



Conservation Halton

MEDIA RELEASE

For release Thursday, May 21, 2009

Conservation Halton Recognizes local environmental champions at Conservation Awards of Excellence

BURLINGTON – Conservation Halton (CH) held its 27th annual Conservation Awards of Excellence ceremony on May 21, 2009 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 2009 award recipients are as follows:

- **Citizen Award** - Roger Wilson (Waterdown)
- **Community Award** - Regional Municipality of Halton, Waste Management Services
- **Corporate Award** - First Canadian Title (Oakville)
- **Education Award** - St. Andrew School and Joshua Creek School (both Oakville)
- **Stewardship Award** - Provincial Schools, EC Drury and Trillium Schools (Milton)
- **Ralph Sherwood Honour Roll** - Sarah Lowe (Guelph)

More details on the recipients and their accomplishments can be found below. Over 110 guests and dignitaries attended the awards ceremony, which also included a performance by school children from Joshua Creek Public School and a speech by Cheryl Lee-Yow of St. Andrew School. A young jazz trio from Guelph called Modest Proposal provided musical accompaniment throughout the evening.

Congratulating all of the evening's winners, Conservation Halton Chair Brian Penman said, "Residents of the watershed have inherited a rich natural legacy encompassing such features as the Niagara Escarpment, abundant wetlands, streams and many environmentally sensitive areas. This evening is a wonderful opportunity to recognize all of the good things that people and groups have been doing to protect the natural environment of our watershed."

2009 Conservation Halton Awards of Excellence Recipients

Citizen Award

Roger Wilson

For collecting litter while hiking daily in the community and sorting the trash for recycling pick up. On an average week he will put out 22 blue boxes for the recycling truck and much more for the regular garbage.

Corporate Award

First Canadian Title

For its active involvement in protecting Wildflower Woods, and maintaining the area as an attractive commercial space. FCT has undertaken many activities to protect the woods including hiring of an arborist to ensure there is no negative impact on the woods, protecting the perimeter of the woods in its building design, planting 150 trees on its property and in the surrounding community, and picking up litter in the woods on earth day annually.

Stewardship Award

Provincial Schools - EC Drury and Trillium Schools

For spearheading the community's environmental initiative to make the Milton campus a green one by using green cleaning products and maximizing recycling.

Community Award

**Regional Municipality of Halton,
Waste Management Services**

For the "More Blue and Green for a Better Planet" community outreach program. Through this campaign, Halton Region demonstrated excellence in educating and informing school children, businesses and residents alike on the merits of recycling, and on the availability of Regional services to help us all recycle. As a result, 60% of residential waste is now diverted from the landfill.

Education Award

St. Andrew School and Joshua Creek School

St. Andrew School - For initiating multiple green initiatives including the Green Cart program and organizing school greening and beautification, with the help of staff and parent volunteers.

Joshua Creek School - For implementing a green cart composting program, creating a butterfly garden, and initiating the Garden Energy Savers Group to monitor electricity use.

Ralph Sherwood Honour Roll

Sarah Lowe

Born and raised in the UK, Sarah Lowe graduated in botany (University of St Andrews, Scotland) and agriculture (University of the West Indies, Trinidad) and came to Guelph in 1973 as Research Scientist at the University of Guelph; she has resided in Guelph ever since. An avid hiker, photographer and field naturalist, Sarah is passionate about the outdoors.

She carried this passion into her professional life, where her main interest is the rehabilitation of lands disturbed by mining or other human activities. Sarah is a founding member and currently a Director of the Canadian Land Reclamation Association. She has 30 years of successful land management and environmental planning and is known for encouraging industry, community and government partnerships. Sarah is recognized as a pioneer in pit and quarry rehabilitation, especially in establishing natural heritage and community benefits.

Her accomplishments include championing the award winning rehabilitation of many pits and quarries in several watersheds in southern Ontario, including the Dufferin Aggregates Milton quarry, which is adjacent to Hilton Falls. The rehabilitation included planting over 100,000 trees at the Milton quarry, through partnerships with youth from Scouts Canada and the Girl Guides, school groups and Conservation Halton in the Trees for Watershed Health program.

An enthusiastic campaigner for the protection of the Halton watershed, Sarah served as a Conservation Halton Foundation member for nearly ten years. With the foundation she raised funds for many projects including the Halton Children's Water Festival, Halton Wild, Rising and Beckoning coffee table book, and especially the Mountsberg Interpretive Centre.

Sarah retired from Dufferin Aggregates in 2006 and now consults part time to the industry and government in pit and quarry rehabilitation. She is a regular visitor to her favourite parks, Hilton Falls and Crawford Lake.

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. This year's award recipients are members of a group of 400 landowners who have made a commitment to protecting over 5,070 acres of natural area and 280 kilometers of streamside habitat. An additional 400 landowners have taken further steps, by seeking out information, or undertaking activities, to restore natural areas where needed.

- **Karen Birkemeyer**
- **Bill Wright and Cindy Stevens**

In presenting the awards, CH Vice Chair, John Vice said, "There is a wealth of significant natural areas and watercourses in our local watersheds and it is important to remember that by simply enjoying these features as they are, and conserving them for future generations, you are making a significant contribution to the health of the environment, which leads to a healthy society."

Stream of Dreams Program Participants

The final awards were presented to seven 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. The schools recognized were:

- **Canadian Martyrs School**
- **Florence Meares Public School**
- **John T. Tuck School**
- **Pineland Public School**
- **Sheridan Public School**
- **St. Christopher's School**
- **St. Timothy School**

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

-30-

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.

Media Contacts

Hassaan Basit

Director, Communications Services

Telephone: 905-336-1158, Extension 270

e-mail: hbasit@hrca.on.ca

Norm Miller

Communications Advisor

Telephone: 905-336-1158, Extension 233

e-mail: nmiller@hrca.on.ca

2596 Britannia Road West, R.R. #2

Milton, Ontario L9T 2X6

Fax: 905-336-7014

website: www.conservationhalton.on.ca

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