

2012

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.



UNIVERSITY
of GUELPH

Orphanos PETER ORPHANOS *Mississauga*

Nominated by:
Credit Valley Conservation



Peter Orphanos has been a community leader for over three decades. He was an elementary school educator for 35 years and was recognized as Environmental Educator of the Year by the City of Mississauga. He was instrumental in inspiring many young people to conserve and protect the natural environment.

Peter retired from teaching in 2003 and since that time, has dedicated himself to protecting the environment. He has provided leadership during the last 35 years for the preservation, restoration and enhancement of the Credit River Valley Watershed.

Peter founded several successful resident associations and environmental groups, including Sierra Club Peel. He has received awards for outstanding achievement from various environmental groups including: Ontario Nature, City of Mississauga, Clean City Mississauga, Parks Mississauga, Peel Aquarium Club and Credit Valley Conservation ("CVC"). The Award of Distinction was presented to him by Credit Valley Conservation at the Stewardship Forum and Volunteer Award Event in 2010.

Peter's passion is protecting and enhancing natural heritage systems, especially in the Credit Valley Watershed. He has used municipal, provincial, Ontario Municipal Board(OMB) and Environmental Assessment forums effectively to achieve his goals. On behalf of Sierra Club, he worked in a partnership with Environmental Defence/ Greenbelt Alliance staff to grow the Greenbelt in Peel. Recently, he was appointed to Mississauga's Environmental Advisory Committee. His latest initiative was the formation of ROAR (Restoring Our Ailing Rivers), a committee that seeks to afford stronger and permanent legislative protection of all river valleys in Ontario.

Peter's responsibilities have included serving on numerous environmental boards and councils. Positive relationships with everyone, including public representatives are the key to Peter's success. In addition, he values tenacity, consistency, credibility and being well-informed as keys in achieving goals. As chair and member of many environmental and ratepayer groups he has experienced a high degree of success in protecting the Credit River from inappropriate development. He has worked cooperatively with Credit Valley Conservation, the Region of Peel and municipal leaders to effect policy change for stronger protection.

As Chair of the Peel Chapter of the Sierra Club, he successfully led the campaign to protect the Greenbelt in Northwest Brampton and many sensitive areas in the Credit River Valley throughout Peel and Halton. As a founding member of Riverwood, he worked for 20 years to make the 150-acre park in Mississauga a reality. He got a Greenlands designation for the Credit River in Mississauga, contributed significantly to ensure Northwest Brampton 6000 acre block development occurs in an environmentally responsible manner and was a member of the Northwest Brampton Planning Steering Committee. Peter proposed and received approval to develop a Natural Heritage System Strategy for Mississauga through the EACC committee. He has generally championed environmental protection in the CVC watershed and especially Mississauga for more than 30 years.

Sibbald JOHN SIBBALD *Georgina*

Nominated by:
Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority



Mr. John Sibbald, President and Chief Executive Officer of the historic lakeside resort, The Briars, located in Georgina, Ontario has long been interested and involved in the conservation and preservation of the lake and land as well as historic buildings and landmarks. The Briars, a family-run business, is located on the shore of Lake Simcoe and has long been viewed as a stellar example of conservation of the local environment and the lake. Since his early years as a university student John has embraced the need for conservation, protection and preservation of the natural as well as the built environment. John's

lifelong pursuit of environmentally friendly business initiatives includes:

- » Caring for and managing the mature forests of pine, spruce and maple trees.
- » Saving and preserving heritage buildings by finding new uses for them.
- » The first major Ontario resort to ban indoor smoking.
- » Implementing more environmentally friendly business practices (such as eliminating disposable cups, installing high-efficiency shower heads, energy efficient lights and encouraging guests to reuse towels and linens.)
- » Forming a "Green Team" to generate environmentally friendly operational ideas.

