



The Regional Municipality of Durham

News Release

May 31, 2018

Durham Region recognizes local environmental achievement

Whitby, Ontario – The Durham Environmental Advisory Committee’s (DEAC) prestigious 2018 Environmental Achievement Awards were handed out last night, during a special ceremony at The Regional Municipality of Durham Headquarters in Whitby.

Established in 2003, the six award categories—named in memory of past environmental leaders—recognize and acknowledge environmental achievements of individuals and organizations in the public, private and non-profit sectors within Durham Region. The program is intended to recognize efforts to promote, preserve and enhance the local environment.

The **George A. Scott Stewardship Award** for the maintenance, protection or preservation of the natural environment, was presented to **Scugog Lake Stewards Inc.** for its Lake Scugog stewardship activities and research. Incorporated as a charitable organization in 2003, Scugog Lake Stewards Inc. advocated for the establishment of the Healthy Lake Scugog Steering Committee of Scugog Council. Scugog Lake Stewards Inc. fundraises and applies for grants in order to support graduate student research, complete monitoring patrols around the lake, and facilitate community outreach. Their recent project includes fundraising for the creation of an engineered wetland in Port Perry Bay through the use of dredged material from the lakebed. Planning is well underway for this project, which is expected to be constructed in fall 2018.

The **Dr. J. Murray Speirs Restoration Award** for the restoration of degraded natural environments was presented to **Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters** for restoration work related to the “Bring Back the Salmon” program. Bring Back the Salmon is a four-part strategy including: fish production and stocking; habitat restoration and water quality enhancement; research and monitoring; and education and outreach. Through the program, 100 habitat restoration projects have been completed and three million fish have been stocked in tributaries, including locally in Duffins Creek. Four years after the program’s inception, the first wild-born Atlantic Salmon were recorded in Lake Ontario for the first time in over 150 years.

The **Irene Kock Education/Communication Award** for fostering effective communications, sharing knowledge, or exhibiting leadership in helping others to learn about the natural environment was presented to **Durham Farm Connections (DFC)** for its work to enhance knowledge, understanding, and appreciation of agriculture and the agri-food industry within Durham Region. DFC is a volunteer organization that targets students, the general public, the farming community, and elected officials with various hands-on activities that foster a connection to agriculture and local food production. In 2017, DFC reached more than 1,200 students and teachers and over 800 members of the public (15,000 since inception).

The **Eric Krause Innovative Plans/Policies/Initiatives Award** was presented to the **Municipality of Clarington** for the Priority Green Clarington (PGC) initiative. PGC is based on council support for the establishment of a framework to promote the development of environmentally responsible, compact and complete new neighbourhoods. PGC was considered through the most recent amendments to the Clarington Official Plan, and is now being implemented as part of its secondary planning and land development review processes.

The **Jessica Markland Partnership Award** for co-operative efforts to enhance the environment involving public, community and private interests, was presented to **Oshawa Environmental Advisory Committee** for partnering with various organizations and community groups to deliver and participate in activities that foster greater awareness of environmental issues facing the community. For example, the committee has partnered with Oshawa PUC to host an annual Energy Conservation Challenge; worked with G.L. Roberts to grow and distribute milkweed plants; partnered with GM and Friends of the Second Marsh to host the annual Feathered Friends Festival; and established a seed library with Oshawa Libraries.

The **Evylin Stroud Lifetime Achievement Award** for the continued promotion of protecting the environment, through small, but meaningful ways, was presented to **Joanne Dies** for the impact that she has made both locally and provincially over 30 years of environmentalism. As the Town of Ajax Council representative on the Ajax Environmental Advisory Committee, Councillor Dies has been volunteering with Concerned Citizens of Durham since the early 1990s. She was integral in the establishment of the St. Andrews Community Garden, Co-chairs the Pickering Ajax Citizens Together to Protect Our Water, and works with the Pine Ridge Arts Council on encouraging high school students to create art from litter.

To learn more about the DEAC Environmental Achievement Awards, visit durham.ca/deac.

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