



MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

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Conservation Halton recognizes local environmental champions at Conservation Awards of Excellence

BURLINGTON – Conservation Halton (CH) held its 29th annual Conservation Awards of Excellence ceremony on Thursday, June 2, 2011 at its Administration Centre in Burlington. The awards are presented to people and organizations that make outstanding contributions to conservation in the Halton watershed which includes Halton, Peel, Hamilton and Puslinch.

The 2011 award recipients are as follows:

- **Citizen Award**
Kale Black (Burlington)
- **Community Award**
Rattlesnake Point Bolting Project, Kit Moore and Dr. Harry Hoediono
- **Corporate Award**
City of Burlington
- **Education Awards**
Gladys Speers Elementary School (Oakville)
Oriana Harris, W.I. Dick Middle School (Milton)
- **Parks Volunteer**
Don Lee (Mississauga)
- **Stewardship Award**
Town of Halton Hills Fire Department
- **Ralph Sherwood Honour Roll**
Don Ford (Bramalea)

“The Conservation Halton Awards of Excellence pay tribute to the good work done by people and organizations in the community to benefit the natural environment in our watershed,” said Conservation Halton Chair John Vice, “Congratulations to everyone who received, or were nominated for an award, your commitment is making a tremendous difference,” Said Vice.

More details about the recipients and their accomplishments can be found below. Nearly 100 guests and dignitaries attended the awards ceremony, which also included a presentation by the Mountsberg Raptor Centre.

The award recipients received certificates of appreciation from CH and their names will be placed on a plaque prominently displayed in the lobby of Conservation Halton’s Administration Centre.

2011 Conservation Halton Awards of Excellence Recipients

Citizen Award

Kale Black

Kale Black is a leader of BurlingtonGreen Youth Network and has been donating his time and effort to improving every aspect of the regional environment through the spearheading of conferences, restoration projects and many local youth outreach projects. Kale’s most notable conservation-related activities include co-spearheading the planning, organizing and implementation of Burlington’s first Youth Eco-conference which had representation from 22 Burlington schools and 400 participants. In the past year, he has helped create volunteer opportunities and organized outdoor clean-ups, restoration projects and invasive plant species pulls in partnership with Royal Botanical Gardens, Bay Area Restoration Council, Field and Stream Rescue and Environment Canada.

Community Award Rattlesnake Point Bolting Project (Kit Moore & Dr. Harry Hoediono)

Kit Moore (Alpine Club of Canada, Toronto Section) along with Harry Hoediono (Ontario Access Coalition), volunteered their time to work with park staff to install anchor bolts along the brow of the escarpment at the three climbing areas within Rattlesnake Point Conservation Area. Harry and Kit engaged CH staff and developed a proposal to benefit the natural environment by protecting trees along the escarpment brow, and increasing safety for the climbers. Prior to the Bolting Project climbers were using trees to build their anchors. Trees along the escarpment brow have very shallow roots and can easily come loose resulting in serious injuries to climbers. As well, the barks of the trees were showing rope burn damage. With the installation of the anchor bolts, climbers can now build their anchors with the installed bolts, instead of using trees, thus removing one of the harsh growing conditions these trees are facing. This work took place over the last five years as 440 bolts were placed along the brow of the three climbing areas within Rattlesnake Point. Kit and Harry gave up many a day off in the spring and fall each year to complete this project. Kit and Harry’s initiative and commitment resulted in a successful project.

Corporate Award

City of Burlington

On Earth Day, April 22, 2010, the City of Burlington officially launched the new solar thermal heating system at Tansley Woods Community Centre, the city's first significant renewable energy project among a number of initiatives to reduce energy consumption and its carbon footprint. The City is involved in several initiatives to reduce corporate and community greenhouse gas emissions, such as energy efficient lighting at city facilities; LED fixtures at city traffic signals; energy management systems at all city-owned indoor pools; the installation of bike racks on all Burlington transit buses, as well as other energy efficiency initiatives currently underway. There are other energy efficiency initiatives being undertaken utilizing technology. An Energy Tracking system will measure and manage corporate energy consumption, and a corporate-wide Building Automation System (BAS) project will allow the city to utilize technology to track, control and report on heating, cooling, and lighting systems at 27 facilities.

Education Awards

Gladys Speers Elementary School, Oakville

Gladys Speers is a pioneer when it comes to hands-on, education programs that encourage youth to become better stewards of the environment. Gladys Speers has done many initiatives to earn this award. Students participated in Earth Hour and other local projects. Gladys Speers put green carts in all the rooms, which the students empty and clean out every Wednesday and Friday. They also empty and check the blue bins every Wednesday. "Waste less Wednesdays" encourage students to pack their lunches in reusable containers. The school has been working on fundraising initiatives to symbolically adopt a polar bear family from World Wildlife Fund, and is taking an active role in fundraising for other endangered species. The students are participating in a live school eco-presentation to inspire and educate kids about the impact we have on all living species and their habitats, and the importance of making responsible choices. Gladys Speers also participated in Earth Hour by turning off all equipment that used electricity and more than 70% of students participated in Earth Hour on Saturday March 26 in their homes. During Earth Week, the school participated in a clean up to remove the garbage from their local streets. The ECO Team is planning to create an outdoor classroom which will create shade cover and opportunities for students to explore the earth and deepen their understanding of how to take care of our environment. The grade one students at Gladys Speers are working with the Royal Botanical Gardens to restore marshland in Cootes Paradise and monitoring a mini marshland.

