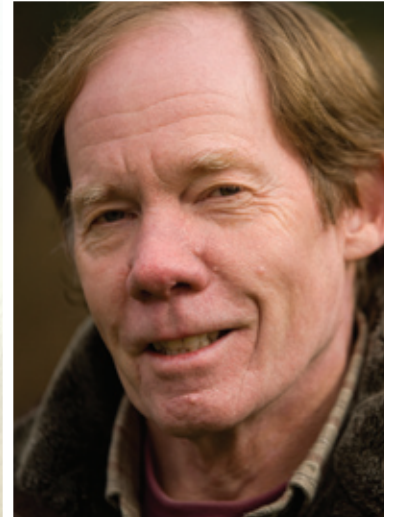


2010 CONSERVATION PIONEER AWARDS



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.

STEW HILTS, Markdale

Nominated by: Ontario Agricultural College, University of Guelph



Over the course of a 40-year career, Dr. Stewart Hilt's accomplishments and contributions to the conservation community have been numerous and significant both as a professional and a volunteer. As a professor at the University of Guelph's Department of Land Resources Science, Stew's commitment to experiential learning and teaching outdoors

has provided his many students with their introduction to environmental stewardship and conservation.

Often cited as the "grandfather of stewardship" in Canada, Stew first became interested and involved in conservation issues as an active participant in a local woodlot preservation project as a high school student. He carried this penchant for the environment to the University of Guelph where he spearheaded the establishment of the university's B.Sc. (Environmental Science) degree program.

Stew founded the A.D. Latornell Conservation Symposium (sponsored jointly by the University of Guelph's Centre for Land and Water Stewardship and Conservation Ontario, representing the network of 36 Conservation Authorities). This Symposium has grown into the premier annual conservation conference in Canada.

Committed to mentoring young conservation professionals, Stew helped to found a new career development program called the Young Conservation Professionals ("YCP"). YCP is a comprehensive personal and professional development program designed to encourage young leaders within the conservation sector in Ontario. Using residential retreats, interactive workshops, and guided, on-the-job practice, YCP has been central to the training of nearly 100 young conservation professionals since 2005.

VICKI BARRON, Etobicoke

Nominated by: Credit Valley Conservation



Vicki Barron has been a strong advocate for the environment throughout her 40-year career and volunteer life. Vicki has been (and continues to be) a leader in the conservation movement in Ontario. She is considered to be a "doer" by her peers and is always searching for solutions to environmental problems. She was initially employed by the (Metropolitan) Toronto and Region Conservation

Authority (TRCA) and at the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA), but it was really at Credit Valley Conservation (CVC) that she made her mark. Vicki worked here from 1980 until her retirement in 2001. During her tenure she rose quickly through the ranks and was named General Manager and Secretary Treasurer of CVC in 1986.

Vicki encouraged the development of the Credit River Water Management Strategy which was one of the first approaches providing an ecosystem approach to watershed management. She then actively promoted the development of the "Blueprint for Success" document which furthered the concept of looking at water management on a watershed basis. During a two year secondment to the Waterfront Generation Trust, Vicki was able to parlay this knowledge into assisting that organization to move significantly forward with the Lake Ontario Greenway Strategy. Her continuing role with the Waterfront Regeneration Trust has enabled that organization to triple the number of communities who are partnering on the Waterfront Trail.

Vicki has received a number of awards for her work including the Ontario Branch Service Award from the Canadian Water Resources Association (CWRA). She is also an Honourary Member of the Ontario Association of Landscape Architects and she is currently the Director of Administration and Regeneration Initiatives at the Waterfront Regeneration Trust and a member of the Continuing Education faculty at Sheridan College.

DON ROSS, Thousand Islands

Nominated by: Directors, advisors, staff and volunteers of the Frontenac Arch Biosphere Reserve



Don Ross has been involved in conservation issues from a variety of approaches and positions for over 40 years. The success of these many initiatives has produced tangible benefits for the conservation community in general and for Eastern Ontario in particular. From his beginnings as Chief Naturalist with Parks Canada, through his time as a sporting

goods retailer where he promoted sustainable and passive recreation such as windsurfing and canoeing, Don was very respectful of our natural environment. He is also a master woodworker who has restored homes and watercraft using a conscientious low energy approach.

