

Nominations open for Tri-Valley Awards hosted by SNC

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With the third annual Tri-Valley Conservation Awards Gala to be held on its home turf, this Oct. 20, partner South Nation Conservation is getting organized early to put on the best show possible.

Not only will the awards night showcase environmental efforts in the 4,000 square-ft. SNC watershed, but it'll also put the authority's Finch offices and conference centre on display for colleagues from across Eastern Ontario.

The topic has been a recurring one at recent SNC communication meetings, with members discussing the approach to be taken. Most recently, Russell Township mayor Ken Hill, who serves as board and committee chairman, agreed to also serve as chair of the gala.

Hill agreed that October could be a busy month for him should he decide to seek re-election as mayor; all Ontario municipalities will be voting in new councils on Oct. 25.

Hill is a major fan of environmental activities in the region and of the gala awards night in which SNC partners with Rideau Valley Conservation based at Manotick, and with Mississippi Valley Conservation based at Lanark. He hopes to see several nominations in all categories come from the local watershed.

"The Tri-Valley Awards are gaining recognition and prestige as they go along," Hill said. "It's becoming a badge of considerable honour in Eastern Ontario environmental circles to win one. We're delighted to be hosting the gala this year."

Emphasizing that they're a credit to their home municipalities and to the region, Hill underlined the high caliber of candidates, finalists and eventual winners of the awards over the first two years which were hosted in the two other partner watersheds.

The communications committee also

selected two representatives to sit on the judging panel made up of members from the three participating watersheds: SNC board member Barclay Cormack, and La Nouvelle reporter Tom Van Dusen, a Tri-Valley awards winner last year in the individual category, will serve on the panel.

Deadline for applications is Sept. 8, at 4:30 pm. Nominations are now being accepted in eight categories: Primary School (JK-Grade 6); Intermediate/High School (Grade 7-12); College/University; Agriculture; Community Groups; Individuals; Businesses; Municipalities. Forms can be downloaded at www.nation.on.ca.

Projects which nominees could be involved in include tree planting, water quality protection, shoreline stewardship, conservation education and advocacy, natural beautification and other activities contributing to the health of the watersheds. **(T.V.D.)**