

CVC and IMAX win Minister's Award

Credit Valley Conservation (CVC) and IMAX Corporation received a Minister's Award for Environmental Excellence for using innovative approaches and new technologies to protect the Great Lakes and the environment.

The award ceremony took place recently at Queen's Park.

CVC and IMAX Corporation partnered to reconstruct an environmentally friendly parking lot at the IMAX head office in Mississauga. This innovative parking lot uses leading edge technologies and expertise from local green companies Imbrium, Unilock, Aquaforbeechee and Fernridge. These technologies decrease flooding and prevent pollutants from entering Lake Ontario, the drinking water source for eight million people.

"We are honoured to receive this award," said Christine Zimmer, senior manager of protection and restoration for CVC. "We are very proud to have partnered with IMAX. This project has demonstrated how doing the right thing for the environment can have economic benefits."

Climate change is a global phenomenon that has impacts locally with severe weather, flooding and drought. Severe storms, like the one that hit the Greater Toronto Area July 8, 2013, cost Ontarians an estimated \$900 million in insurance claims. Large storms are occurring more frequently. By installing onsite stormwater technologies, IMAX reduced their risk of flooding. This project supports local green businesses, contributes to the green economy and provides more green jobs for Ontarians.

The Minister's Award for Environmental Excellence recognizes and encourages environmental excellence, fosters innovation and raises awareness about the importance of protecting the environment. Since 2011, the program has recognized the environmental achievements of 40 organizations.

"Today we celebrate just a few of the most outstanding efforts of individuals, groups, and companies in protecting our environment," said Environment and Climate Change Minister Glen Murray. "We hope the examples we see today inspire others to be innovators in protecting our natural heritage; not only because it's good for the environment, but because innovation helps build a strong economy, and create new jobs."

The recipients of the 2013 Minister's Award for Environmental Excellence collaborated with schools, industry leaders and volunteers to restore wildlife habitat, conserve water and energy, and prevent pollutants and nutrients from entering the Great Lakes. Recognizing environmental excellence is part of Ontario's plan to build a stronger economy, create new jobs and promote innovative ways to protect the environment.