

SEEKING UNSUNG ENVIRONMENTAL HEROES *Tri-Valley Conservation Awards Moves West to the Mississippi*

Everyone knows someone or some group doing voluntary environmental work that helps clean the rivers, lakes, land and air of Eastern Ontario? A teacher, a class of students, a lake association, a small business or farmer in your community perhaps? People who do it because it's the right thing to do and not because they have to? The efforts of these unsung environmental heroes bring benefits to us all and we want to find them.

Nominations are now being accepted for the Tri-Valley Conservation Awards brought to you by three Conservation Authorities of Eastern Ontario. The second annual Tri-Valley Conservation Awards Gala will be held on Wednesday, October 21 in the Almonte Old Town Hall in Mississippi Mills to show appreciation for the achievements of ordinary, everyday people helping the environment in the Mississippi, Rideau and South Nation River watersheds.

The "tri-valley" area covers more than 12,000 square kilometres from Pakenham to Westport to Perth to Ottawa and Plantagenet. Over 700,000 people live and benefit from the voluntary environmental leadership of local businesses, communities, schools, municipalities and farmers who work daily to sustain the health of our watersheds.

"After the success of our inaugural year, we are excited to make the call for nominations for 2009. It is inspiring to know that there are so many ordinary people out there quietly going about their business *and* reducing their impact on the environment every day," said Mary Bryden, Tri-Valley Gala Committee Chair. "These environmental heroes large and small are a source of pride and a real inspiration to us all. We are delighted to honour them and showcase their work."

The eight award categories are: Primary Schools, Intermediate/High Schools, College/University, Agriculture, Community Groups, Individuals, Businesses and Municipalities. Projects could include tree planting, water quality protection, shoreline stewardship, water conservation, outdoor education or any other activities that help protect the health of our environment.

Nominations will be accepted until September 11 and winners will be announced at the Gala on October 21. This evening event will showcase the top two nominees from each of the eight categories. One winner will be announced, from a sealed envelope, for each category.

For more information and to download a nomination form please visit:

Mississippi Valley Conservation - www.mvc.on.ca
Rideau Valley Conservation - www.rvca.ca
South Nation Conservation - www.nation.on.ca

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