



2009 CONSERVATION PIONEER AWARDS



This award is designed to recognize individuals who have demonstrated life-long, outstanding contributions to the field of conservation. They are recognized for their innovation, leadership and dedication to the conservation field. Either through their personal activities and/or leadership, they have gone beyond the call of duty or responsibility to an employer, client or their community.

These individuals have helped to celebrate and inspire innovation in the conservation field and have made a difference in their area of expertise. Nominees have encouraged and motivated others to take similar leadership roles towards conservation work.

Nominations are reviewed and evaluated by a special sub-committee of the Latornell Steering Committee.

The Late Ian Parrish

Nominated by:
Ontario Ministry
of the Environment



Ian has been described as compassionate, caring, sometimes irreverent, and a great story teller. He has also been described "as true an environmentalist as one could ever meet".

For Ian, the important thing was what was best for the environment. He had a singular talent for building bridges between environmental organizations and overcoming any barriers standing in his way. The result was the creation of a large network of environmental professionals across government and the private sector alike. As a consequence, his work has touched many.

After graduating from the University of Guelph, and working at a few different pursuits, Ian went to work at the Ontario Ministry of the Environment (MOE) where he spent the next 22 years. During that time he worked in a variety of roles promoting conservation. Ian was instrumental in helping to develop the Code of Practice for the Environmental Management of Road Salts as well as to champion the "social marketing" of Ontario's Drive Clean Campaign. Ian also established improved processes to provide a more integrated approach to promote the understanding of potential threats to drinking water sources across all stakeholders (ministries, conservation authorities and municipalities). His most recent position was as coordinator for environmental integration for EMRB, liaising with management, supervisors, scientists and program staff to facilitate the public distribution of monitoring data.

Ian was widely regarded as a mentor to many young (and some not-so-young) colleagues at MOE. He was quick to recommend a dedicated young conservationist for an opportunity - even if that position was somewhere other than his own Ministry. To Ian, the important thing was what was best for that individual and for the environment - not what was best for political sensitivity and bureaucracy. Ian is remembered for promoting a corporate culture that strove for transparency and positive action. It is these attributes that many who considered him a mentor hope to mirror.

Ian would often refer to people who showed dedication toward the environment as "Good Citizens". Ian Parrish truly exemplified the term "Good Citizen".

Ian Macnab

Nominated by:
Friends of
the Kawartha Conservation



Ian has possessed a strong passion for the work of the conservation authorities and the importance of watershed management for his whole career. He is intimately aware of the challenges faced by the C.A.'s and he has always been

willing to champion their cause. His work in the conservation field has been coloured with extreme perseverance and vision.

Ian's career in conservation began with the Metropolitan Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (MTRCA) (precursor to Toronto Conservation) where he was hired as a Fisheries Biologist in 1973. He stayed with MTRCA for seven years until he was asked to head-up the newly founded Kawartha Region Conservation Authority (now Kawartha Conservation) in 1980. Ian became the C.A.'s first General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer in 1986 and with a title change, the Chief Administrative Officer in 2001. He worked at Kawartha Region Conservation Authority for 28 years - retiring in 2008.

The changes and improvements that Ian oversaw at Kawartha Conservation during his tenure are a testament to his passion. When he started at the C.A. Ian worked from a folding card table in rented office space and made telephone calls from a public telephone. By 1992 Kawartha Conservation had its own modern administrative building at Ken Reid Conservation Area. When Kawartha Conservation was threatened with closure due to budget constraint Ian was at the forefront of the battle - actively displaying the need for watershed management in the Kawarthas and forming Friends of Kawartha Conservation in order to assist with conservation projects and funding.

Ian has a penchant for mentoring and this was a continuous theme throughout his career. Not only did he act as a role model for young professionals who reported to him at the conservation authorities, but he was instrumental in encouraging young people in pursuit of environmental careers at Sir Sanford Fleming College, School of Natural Resources in Lindsay. He was a founding member of the College's advisory board for ecosystem management and has served on it as an advisory for the past 16 years. Ian is a strong supporter of the Young Conservation Professionals (YCP) Program and is a lecturer for its programs.