Throughout the last three decades John has contributed to the local, provincial and national conservation movement. As Vice-Chair of the Ontario Parks Board, John was instrumental in leading policy development governing the protection and conservation of natural spaces. Shortly after his service on Ontario Parks Council John became the Governor of the Canadian Coalition on Acid Rain ("CCAR") through which John and his colleagues lobbied both the Canadian and US Governments to pass legislation to restrict acid rain causing emissions. This ultimately helped lead to the passing of the US Clean Air Act in 1990. Through his environmental work at all levels, John was instrumental in bringing the provincial and federal governments together, resulting in the Ontario Government's 1985 LSEMS Report. John's environmental work has been recognized through numerous awards including the 1984 Ontario Bicentennial medal and the 2010 Lieutenant Governor's Ontario Heritage Award for Lifetime Achievement. John is a founding member of the Lake Simcoe Tourist Association, York Tourist Board and Lake Simcoe Arts Foundation. After a lifetime of passion and energy poured into the pursuit of environmental business practices and local habitat enhancement as well as national, and international leadership in environmental advocacy and policy development, the Lake Simcoe Conservation Foundation appointed John as an honorary lifetime member of its Board of Directors.

John Sibbald's lifelong passion for the environment has inspired all three of his sons and their families to continue their father's legacy. Through their business, John and his family have also dedicated a great deal of time to training and encouraging their many young staff to consider the impact of their actions on the lake and the surrounding environment.

Through his work in supporting conservation and environmental initiatives at all levels, as a business leader and a well respected member of the community John Sibbald exemplifies the meaning of Conservation pioneer.



ALLAN FOSTER *Cookstown* MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Allan is a botanist and a teacher. He worked for the TRCA for 35 years. For most of that time he supervised the conservation education program at the Kortright Centre for Conservation.

As part of his job, he sought effective new ways to engage the public in environmental issues. This led to his study of nature folklore. He developed such a treasure chest of nature stories that he became a radio and TV personality representing the activities of the Conservation Authority. He became the longest standing resident naturalist for CBC radio.

His interest in nature stories led to a post-graduate study of how people learn through stories. He

Imhof

JACK IMHOF

Kitchener

Nominated by:

AFS (Ontario Chapter), Trout Unlimited Canada, and TRCA



Since the late 1970's, the name Jack (Jacob) Imhof has been synonymous with freshwater ecosystems. Jack changed the way we think about rivers in this province and no doubt across Canada. He taught us to think about the relationships between land and water and what that meant for our aquatic species. He shifted the practice from straightening and hardening channels to naturalizing channels. He translated science into everyday language for laymen, the angling community and scientists alike. And throughout his career, Jack has acted with integrity and a spirit of co-operation. In his 25 years with the Ministry of Natural Resources ("MNR") Jack provided

expertise to field staff on rehabilitation techniques and science for the rehabilitation of aquatic ecosystems. He worked to develop policies, guidelines and standards for the provincial Aquatic Habitat Rehabilitation program and was an advocate for the Integrated Watershed Management Planning process. Jack spearheaded the natural channels initiative on behalf of the MNR which developed the science, definitions, procedures and policies for the protection and restoration of stream systems.

Jack also developed a community based resource management approach for rivers and lakes, known as Exceptional Waters. Through his work with MNR and as National Biologist with Trout Unlimited Canada ("TUC") Jack delivered Science, policy and programs for TUC's National Conservation Agenda while developing and implementing Watershed Based Fisheries Management Planning Guidelines. When he retired from MNR in 2010 he continued his work with TUC on managing and delivering their National Conservation Agenda.

Jack was also an Adjunct Professor with the University of Waterloo in the Biology departments between 2003 and 2009 and remains an Adjunct Professor with the University of Guelph in the Department of Integrative Biology and Faculty of Environmental Management and Design, School of Environmental Design and Rural Development. Here he teaches and inspires the next generation of aquatic ecologists and fluvial specialists.

He has been involved with the American Fisheries Society as Vice President of the Canadian Aquatic Resources Section (1997-98) and later as President and Past President of the Ontario Chapter (2007-2009) which included being part of the organizing committee for the 2008 AFS Annual Meeting held in Ottawa.

