

News Release

RIDEAU VALLEY CONSERVATION AWARD WINNERS

June 25, 2007 — The Conservation Award for 2006 goes to Susan O'Brien-MacTaggart and the Bobs and Crow Lakes Association for completing their lake management plan called "Imagine...A Stewardship Plan for Bobs and Crow Lakes". This stewardship plan, quarterbacked by Ms O'Brien-MacTaggart and her team of lake landowner volunteers, outlines realistic ways the community can improve the health of their lake area. The plan will have positive environmental effects not only on the two lakes directly involved but on the entire Tay Valley watershed. It took four years of work and is only the second such plan to exist in Eastern Ontario.

In presenting the award, Mary Bryden, Chair of the Conservation Foundation, said that this is the latest and most significant project of the group whose history of protecting their lake goes back 28 years. Other projects include water quality testing, improvements to fish habitat, landowner workshops and delivery of good shoreline stewardship information.

The Conservation Foundation also gave three Honourable Mention awards for 2006 for other areas of volunteer activity. The Friends of the Rideau received Honourable Mention for their ongoing commitment to raising the profile and awareness of the beauty, history, culture and environmental significance of the Rideau Waterway. The certificate was accepted by Friends Board member Rowena Cooper on behalf of President Ed Bebee.

The second Honourable Mention went to Mr. Ken Watson for his very informative and wide-ranging Rideau website. Congratulations to Ken for the creation, maintenance and commitment to telling people about the Rideau for over ten years.

The final Honourable Mention went to Dwayne Struthers and Garnet Baker of the Leeds Stewardship Council for their leadership, dedication and personal effort in creating an environmental corridor between Bellamy Lake and Irish Lake in the Toledo area of Elizabethtown-Kitley. These gentlemen contacted all landowners, brush-hogged sites and eventually planted over 51,000 trees in creating this lake-to-lake wildlife corridor.

The Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation is very proud to sponsor the annual Conservation Awards program. These distinctions are given to a volunteer group or individual from our watershed who demonstrates outstanding voluntary stewardship of the natural resources of the valley. Past awards have been given for work in forestry, community involvement, water quality improvements and watershed information. The program is in its 11th year.

It is our intention to highlight some of the many people and groups doing excellent work along the Rideau and its tributaries. Sincere thanks to all who are doing their share to take care of this beautiful part of Ontario in which we live.

This year's awards were handed out at a joint meeting and tour for all Advisory Board members of the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority held recently in Smiths Falls.

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