

SCRCA Holds Annual Meeting

February 20, 2009

Wallaceburg, February 19, 2009: The St. Clair Region Conservation Authority held their 2009 annual meeting at the Black Sheep Pub and Bistro in Wallaceburg on Thursday. Norm Giffen, representing Strathroy-Caradoc was elected Chair and Andy Bruziewicz representing the City of Sarnia was elected Vice-Chair.

The highlight of the meeting was guest speaker, Susan Gardner, Executive Editor of *Municipal World*. Ms Gardner spoke on sustainability as a lens through which municipal decision makers must work.

The Board voted unanimously to accept the 2009 budget of \$7,373,807. This budget represents a great deal of conservation work for our region," Giffen 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," Giffen explained. "Our General Levy, which is the part of budget funded by municipalities, was \$515,350 or 7% of the total budget". The remaining funds come from self generated revenue, government grants and fundraised dollars.

Three Conservation Awards were presented at the meeting:

Denning Funeral Directors Ltd., Forest Chapel - Brett Denning joined the St. Clair Region Conservation Foundation's memorial forest program last year. He is continuing this tradition by launching this new program where trees are planted in memory of loved ones throughout the Lambton Shores community on public lands.

Mr. Keith McLean – Mr. McLean is a resident of Chatham-Kent and lives on his farm near Rondeau Bay. His farm is a tribute to conservation and his lifelong passion for natural beauty is clear when you walk through his fascinating property. Over the years, Mr. McLean has transformed his land into a wildlife sanctuary while remaining a working farm. He has planted tallgrass prairie, planted trees, created an arboretum, protected his wetlands and has developed a beautiful lotus gardens which attract visitors from around world.

The Friends of the St. Clair River – The Friends of the St. Clair River is an all-volunteer registered Canadian charitable organization. Its purpose is to promote conservation, beautification and other environmental activities associated with the St. Clair River and assist in the development and implementation of the St. Clair River Remedial Action Plan.

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