

Conservation award winners announced; Tay Valley on top of the list

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EMC News - The much-anticipated conservation award winners in eight categories across three watersheds of eastern Ontario were announced last week at the Tri Valley Conservation Awards ceremony held in Manotick.

Tay Valley Township earned first place in the municipalities category, while Lanark County community Forest Working Group was second in the division.

Friends of the Tay Watershed earned top marks for community groups, while the Westport and Area Outdoors Association was the runner up.

Malcolm Morris, CAO in Tay Valley Township, said he was proud of the people and council in the township for this achievement.

"It's a group award and it's for our septic re-inspection program," he said. "Up to this point the re-inspection program has been voluntary and this year, after changes to the building code, it's become a mandatory program. The Friends of in jumping on board to want to do the first of the mandatory inspections and we are doing 200 of them in seven of the 28 lakes in the township. That is part of a four-year plan."

He said FOT wanted to be recognized in this revolutionary program and become the first through it.

"It's nice to get the recognition, and this council has been really pro-active in promoting water quality preservation," Morris said.

Han von Rosen was the Lifetime Achievement winner in Mississippi Valley, and Irv Darkick was the Lifetime Achievement winner in Rideau Valley. The South Nation winner was Floyd Dingwall.

"As you can imagine, the judges had to make some very difficult choices between first and second place finishers," said Jason Kelly, Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation chair.

"In reality, all of these finalists are making huge voluntary contributions to the betterment of our lives through environ-



Submitted photo
Municipal Award Winner — Tay Valley Township, presented by Dell Hallett, Rideau Valley Conservation Authority to Malcolm Morris, CAO of Tay Valley Township.

thank them all from the bottom of our hearts."

Over 120 people enjoyed the hospitality, the ceremony and the networking opportunity of getting together with like-minded individuals and representatives from all walks of life. And more than one new voluntary collaborative project was hatched during this annual conservation celebration.

Winning projects ranged from tree planting to exemplary farm practices to municipalities and businesses taking some visionary steps to take care of their local environments. The three Lifetime Conservation Achievement winners have collectively put in almost a century of dedication to conservation. It was a delight to acknowledge their lifetime of conservation leadership and know-how. This is the first year that this category of award was available.

conservation activities and practices going on that it is hard to keep track of them all," said Mark Burnham, Mississippi Valley Conservation Foundation Chair and Tay Valley Township councillor.

"The goal here is to shine a light and bring some recognition to the people who are out there doing the right thing all the time. They are real conservation heroes and role models for us all."

South Nation Conservation chair Lawrence Levere said, "We are very proud of all people and groups nominated in tonight's awards no matter where they come from across Eastern Ontario. Of course, the fact that a good many come from the South Nation just increases our pleasure and lets us bask in the glow of their accomplishments. Hearty congratulations to all competitors."

Other winners

Russell McLelland; Churchill Alternative School, Ottawa, first; Joyce Chartrand, Ecole publique de la rivière Castor, Embrun, runner up.

High Schools
St Thomas Aquinas Catholic High, Russell, first; Chris Drummond, Nepean High School, Ottawa, runner up.

College/University:
Carleton University, Dr Steven Cooke, first; Université de Guelph, Campus Alfred, runner up.

Agriculture:
Lawrenceholme Farms, Spencerville, first; Gordon Garlough, Williamsburg, runner up.

Business:
Parmalat, Winchester, first; McGarry Family Chapels, Ottawa & West Quebec, runner up.

Individuals/Families:
Jim McCready, Carleton Place, first; Aleta Karstad & Dr Fred Schueler, Bishops Mills, runner up.

Submitted by Tri County Conservation Authority.



Submitted photo
Municipal Award Finalist: The Community Forest Working Group (Lanark County) earned a plaque presented by Dell Hallett, general manager, Rideau Valley Conservation Authority to Community Forest Working Group representatives: Brian Anderson (Mississippi Valley Conservation), John Gemmell (Lanark County Warden), Peter McLaren (Mayor of Lanark Highlands Township), Jeff Ward (Lanark Stewardship Council).