The Latornell Conservation Symposium honours individuals who have demonstrated 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 to their field of expertise.

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

PREVIOUS AWARD WINNERS

2018

LATORNELL Conservation Awards

Leadership Awards

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Latournell Conservation Symposium
C/o Steering Committee, Conservation Ontario
120 Bayview Parkway
Newmarket, ON L3Y 3W3
Tel: 905-895-0766 Fax: 905-895-0751
info@latornell.ca | www.latornell.ca
**MEET THE 2018 AWARD RECIPIENTS**

**Nels Conroy**
Lively (Sudbury), ON
Retired – Chair of Sudbury Source Protection Committee
Nominated by: Sudbury Source Protection Authority, Sudbury ON

Nels Conroy served as President of the Water Environment Association of Ontario. Nels was appointed as the Chair of the Sudbury Source Protection Committee in August 2007 retiring earlier this year. He holds an undergraduate degree in Biology from University of Guelph and a Masters in Aquatic Chemistry from McMaster University. His career began as an aquatic biologist working on the impact of uranium mining operations and he retired (for the first time) as Vice President of Operations for the Ontario Clean Water Agency.

He has been involved in aspects of the freshwater environment throughout his career from the role of aquatic biology in benchmarking water quality to directing the operations of water and wastewater treatment plants. He made significant contributions to the study of acid rain impacts and has authored many publications on the aquatic ecosystem including acid rain impacts and restoration of the aquatic ecosystem. He was instrumental in the conception and implementation of the plan to protect Sudbury’s drinking water.

Nels is very active in other pursuits as well. He was the Associate Director of the Ontario Outdoors Writers assisting new writers with the craft, in this and other pursuits, Nels’ passion for inspiring young people to embrace conservation ideals has been forefront. He was instrumental in the program to restore elk in Ontario and headed the Sudbury Elk Restoration Committee leading their effort to tap international status for raising funds for the project.

Nels is a long-standing member of Science North’s Science Committee and continues to volunteer for the Canadian Cancer Society. A recent new adventure saw him in North Bay volunteering for the World Women’s Curling Championship.

Nels and Carol have two children and six grand children. He thinks it’s his job to ensure the grandchildren follow in his footsteps and become experienced outdoors enthusiasts. He quips “it is a tough job but someone has to do it.”

**Shelley Macpherson**
Manotick, ON
Regulations Enforcement Officer, Rideau Valley Conservation Authority
Nominated by: Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority, Carleton Place ON

Shelley joined the RVCA in January 1990 as a Resource Technician for Planning and Regulations. Her role evolved over the years and for the last 25+ years she has been responsible mainly for reviewing retroactive applications, compliance and enforcement under the Conservation Authorities Act.

She has been a Provincial Officer (since 1993) and was voted, in her class, as the most likely to marry a valiant officer. She was instrumental in the updating of the Enforcement Proposed Amendments in 2002 against the backdrop of the new Conservation Authorities Act. Shelley is viewed as an invaluable resource by environmental enforcement staff across the various conservation authorities and in numerous provincial ministries.

She is also a leader in the development of the Regulatory Compliance Guidelines which provide a guideline for use by conservation authorities in their enforcement of the regulations.

She has a Bachelor’s Degree from Carleton University in Geography and a diploma in Municipal Administration from St. Lawrence College in Kingston.

She was a member of the Latornell Steering Committee for five years and is a ten year member of Conservation Ontario’s Regulatory Compliance Committee which includes organizing training opportunities for regulations staff across the Province.

People who work in the environmental enforcement field are often faced with very stressful situations. Environmental regulation is never popular. People who work in the environmental enforcement field are often faced with very stressful situations. Environmental regulation is never popular. Shelley has faced this stress with humour, a positive attitude and being well-versed with the players and facts of the situation. Although it is her strong understanding of the regulations and policies that make her such an important asset to other enforcement professionals, it is Shelley’s positive approach to stressful situations that can be equally helpful to people who consider her a mentor. Shelley is equally proud of her record where cases are resolved by voluntary and negotiated compliance than that of any prosecution. She believes better public education of the regulations and its purposes can reduce compliance issues and long term impacts for floodplains, slopes, wetlands, and shorelines.

**Brian Denney**
collingwood, ON
Retired Chief Executive Officer, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA)
Nominated by: TRCA, Toronto ON

Brian Denney graduated from the University of Guelph in 1974 with a Bachelor of Science in Engineering with a major in Water Resources Engineering. He commenced work with the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) in 1974 and remained with the TRCA in various positions of increasing responsibility. He became CEO of the organization in 2003 and in 2012. He completed his career at TRCA in December of 2017.

Under his leadership the TRCA offered broad programs in resource conservation and sustainability. The scope of programs and projects included working with developers of new communities to have appropriate regard for natural hazards and to contribute to the regional greenspace system while providing appropriate storm water management controls.

His efforts also included leading the organization to implement a number of diverse programs ranging from heritage conservation to climate change mitigation and adaptation. Under his leadership TRCA created many new parks and trails systems along the Lake Ontario waterfront and throughout the riverine systems of the GTA.

He led TRCA’s major contributions to the establishment of the Rouge National Urban Park. Efforts to advance the green building movement throughout the Toronto region was one of Brian’s major objectives and he served on the national board of the Canada Green Building Council for six years. His work has been recognized by awards from the Canada Green Building Council and from Sustainable Buildings Canada.

**Terry Murphy**
belleville, ON
General Manager, Quinte Conservation
Nominated by: Quinte Conservation, Belleville ON

Terry Murphy has spent forty-three years in the conservation field. During that time he has had a lasting positive influence on the environment in the area surrounding Quinte Conservation. Terry served on various committees including: The Eastern Ontario Smart Growth Panel, The Bay of Quinte Remedial Action Plan Restoration Council, Conservation Ontario Communications Committee, and the Tourism and Recreation Committee. Terry was intimately involved in the Big Island Compensation Project which involved a substantial restoration of a wetland ecosystem creating a habitat for aquatic and terrestrial species alike, as well as the conversion of the Wellington Channel, leading staff to develop a state of the art flood forecasting system and supported municipalities through several floods and droughts.

Terry is a true leader and forward thinker. He was an early proponent of green technology which helped with the development of an electric dam on the Moira River. He introduced hybrid cars to the Quinte Conservation fleet in the early 2000’s and has since added a fully electric car. His abilities as a leader were put to the test in 1994 when the Delphi to conservation authorities was severely reduced. Terry recognized that more had to be accomplished with less. Just two years after the drastic funding reductions Terry was able to shape a consensus such that The Moira River CA, Prince Edward CA, and Napanee Region CA be amalgamated into one unified conservation authority – Quinte Conservation.

Terry has been a proponent of making people aware of their environment and conservation. Originally, as General Manager of the Moira River Conservation Authority, he actively promoted education and stewardship in order to improve engagement in conservation among various members of the community. He carried this vision of increasing community involvement in environmental conservation over to Quinte Conservation – where his goal of offering as many low cost (or free) programs as possible has been realized. Terry realized that nature belongs to everyone and his work with the development of the accessible trail system at Potter’s Creek Conservation Area is a testament to that belief.

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