environmental projects all over the watersheds of Eastern Ontario).

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