Oriana Harris, W.I. Dick Middle School, Milton

Oriana Harris is involved in promoting environmental awareness and responsibility by delivering presentations to school children at W.I. Dick Middle School as well as Martin Street Public School. As a member of Greenpeace, she is passionate about all sea creatures, but especially sharks. For a recent presentation to the staff and students at W.I. Dick, she enlisted a team to help her present it, scripted their parts, rehearsed it ahead of time and directed it on stage. She highlighted many different species of marine life and their impact on the world, as well as global warming and the benefits of using clean and green energy. You may be surprised to learn that Oriana is only 12 years old.

Education Award - Oriana Harris (continued) All of her environmental activities are done on her own initiative. She is developing presentations for the Halton District School Board, in the hope that she can take them to other schools in the future. Oriana is a founding member of the Eco Club at Martin Street and the current club representative for Grade 6 at W.I. Dick. During her time serving on the committee at Martin Street, the school was granted "Eco-Silver" designation.

Parks Volunteer

Don Lee

Every weekend from November to April, Don Lee fills the bird feeders outside the Visitor Center at Hilton Falls with bird seed and hangs several suet balls on trees for the woodpeckers. Don also will carry bird seed to the falls and fire pit area, dispersing it in several locations and handing seed out to the general public while informing them of the names of the birds that feed from his hand. He purchases and supplies all the bird seed and suet balls himself. Hilton Falls has received several compliments regarding "the nice man" handing out bird seed at the falls. Don's selfless dedication to nature not only aids the bird species, it also enhances the visitors' experience at Hilton Falls, and Conservation Halton is honoured to recognize his efforts through our awards program.

Stewardship Award

Town of Halton Hills Fire Department

The Halton Hills Fire Department built two new municipal fire stations over the past few years with environmental initiatives designed to meet LEED™ Certification. LEED is an acronym for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design. Halton Hills relies on aquifers to provide water for the Town, therefore water and energy conservation was a necessity in these buildings. Both fire stations have excellent environmental initiatives incorporated into the building design and operations. These include energy efficiencies gained through geothermal heating and cooling, water conservation technologies and the use of recycled materials for construction. In terms of water conservation, there is a 30% reduction in water usage using low flow fixtures, and rainwater harvesting for truck fill and washing. Energy conservation initiatives include ground source heating and cooling, high efficiency lights, solar passive energy using natural light, direct exhaust capture, and an emergency generator. The buildings are built with 15% recycled material and 75% of construction waste has been diverted from landfills. Other office necessities such as furniture were refurbished to LEED standards.

Ralph Sherwood Honour Roll Award

Don Ford

Don Ford is currently an active director with the Conservation Halton Foundation Board of Directors. He has been on the Foundation Board for 20 years from 1991 to 2011. During this time, Don was Chair from 2000 to 2006 and served on all of the working committees that helped raise more than \$3 million for conservation projects that included the Raptor Centre and R. Ross Craig Visitor Centre at the Mountsberg Conservation Area, as well as improvements at the Crawford Lake Conservation Areas such as the Gathering Place teaching facility. Don is an avid birder and actively shares his passion for the environment with family and friends.

Hamilton Halton Watershed Stewardship Program Participants

Since 1994, staff of the Hamilton-Halton Watershed Stewardship Program has been contacting landowners of natural areas and watercourses and sharing information about their individual roles in the protection and enhancement of these natural features. The Hamilton-Halton Watershed Stewardship Program is a partnership between Hamilton Conservation Authority and Conservation Halton. Our local watersheds are rich with forests, wetlands, meadows and streams, many owned by landowners like the ones we are recognizing tonight.

This year's award recipients are members of a group of over 315 award recipients who have made a voluntary commitment to protect over 12,700 acres of natural area and over 155 kilometres of stream.

- Leah Casselman (Freelton)
- Christina McTavish, John Bescec and Family (Campbellville)
- Rattlesnake Point Golf Club (Milton)

Stream of Dreams Program Participants

The final awards were presented to the following participants of the **Stream of Dreams** watershed awareness program that combines community art by way of a colourful outdoor mural of wooden fish cut outs while learning about the value of local creeks. Since Conservation Halton launched the program in 2006, with the assistance of funding from the Ontario Trillium Foundation, 12,110 students from 27 local schools have participated in the Stream of Dreams programs. The groups and schools recognized for participating in the past year were:

- Dr. Charles Best, Burlington
- École élémentaire catholique Saint-Nicolas, Milton
- Holy Rosary, Milton
- James W. Hill, Oakville
- Orchard Park, Burlington
- Pauline Johnson, Burlington
- Region of Halton Childcare (Sedgewick), Oakville
- St. Anthony of Padua, Milton
- St. Elizabeth Seton, Burlington
- St. Gabriel, Burlington
- St. Marguerite d'Youville, Oakville
- Sir Ernest MacMillan, Burlington

Conservation Halton is the community based environmental agency that protects, restores and manages the natural resources in its watershed. The organization has staff that includes ecologists, land use planners, engineers, foresters and educators along with a network of volunteers who are guided by a Board of Directors comprised of municipally elected and appointed citizens. Conservation Halton is recognized for its stewardship of creeks, forests and Niagara Escarpment lands through science based programs and services.

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Note to Editors: For more information about the awards, including descriptions of award winning projects and recipients, and photographs, please contact Hassaan Basit or Norm Miller at Conservation Halton.