

News Release

REGIONAL OUTDOOR EDUCATORS WIN PROVINCIAL AWARDS

MANOTICK, October 24, 2007 — Peter Goddard, Manager of the Baxter Conservation Area south of Manotick, was recently honoured with the prestigious Dorothy Walter Award by the Council of Outdoor Educators of Ontario for “outstanding commitment to the development of leadership qualities in Ontario youth through outdoor education.” Geoffrey Cass, Coordinator of Outdoor Education Programs accepted the Robin Dennis Award on behalf of the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board for “an outstanding contribution to the promotion and development of outdoor education in the province”.

Mr Goddard has worked for the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority for seven years. His base of operations is the Baxter Conservation Area on the Rideau River just south of Kars. He has developed the Baxter Conservation Area Outdoor Education program into one of the busiest and most successful in Eastern Ontario. Almost 5,000 school age children and organized youth groups pass through Peter’s programs each year. He is Stage Manager for the exciting Ottawa Childrens’ Water Festival happening each spring at Baxter. Peter is a well-respected naturalist whose professional opinion is often sought by others and he has acted as mentor teacher for dozens of recent graduates from across the province.

“Outdoor education reaches youngsters at many levels: learning facts, seeing amazing things for the first time, physical exercise, teamwork and self-reliance. I have been fortunate to work in this area for over 20 years and every day is still an exciting new chance to help kids learn”, said Mr Goddard.

Ron Williamson, teacher at John McCrae Secondary School and member of COEO, added “It truly was a real highlight to see Peter’s tremendous work being recognized. Thanks (to RVCA) for the ongoing support of Baxter and the wonderful opportunities it affords our students.”

Teachers who wish to see the menu of programs available at Baxter and across the region can call or write Peter Goddard at 613-489 3592 or peter.goddard@rideauvalley.on.ca. Reservations for Spring half or full-day programs are now being accepted.

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More information:
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