Allan Ralph

Nominated by:
Upper Thames River
Conservation Authority



Allan's contributions to the conservation field through his career as well as a community volunteer are indeed worthy of the recognition that he is receiving as an AD Latornell Conservation Symposium Pioneer. His tireless work with

respect to the natural environment of The Coves Subwatershed in London, Ontario is well known and respected throughout Southern Ontario. His efforts over the years have resulted in significant restoration and rehabilitation of the site while continuously educating children and the public about these natural treasures.

Allan Ralph graduated from Wilfrid Laurier University in 1972 and immediately began teaching with the London School Board. It was through out this 33 year career that Allan shared his love of nature with his students. This included numerous pond studies, species inventories, and storm water runoff impact reports carried out with his students at The Coves.

As a resident of The Coves Subwatershed, Allan became a strong advocate for the rehabilitation of the area and organized the annual Coves Cleanup - which has been carried out for many years. His high level of interest in the area led to the creation of the Friends of The Coves Subwatershed Inc. (FOTCSI) in 1990. This not-for-profit environmental organization works in conjunction with government and environmental organizations and citizens groups to restore and protect The Coves. The FOTCSI has had numerous successes including: the transfer of over 40ha of environmentally significant lands into public ownership; assisting hundreds of residents in the subwatershed naturalize their properties; and completing a plan for 700ha of The Coves' lands. The Organization has received many prestigious awards for its work.

Allan is currently the Chair of the Advisory Board of the TD Friends of the Environment Foundation but still finds time for participation on the organizing committees of Children's Water Festivals in the London-Oxford area. It is this mentoring that is reflective of Art Latornell's own philosophy.

Ernie Crossland

Nominated by:
Lake Simcoe Region
Conservation Authority



Ernie's level of volunteerism is legendary. He is affectionately known as "Mr. Newmarket", however he could just as well be known as "Mr. Lake Simcoe.". His penchant for volunteering combined with a strong will to protect our natural heritage

have made him a passionate champion of the Lake and surrounding watershed. Ernie's conservationist ideals were formed at an early age. He grew up on a farm near Lake Simcoe and remembers how pristine the Lake was at that time. He has worked tirelessly for many years to ensure that Lake Simcoe can again return to the unspoiled condition that he experienced in his youth.

Ernie has been a member of the Lake Simcoe Conservation Foundation since 1985 and served as President from 2000 to 2004. This organization is a not-for-profit entity that raises private funds to protect and restore the Lake Simcoe Watershed. Ernie, an honorary lifetime member, still sits on the organizing committee for the annual Conservation Foundation Dinner, which raises approximately \$150,000 each year for restoration efforts in the Lake Simcoe watershed.

Ernie was the founder and chairman of the Millennium Project Nokiidaa Trail which runs 35 kilometers along the East Holland River from Aurora to East Gwillimbury. This walking trail links to numerous other trails and to Lake Simcoe Region conservation areas.

Ernie's influence has extended well beyond his conservationist pursuits. His support of Lake Simcoe as well as his involvement with such worthwhile pursuits as Habitat for Humanity and Lions Club have been recognized with numerous awards including the George R. Richardson Conservation Award of Honour and the Governor General Queens Jubilee Award.

In 2006 Ernie was recognized as Newmarket's first Honorary Citizen. With this award the Jean and Ernie Crossland Environmental Scholarship was created. The Scholarship, a result of a gift from the Town of Newmarket and Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Foundation, is established to assist students pursuing a post-secondary degree/diploma in Environmental Studies. Ernie's legacy remains secure.

Craig Mather

Nominated by:
Toronto and Region
Conservation



Craig's passion is the building of a cleaner and healthier community for everyone. He has helped advance this lofty goal through a career dedicated to the protection of our natural environment through the design of practical solutions to environmental issues.

