

News Release

CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES SALUTE THE VOLUNTEER COMMUNITY

RIDEAU VALLEY, October 22, 2009 — It was high praise and good wishes all around October 21 as voluntary community environmental leaders in the Mississippi Valley, Rideau Valley and South Nation Conservation watersheds were publicly recognized for their outstanding actions. More than 100 people from the three watersheds were on hand at the Almonte Old Town Hall auditorium in Mississippi Mills to hear and see the work of 13 finalists for the second annual Tri-Valley Conservation Awards.

First and second place winners in the following categories were recognized:

Primary Schools:

1. Featherston Drive Public School, Ottawa
2. St. John Catholic Elementary, Perth

Intermediate/High Schools:

1. Perth & District Collegiate Institute GeoVentures Program, Perth
2. St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic High School, Russell

Agriculture:

1. Stanlee Farms (Jim & Nancy Wert), Avonmore
2. Oak Valley Pioneer Park Volunteers, Mountain Township

Community Groups:

1. McDonald's Corners ReUsers, Lanark Highlands
2. Rideau Valley Field Naturalists, Perth

Individuals:

1. Tom Van Dusen, Russell
2. Lindley McPhail, Russell

Businesses:

1. Pingrove productions, Lanark Highlands
2. LaFlèche Environmental, Moose Creek

Municipalities:

1. City of Ottawa (Spring and Fall Cleaning the Capital)

The winning projects of all the finalists are described on the Gala Program available online at www.mvc.on.ca <<http://www.mvc.on.ca>> under the Tri-Valley Conservation Awards Gala logo.

Lake 88.1 radio personality Brian Perkin emceed the evening taking us through the lineup of finalists with presenters representing the gala sponsors and the three conservation authorities. The evening was topped off with a reception where finalists, guests and organizers enjoyed culinary delights provided courtesy of Ballygiblin's Restaurant and Pub of Carleton Place.

"It is a privilege to be able to publicly recognize and talk with these groups and individuals who work in and around our watersheds every day providing the knowledge, initiative and hard work to make the positive impact on our regions," says Mark Burnham, Chair of Mississippi Valley Conservation.

Winners received personalized canoe paddles with a message of thanks from the people of the Mississippi, Rideau and South Nation watersheds or framed certificates. The Conservation Authorities had a lot of support from our community-minded sponsors including Lake 88.1, Ballygiblin's Restaurant and Pub, Rogers TV, Ottawa Region Media Group, TD Friends of the Environment and Mountain Equipment Coop.

The next Tri-Valley Conservation Awards are scheduled for the fall of 2010, start thinking about your nominations now.

-end-

For more information:

Mississippi area: Suzanne McFarlane at 613-259-5307 ext. 225 or smcfarlane@mvc.on.ca

Rideau area: Charles Billington at 613-692-3571 ext. 1116 or charles.billington@rvca.ca

South Nation area: Karen Cooper at 613-984-2948 ext. 245 or kcooper@nation.on.ca