And if that is not enough, Jack has published 22 scientific papers and 22 reports, given 55 formal presentations and lectures, as well as having received 9 recognition awards. In his spare time, Jack has been fly fishing and fly tying for over 40 years, has given freely of his time to speak on fly fishing and tying and has prepared popular articles for outdoor publications. There is no one more passionate about their chosen field than Jack, and no one more deserving of recognition he has made to the field of Aquatic Ecology over the last 30 plus years.

Gillingwater

SCOTT GILLINGWATER

London

Nominated by:

Pembroke District Ministry of Natural Resources



Scott Gillingwater is a Species at Risk Biologist/Herpetologist, working primarily with at risk reptiles. His work includes some of the longest-term research in Canada on the Spiny Softshell, Blanding's and Spotted Turtles, Queensnake and a number of other declining reptile species. Scott is likely most well known for his tireless efforts to recovery the Spiny Softshell Turtle in southwestern Ontario, and for projects like the Longpoint Causeway Improvement Project. Scott is actively involved in reptile conservation on a number of fronts, including providing

technical expertise to provincial and national recovery teams, the COSEWIC Amphibian and Reptile Specialist Sub-committee, the IUCN Tortoise and Freshwater Turtle Specialist group and the board of directors of the Institute for the Conservation of World Biodiversity. In addition to his editorial duties for a number of recently published stewardship guides, Scott is currently completing a field guide to the reptiles and amphibians of Ontario, as well as drafting manuscripts for publication covering his 18 years of field research in Canada.

He is an executive member of the Ontario Multispecies Turtles At Risk Recovery Team, as well as a member of various other ecosystem and reptile species recovery teams/groups. Each spring and summer, Scott and his research team locate and collect eggs from Spiny Softshell nests along the Thames River. Scott and his team incubate, hatch and release close to 2000 Spiny Softshell hatchlings each summer. Research and recovery efforts also target the protection of habitat, working with communities, including landowners, to ensure long-term protection and stewardship.

Scott has published a Spiny Softshell stewardship guide, along with countless factsheets, newspaper articles, and has completed many presentations and interviews. His educational efforts have reached many thousands of people, and the success can be measured in the increased interest and participation in habitat restoration, water quality improvement and species protection.

Scott includes children in hands on turtle work, including hatchling releases where and when this is appropriate. His presentations to school and community groups in southwestern Ontario reach thousands of students each year (over 15000 students since 2002). He has worked with teachers to develop reptile education components of the school curriculum, sharing species information and principles of ecological conservation.

He has also worked to develop "kid friendly" educational material, including posters and stickers, to engage children in reptile awareness and conservation, and provides volunteer opportunities to individuals and groups. Scott has also served as a mentor, trainer and supervisor for a large number of staff, volunteers, and MSc and Phd students, who now serve as biologists and wildlife technicians across Canada and internationally. His passion, drive and dedication to species protection have inspired those that have met him to follow a similar path.

achieved a doctorate in adult education from the University of Toronto and wrote a book of his favourite nature stories - "The Loon, the Bat and the Raspberry Bush - fables from the natural world."

In 2007-2008 Allan spent some time in China where he taught a course, "environmental issues" to 4th year philosophy students at Sun Yat Sen University in Canton. In 2008, Allan was presented with the Distinguished Public Education Award by the Council of University Biology Chairs for his contribution to public science education.

Although Allan is enjoying retirement, he still promotes environmental learning with a number of educational societies in the province. He lives with his wife near Cookstown.

PREVIOUS AWARD WINNERS

2011

Jim Anderson, Liette Vasseur, Paul Aird, Tom Taylor

2010

Stew Hilts, Vicki Barron, Don Ross, Gil Henderson

2009

Ian Parrish, Ian Macnab, Allan Ralph, Ernie Crossland, Craig Mather

2008

Dr. John Gunn, Lorne Smith, Harold Parker, Jim Myslik, Bob Whittam

2007

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 Harvie

2001

Ken Mayall, Murray Miller, Douglas Hoffman, Elwood Moore, George R. Richardson, 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 2013 Conservation Pioneer Award, see the criteria detailed on the A.D. Latornell Conservation Symposium website at www.latornell.ca

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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