

LATORNELLE LEADERSHIP

Awards



From 1999 to 2012, the A.D. Latornell Conservation Symposium honoured individuals who have demonstrated life-long, outstanding contributions to the field of conservation. They were 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 field of expertise. Nominees have encouraged and motivated others to take similar leadership roles towards conservation work.

To commemorate the 20th Anniversary of the Symposium in 2013, it was decided to revise this award in order to also recognize individuals who have made significant contributions at any time, for any duration – and not just over the course of their entire lifetime as long as their achievements demonstrate leadership accomplishments. To reflect this, the award was renamed the Latornell Leadership Award.

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



UNIVERSITY
of GUELPH



MIKE GARRETT

Nominated by: Toronto and Region Conservation

Mike Garrett has a history of leadership in complex multi-stakeholder environments with competing priorities and issues. He has the distinction of having been the chief administrative officer for the Region

of York, City of Toronto and Region of Peel, for a total of 17 years, during which time he led the amalgamation of the seven former municipalities into the City of Toronto. As CAO his responsibilities have included managing the delivery of water, wastewater, solid waste, welfare and public health services.

Prior to his municipal career, Mike served in the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources in senior roles,

including assistant deputy minister and director of the Conservation Authorities and Water Management Branch. As the general manager of South Nation River Basin—a federal/provincial economic and regional development secondment—he resolved ratepayer disputes and produced an economic development plan for the agricultural community.

In 2008, in a volunteer effort with CESO, Mike was selected to provide advice to the people of Sampaloc, Philippines on managing and improving their water supply system. Never one to shy away from gargantuan undertakings, he used his knowledge in municipal water services to make recommendations to address leaking pipes, develop closed water systems that limit harmful bacteria and implement a water metering system that enables the town to assess the level of water usage. Four years after he created a report outlining technical recommendations and financial requirements for

TORONTO

improvements, Sampaloc accumulated the necessary funds to develop a water treatment facility and improve its water system. Thanks to Mike's leading role, the town now has access 24/7 to water that is potable, high pressure and tested regularly. Mike's efforts to complete this project have positively affected the lives and wellbeing of over 13,000 people.

Mike is a man of the people; he has aligned himself with projects that have reached and benefitted millions of people to date. All of these projects have had the same elements in common: they supported the interest and wellbeing of communities and their respective citizens with a clear focus on public safety, environmental quality, and access to green space balanced with economic success. Feats like his can only be accomplished through true passion and caring for the people and a strong sense of social responsibility.



PETER MIDDLETON

Nominated by: Grey Sauble Conservation

For over 50 years, lifelong naturalist Peter Middleton has been an outdoor education teacher, principal and guide. In those leadership roles, his knowledge of the natural world, coupled with his keen interest in

education, has brought a greater understanding of the wonders of natural resources to many, young and old.

For 25 of those years, Peter worked at the Bruce County Education Centre. His passions, innovation, and pure excitement for outdoor/environmental education were so contagious, he left positive effects on students, classroom teachers, and outdoor staff both locally and provincially. Many of those he touched continued

to pursue environmentally related careers and goals throughout their lives.

As a nature guide, he is known as a fine interpreter of the natural environment, both at home and abroad, possessing an inclination and ability to communicate the significance of natural phenomena by building a context and framework of understanding for others. He has guided groups to many areas of the globe to observe birds, animals and plants, and interpret natural environments.

Adding to his list of impressive titles, Peter is also a respected field ornithologist who, over the years, has contributed to many projects, including the Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas, North America Breeding Bird Surveys, Grey-Bruce Records Committee and Endangered Species Recovery Programs. He was one of the leaders and mentors for a project to protect the

OWEN SOUND

nesting areas at Sauble Beach for the Piping Plover, an endangered species. In addition to being a member of the writing team for the Piping Plover Recovery Strategy in Ontario, he was instrumental in developing protocols, procedures and guides for volunteers as they spent countless hours protecting this species, leading to the successful fledging of several chicks. While on site, he was enthusiastic to take the time to educate any curious passersby, instilling in them the importance of preserving the birds' natural habitat in the ecosystem.

