

RIDEAU VALLEY CONSERVATION FOUNDATION NEWS RELEASE

TRI-VALLEY CONSERVATION AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE 2011 ~OPEN FOR NOMINATIONS~

RIDEAU VALLEY, November 1, 2011 — Nominations are now being accepted for the 4th Annual Tri-Valley Conservation Awards in the Mississippi, Rideau and South Nation river valleys.

These important community awards recognize and celebrate the voluntary work of ordinary people doing extraordinary things for our environment. Most often, these voluntary activities are done in the background with little fanfare and even less expectation of being recognized. Past winning projects have included tree planting, water conservation on farms, industrial innovation, municipal projects that protect water quality, teaching kids about the value of stewardship and many more. In the past three years, 36 prizes have been given to residents all over the awards area!

The awards committee is now accepting nominations in the following categories:

- Primary Schools (JK-grade 6)
- Intermediate/High School (grades 7-12)
- College/University
- Agriculture
- Community/Lake Groups
- Individuals/Family Groups
- Business
- Municipalities
- Lifetime Conservation Achievement in the Mississippi Valley (NEW)
- Lifetime Conservation Achievement in the Rideau Valley (NEW)
- Lifetime Conservation Achievement in the South Nation Valley (NEW).

In addition, the awards committee will now accept nominations from anywhere within an entire municipality which is at least partly within one of the three local Conservation Authorities.

Nominations will be accepted until 4:30 pm, Thursday, March 1, 2012. Winners will be announced and recognized at the Tri-Valley Conservation Awards Gala to be held at the Rideau Valley Conservation Centre in Manotick on the evening of April 18, 2012. This special evening of fun, food and the environment will showcase the top nominees in each category.

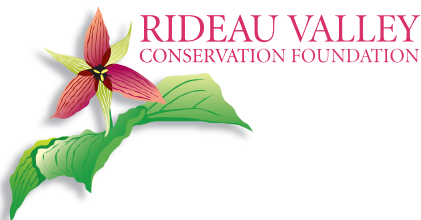
Nomination forms are available online at www.mvc.on.ca, www.rvca.ca and www.nation.on.ca. You have the option of filling in and submitting the form online or downloading the form for submission by mail or fax.

"The Tri-Valley Conservation Awards are one of the top environmental prizes in the three watersheds gaining in prestige and honour as each year passes," said Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation Chair Jason Kelly. "We are very proud of all our nominees and look forward to learning more about all of the exceptional voluntary work going on out there in the watersheds," he continued.

The tri-valley area covers the watersheds of the Mississippi River, Rideau River and South Nation River. This 12,000 square km area represents a huge chunk of Eastern Ontario from Bon Echo Park to Carleton Place, Pakenham and Perth through Ottawa, Smiths Falls, Kemptville, Winchester, Chesterville, Casselman to Plantagenet. Over 700,000 people live here and benefit from the voluntary environmental leadership of local businesses, communities, schools and families who work to sustain the health of our watersheds because it's the right thing to do.

Online applications, expanded geographic coverage, new categories...it doesn't get much easier than that. Do you know a steward of the water or the land, an environmental leader or group in your community, school or business circle who is taking care of our common environment no matter how large or small their activities might be? Please consider nominating them today for a 2011 Tri-Valley Conservation Award of excellence. Let the awards begin...

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