

SCRCA Holds Annual Meeting

February 18, 2010

Strathroy, February 18, 2010: The St. Clair Region Conservation Authority held their 2010 annual meeting in Strathroy on Thursday. Andy Bruziewicz representing the City of Sarnia was elected Chair and Steve Arnold representing St. Clair Township was elected Vice-Chair.

The Board voted unanimously to accept the 2010 budget of \$6,064,963. This budget represents a great deal of conservation work for our region," Andy Bruziewicz said. It includes outdoor education programs for school children, grants for landowners to implement conservation projects, erosion protection along the St. Clair River, environmental monitoring, flood warning, Conservation Areas and much more," Bruziewicz explained. "Our General Levy, which is the part of budget funded by municipalities, was \$540,250 or 9% of the total budget". The remaining funds come from self generated revenue, government grants and fundraised dollars.

Representatives from Dow Chemical Canada ULC and the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority (SCRCA) unveiled plans at the meeting for the long-term management and eventual ownership by the SCRCA of The Dow Wetlands. During the SCRCA annual meeting, board members were apprised of work that is underway to ensure the continuation of The Dow Wetlands as a learning environment for the community. A separate media release is attached providing more details.

The Conservation Authority presented four Conservation Awards at the meeting:

Village of Point Edward

The Village of Point Edward has actively pursued projects to enhance the environmental well-being of their community including the development of shoreline protection that built upon the historic link of the community to the St. Clair River, development of the waterfront trail and supporting an active tree planting program at the Point Edward Waterfront Park.

Nelson Martinez

Mr. Martinez was the lead RAP vocalist for the RAP Video, One Shot. Mr Martinez auditioned for the position and was chosen from several performers. He volunteered his talent for the video for a cause he strongly believes in. Since performing in the video, he has been taking his conservation messages to others and working personally to build upon his family's views on the environment. His talent and passion were instrumental in the success of One Shot: The River RAP.

Lawrene Denkers, Janice LeBoeuf, Janice Mersereau Harris

These three individuals have been volunteers involved in the turtle surveys along the Sydenham River. For the past three years, these volunteers have joined Authority staff to canoe sections of the Sydenham to document the population of various turtle species. In 2009, a total of 62 kilometres were paddled while searching for turtles.

Walpole Island Land Trust

The Walpole Island First Nation has established the first aboriginal land trust to be registered as an incorporated charity in Canada. It aims to facilitate even greater conservation efforts through long-term protection of significant habitats by integrating formal land conservation with traditional cultural ties to the land. One important project that the Land Trust is working on with community partners is to conserve and restore a 171 acre marsh on Walpole Island with support from Ducks

Unlimited Canada, Wildlife Habitat Canada, the Friends of the St. Clair River, and the Walpole Island First Nation. Funds raised for this pilot project will support management, ecological restoration, invasive species control, research, and training as well as community initiatives to teach their children how to sustainably harvest food and medicines.

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Photo
Conservation Award Winners
From left to right: Andy Bruziewicz, Chair; Larry MacKenzie, Village of Point Edward; Lawrence Denkers; Clint Jacobs, Walpole Island Land Trust; Janice Mersereau Harris; Janice LeBoeuf; Nelson Martinez