

Conservation Halton awards recognize local residents, organizations

Milton Canadian Champion

Conservation Halton honoured local residents and organizations at its annual gala on Tuesday night as awards were presented for outstanding contributions to conservation in the Halton watershed.

The CH awards are all based on nominations from the community with the exception of the Parks Volunteer award. The 32nd annual gala was held at the Milton Centre for the Arts with more than 150 people attending.

“The Conservation Halton Awards really showcase some of the great work being done in our community by people and organizations,” said CH Chair John Vice. “It’s especially gratifying to see some great diversity in the award winners, we have all ages represented and people who are making an impact as volunteers and also by making conservation part of their business, daily routine and work.”

Dundas’ Ken Hall was given the Citizen award for his work in establishing the Bay Area Restoration Council and over two decades of work with the Giant’s Rib Discovery Centre. A former principal, Hall has devoted time to public education on the environment and worked with the Niagara Escarpment World Biosphere Reserve.

Three Citizen (Youth) awards were presented to Hayden Downes-Mills of Hayden’s Re-bicycling in Georgetown, Kevin Knoblauch of Milton District High School, Jade Paxton of Bishop Reding High School and five-year-old Sebastian Nesci of Sebastian’s Choice in Milton — a cleaning product company that donates part of its proceeds to an autism-related organization.

The Community award went to the Nassagaweya Community Consultation Committee for its 18 years of service to cleaning up roadsides in the rural area.

The Corporate award went to Halton Region Clean Air Committee for its publication series Owls for Climate Change.

The individual Education award was presented to Milton’s Sean James of Fern Ridge Landscaping.

Oakville’s Eastview Public School EcoTeam and Waterdown’s Millgrove Children’s Centre were given the Education award in the group or school category.

The Media/Blogger award was given to Guelph’s Gayle Labuz of Sometimes Eventful and Mike Davis of Escarpment Views in Georgetown.

Melanie Ursprung was given the Parks Volunteer award for her work at the Mountsberg Raptor Centre, where she’s volunteered since 2012.

The Partnership award was given to the Metis Nation of Ontario and the Stewardship award to the Burlington Springs Golf and Country Club.



CH Chair John Vice presents the award for education group or school to Eastview Public School EcoTeam. From left to right: Andrew Kaiser (principal), Colin Yule, Ryan Pankratz, Graeme Courtney, Devon Miller, Bill Gatopoulos (custodial staff, organizer of EcoTeam), and Vice.



Mayor Gordon Krantz presents Hayden Downes-Mills, founder of Hayden’s Re-Bicycling with one of four citizen youth awards.



Ian Dunlop (right) presents Geoff and Judy Knuff with a Watershed Steward award.



Halton Regional Chair Gary Carr presents Melanie Ursprung with the Parks

Volunteer award.

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Cindy Lunau (middle right) presents the community award to representatives from Nassagaweya Community Consultation Committee.

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John Vice (right) presents the Citizen Award to Ken Hall.

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Mayor Gordon Krantz presents Sebastian Nesci, founder of Sebastian's Choice, with one of four Citizen Youth Awards.