Peter has been a member and leader of many environmental groups including Owen Sound Field Naturalists (now past president), and is a present board member of Ontario Nature. His passion for environmental protection is an inspiration and his dedication to education has guided thousands of children and adults alike to explore, appreciate and respect nature.



RUSS POWELL

Nominated by: CABAL (Conservation Authorities Branch Alumni) and the Association of Retired Conservation Authority Staff

Russ Powell, whose distinguished career has spanned more than five decades, has been an influential and critical figure in natural resources management in Ontario. He has spent the majority of his career serving the

people of Ontario through the Conservation Authorities program at both the field and provincial levels. He has kick started CA programs and set them on solid political and financial footings, all while recruiting and mentoring Resources Managers. He began an era of progressive watershed management, pushing traditional boundaries aside to do what was required as opposed to what was "mandated"—as a result, he established the basis for the contemporary conservation programs in the

southwestern region of Ontario.

Under Russ' guidance, the Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority (for which he has been Chief Administrative Officer since 1995) played a leading role in putting Ontario Regulation 42-06 into place for conservation authorities across the province. As CAO, he streamlined CLOCA's plan review process (to the envy of other conservation authorities), allowing staff to respond to development approvals in a timely and cost-effective manner.

In 1998, Russ initiated an aggressive land acquisition project across the jurisdiction, bringing together multi-level governments, foundations and non-profit organizations to leverage the financial resources for their purchase. To date he has orchestrated the purchase of 1361.14 hectares (3,363.45 acres) of environmentally sensitive lands to place in long-term public ownership

OSHAWA

and grow with the community they support. One of his most significant undertakings has been the Enniskillen Valley Land Acquisition Project, initiated in 2004 to protect over 592.26 hectares (1,463.48 acres) of Environmentally Sensitive Area.

Russ, one of the individuals personally recruited by Art Latornell, has helped to perpetuate Art's legacy by mentoring young conservationists, through programs such as the Junior Conservationist Program, and challenging them to be bold, entrepreneurial and independent, but with a strong sense of public service. His influence has been province wide, and his legacy will endure, both in terms of the wealth of natural heritage lands he secured and the wealth of the people—conservationists, citizens, politicians—that he has mentored and influenced.



BILL DICKINSON

Nominated by: Muskoka Conservancy

Bill has spent over 30 years as an educator, teaching at Bracebridge High School where he became head of the science department. It was there that his lifetime commitment to leadership began. He notably created the

Outers' Club at Bracebridge High School to offer the opportunity to youth to experience and become inspired by their local environment; initiated and coordinated an Envirothon program for local high school students; and helps coordinate and promote the Charlie Esson bursary for Muskoka/Parry Sound District High School students destined for environmental-focused post-secondary education. This is just a minute list of leadership roles that Bill has taken on over the years in

order to engender a positive relationship between youth and the environment, instilling in the next generation of conservationists a sense of appreciation and accountability.

Throughout his career, Bill has done tremendous work, serving as director and member for a myriad of organizations: Muskoka Heritage Foundation and Trust, Muskoka Watershed Council, Parry Sound Muskoka Stewardship Network, Algonquin Forest Authority and Muskoka Conservancy. For the latter, Bill has championed several land acquisitions. Of particular significance, the Upjohn Nature Reserve was acquired in 2011 as spearheaded by Bill, comprising over 100 acres of mixed upland forest with two wonderfully diverse ponds.

His work through Muskoka Conservancy does not end there; he created and leads a Technical Advisory

BRACEBRIDGE

Group (TAG) consisting of volunteer experts in various environmental fields, such as biology, hydrology and geology, to provide advice on land protection and preservation. The TAG's major accomplishments include collecting baseline information, such as location data, stewardship requirements and species inventory for all 32 of the Conservancy's protected properties; completing annual monitoring visits of the properties and making recommendations for the lands' ongoing protection; and the planning and implementing of restoration projects on 7 privately-owned publically accessible sites.

