

Caledon well represented at Environmental Awards

Credit Valley Conservation (CVC) presented a number of Caledon-based organizations with Conservation Awards at the recent Friends of the Credit Conservation Awards ceremony.

CVC presented 19 awards in four categories at the ceremony held at BraeBen Golf and Country Club in Mississauga.

Among the winners, Deirdre Wright and the late Lorna Bethell, both of Caledon, were honoured with Watershed Legacy Donor Awards. In 2012, Bethell worked with CVC and the Ontario Farmland Trust to permanently protect her 100-acre farm in Caledon through a farmland conservation easement. The forest, farm fields, wildlife habitat and water features preserved through the easement are a perpetual and lasting contribution to the health of the local environment.

Wright worked with CVC since 1988, planting trees and improving wetlands on her 100-acre farm in Caledon. In 2009, she partnered with the Ontario Farmland Trust to protect her farmland and its environmental features in perpetuity through a farmland conservation easement. It was the first agreement of its kind in Ontario.

Caledon Central Public School was honoured with an Award of Merit for inspiring students to get involved in environmental restoration and conservation. Over the past three years, students have planted a living snow fence, made up of native trees and shrubs, along Charleston Sideroad and another in their schoolyard. Students also restored a buffer of vegetation along Caledon Creek, improving habitat for wildlife including the endangered fish, red side dace. The school is embracing the local environment and has started the first phase of an outdoor classroom to take educational experience-outdoors.

For more than 20 years, CVC has presented awards to individuals, landowners, community groups, small businesses, corporations, municipalities and agencies that have made a significant contribution to managing natural resources in the Credit River watershed. Through these awards, CVC's Board of Directors celebrates important work done across the watershed to help ensure its long-term environmental health. A total of 19 awards were presented in the following categories: Watershed Legacy Donors; Award of Distinction; Certificate of Merit; and Young Conservationist.