Craig graduated from the University of Guelph in 1971 with a degree of Water Resources Engineering and joined the Metropolitan Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (MTRCA) (precursor to Toronto and Region Conservation) shortly thereafter. He remained with this organization until his retirement in 2003, having served the last 13 years as Chief Administrative Officer.

Craig's work at MTRCA initiated a comprehensive Policy for Erosion Control and Bank Stabilization in Toronto which was subsequently used as the blueprint for similar programs in neighbouring municipalities. Later, he carried out hydrology and hydraulic modeling that lead to one of the first Flood Damage Reduction Programs in Ontario. This work ultimately morphed into a storm water management plan that has since been adopted to a significant degree by the conservation authorities and provincial ministries.

Craig has always sought input from various stakeholder groups and has had a gift for generating community engagement with respect to conservation undertakings. This includes having the Humber River designated as a Canadian Heritage River in 1999 and inspiring the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) to establish the Terrestrial Natural Heritage System Strategy. The latter of these measures was instrumental in allowing the TRCA to acquire 14,000 acres of land during Craig's tenure.

Craig has been an inspiration not only for the many young conservationists at the TRCA but, as well as to legions of environmental volunteers through the formation of Environmental Volunteer Network. This organization promotes the opportunity for future environmentalists to gain valuable work experience in their field.



Jack McFadden
Master of Ceremonies

Jack McFadden graduated in 1974 from the University of Western Ontario with a Masters Degree in Geography. His career spanned the next 32 years, primarily with Ministry of Natural Resources where he worked very closely with the Conservation Authorities. It was during his time as Regional Conservation Authorities Program Coordinator in Richmond Hill that Jack worked with Art Latornell and got to know him on a personal basis. He remembers "it was an exciting experience to spend some time with Art and learn from him". Jack is now retired and remains active on a number of Boards and Committees while managing his 50 acre wooded property on Georgian Bay in a conservationist manner.



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PREVIOUS AWARD WINNERS

- 2008** - Dr. John Gunn, Lorne Smith, Harold Parker, Jim Myslik, Bob Whittam
- 2007** - The late Bruce Duncan, Deborah Beatty, Lou Wise, Michael Hough, Ted Mosquin
- 2006** - Sally Beaton, Robert Bowles, Ron Reid, George Stormont
- 2005** - Don Lobb, Dr. Gray Merriam, Dr. David Pearson, Dr. Anthony Smith, Ben Vanderbrug
- 2004** - Malcom Kirk, Patrick J. McManus, Dr. Duncan Sinclair, David Cressman, Maria and Paul Heissler
- 2003** - Ron Scott, Jack Macpherson, Arthur Herbert Richardson, Greta McGillivray, William McLean
- 2002** - Hal Hooke, Terry Sprague, Jim Bruce, Terk Bayly, Rheel Proulx, Tom Millar, Peter Michael, Rose Harvie
- 2001** - The late Ken Mayall, Murray Miller, Douglas Hoffman, Elwood Moore, George R. Richardson, the late Gordon Oldfield
- 2000** - Jim Bauer, Janet Fletcher, Harry Barrett, Trevor Dickinson, Ray Lowes, Bob Burgar
- 1999** - John Murray, Charles Alexander, Len Johson, Dr. Dave Ankney, Christine Nornbell, Russell Piper, Mac Coutts, Ken Higgs

If you are interested in nominating an individual for consideration to the 2010 Conservation Pioneer Award, see the criteria detailed on the A.D. Latornell Conservation Symposium website at www.latornell.ca



UNIVERSITY
of GUELPH

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

A.D. Latornell Symposium
c/o Steering Committee
Conservation Ontario
Box 11, 120 Bayview Parkway
Newmarket, ON L3Y 4W3
Tel.: 905-895-0716 Fax: 905-895-0751
email: info@latornell.ca
www.latornell.ca