Bill has the profound ability to connect with others and engage them in enjoying and protecting the environment, ensuring that good environmental causes continue. His efforts stand out from others in his extreme commitment and success in creating a positive network of people who permanently protect over 1,800 acres of Muskoka's legendary landscape.



JEAN-MARC FILION

Nominated by: North Bay-Mattawa Conservation Authority

Award-winning environmentalist, educator, researcher and eco-activist Jean-Marc Filion has been a prolific and staunch advocate for the health and sustainability of aquatic ecosystems in the North Bay area watersheds,

influencing environmental groups and decision makers.

As a secondary school science teacher since 1974 (now retired), Jean-Marc has inspired many youth in environmental science, and under his guidance, lead them to win national and international awards for their projects and research. He has also taught at the university level in the fields of biology, physics, mathematics, and computer science and was granted an honorary doctorate degree, Faculty of Education at Nipissing University. And if that wasn't enough, he also

authored subject content for a number of courses to be taught at Collège Boréal. He has dedicated a lifetime to supporting motivated, enthused and educated young scientists.

The quality that really distinguishes Jean-Marc as a leader and educator is his ability to translate scientific findings to common language that help raise public awareness of the issues affecting the North Bay area watersheds—and he does this in both official languages. He often acts as a French media liaison for the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario on the release of various reports. As his secondary students went on to achieve 32 medals in 10 consecutive years at national and international competitions, he was part of the organizing committee and in charge of delivering French liaison and translation services for both students and judges. His initiative and involvement truly values the students' hard work and research, as well as encourages the importance of environmental education.

NORTH BAY

Among many others, one of his most notable initiatives is his work on the Invasive Spiny Water Flea, a species that significantly depletes the fish population in Lake Nipissing by eating its food supply. Jean-Marc tracked the invasive spiny water flea in the Lake Nipissing ecosystem, reported on its impact, and raised public awareness about the importance of minimizing the transport of invasive species between watersheds.

Jean-Marc has always been and remains a positive force behind public involvement and education. His input on environmental issues reflects thoughtful investigation and concern for the overall health of the aquatic ecosystems, while recognizing the economic and social impacts as well.

Jean-Marc has served as President of Lake Nipissing Partners in Conservation, Secretary of North Bay Hunters and Anglers, and Vice-President/Newspaper Editor/Fisheries Chair of the Trout Lake Conservation Association.

MASTER OF CEREMONIES



DON PEARSON

General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer - Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority

Don Pearson joined the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority on January 1, 2013 following nearly 8 years as General Manager of Conservation Ontario.

During his time with Conservation Ontario, Mr. Pearson served on the Natural Spaces Leadership Alliance, Trees Ontario, and the Ontario Biodiversity Council. He is presently a

board member of Carolinian Canada, the Ontario Heritage Trust and the Canadian Water Network.

From 1981 until 2003, Mr. Pearson was General Manager of the Upper

Thames River Conservation Authority where, under his leadership, the Authority earned a reputation for excellence and innovation in environmental management and community engagement. The Thames was designated as a Canadian Heritage River in 2000 with the strong support of the Upper Thames River and Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authorities.

Prior to joining Conservation Ontario, Mr. Pearson spent two years as Chief Administrative Officer of the County of Perth. He holds a Master's Degree in Public Administration from the University of Western Ontario and an Honours Science Degree from the University of Waterloo. He and his wife Cathy reside in London, Ontario.

LONDON

PREVIOUS AWARD WINNERS

2012

Peter Orphanos, John Sibbald, Jack Imhof, Scott Gillingwater

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, Rheel 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 Bugar

1999

John Murray, Charles Alexander, Len Johnson, Dr. Dave Ankney, Christine Nornabell, Russell Piper, Mac Coutts, Ken Higgs

If you are interested in nominating an individual for consideration for the 2014 Latornell Leadership Award, see the criteria detailed on the Latornell Conservation Symposium website at www.latornell.ca

FOR MORE
INFORMATION

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