A biologist and former chief naturalist with the St. Lawrence National Park, Don is currently the Executive Director of the Frontenac Arch Biosphere Reserve (FABR). The Frontenac Arch is an 80-kilometre-wide bridge of the Canadian Shield that connects Algonquin Provincial Park in Ontario with the Adirondack Mountains in New York State. Due to the wide variety of biodiversity found here, including many species at risk, the Arch was designated a World Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO in 2002. Don spearheaded the successful nomination of the Frontenac Arch Biosphere Reserve to UNESCO.

Outside of his work with the Arch, Don is also a very active volunteer. As a founding board member and negotiator/landowner liaison for the Thousand Islands Watershed Land Trust, Don has protected a number of important sites for land and water conservation. On behalf of the Land Trust he has acted as lead negotiator on a number of very significant acquisitions. Don has also completed shoreline assessments on over 700 area properties making numerous recommendations for improved riparian management – most of which have already been implemented. Each of these projects promotes and creates an awareness of land and water conservation either as a recommendation or action/outcome.

GIL HENDERSON, St. George

Nominated by: Tim Horton Onondaga Farms

Gil Henderson is a man of many accomplishments.



In addition to his significant contribution to protect Ontario's natural environment, he is a veteran of the Second World War and a four-time Olympian in trapshooting. In 1958 Gil was second at the world trapshooting championships in Moscow and in 1960, he competed at the world championships in Rome. Gil even won the Grand American Trapshooting Tournament in 1957 beating out over 2,000 competitors

including American movie cowboy, Roy Rogers. Although he competed at the pinnacle of his sport Gil's life-long dedication to conservation is equally "Olympian".

Gil's conservation accomplishments extend over 40 years. In the 1960's, Gil and his wife, Molly, amassed 900 acres of farmland in Brant County and entered into an association with Ducks Unlimited Canada to protect the many wetlands on their property. The property was often used by members of Ministry of Natural Resources and the Conservation Authorities as a good example for other landowners showing the benefits of such measures as fencing off wetlands to livestock and leaving vegetative buffers around the edges.

Among Gil's most significant work was his involvement with Harry Lumsden in the recovery of Trumpeter Swans in Ontario. With Gil's significant input the species was reintroduced in Ontario. When the project began in 1982 there were no wild Trumpeter Swans in Ontario. Just 14 years later the Trumpeter Swan was no longer considered to be "at risk"! Many pairs of Trumpeter Swans are currently nesting at the Brant County farm.

In 1999, Molly became terminally ill and it was at that time that the couple secured their legacy by donating 400 acres of farmland in St. George to the Tim Horton Children's Foundation. Tim Horton Onondaga Farms ensures that Gil and Molly's efforts to educate about the environment and how to care for nature are still being met.

KIM GAVINE, Master of Ceremonies



Kim Gavine has been working in the natural heritage field for the last twenty-one years and is currently the Executive Director of the Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation (ORMF). With a degree in Geography from Brock University, Kim began her career with the Federation of Ontario Naturalists as an Environmental Projects Officer.

Her previous positions have included work as an Urban Wildlife Biologist with the Ministry of Natural Resources, as well as a position with the Severn Sound Remedial Action Plan where she studied the effects of lead poisoning in Trumpeter Swans.

Most of her career has focused on land securement, land management and private land stewardship. As the Natural Heritage Co-ordinator with the Ontario Heritage Foundation (OHF), Kim was responsible for implementing both the Niagara Escarpment and Carolinian Canada Programs, as well as working with partners to manage over 100 natural heritage properties owned by the OHF.

Kim has also been involved with many Boards and Committees including 12 years with the A.D. Latornell Conservation Symposium Organizing Committee, five years with the Couchiching Conservancy, five years with the Carolinian Canada Coalition, two years with the Natural Spaces Alliance and more recently a position with the Ontario Land Trust Alliance.

In 2003, Kim joined the Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation as their Program Manager. In February of 2007, Kim was appointed as Executive Director to the Foundation.



2010
CONSERVATION
PIONEER
AWARDS

PREVIOUS AWARD WINNERS

- 2009** - The late Ian Parrish, Ian Macnab, Allan Ralph, Ernie Crossland, Craig Mather
- 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, Rheal 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 2011 Conservation Pioneer Award, see the criteria detailed on the A.D. Latornell Conservation Symposium website at www.latornell.ca



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