



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### New national environment awards launched

**OTTAWA , May 1, 2002** – A new national program to recognize community-based environmental initiatives was launched today by Canadian Geographic Enterprises. The **Canadian Environment Awards: A Celebration of Community Achievement** honours 29 extraordinary Canadians who are acting locally to help protect, preserve and restore Canada's environment. The program is inspired by the community-action objective of the Government of Canada's **Canadian Environment Week**, this year celebrated **June 2 - 8**.

The nominees were selected by a panel of environmental luminaries from across the country: **Jessie Davies**, director of the Environment and Sustainable Development Research Centre at University of New Brunswick; **Jim Fulton**, executive director of the David Suzuki Foundation; **Elizabeth May**, executive director of Sierra Club Canada; **Harvey Mead**, founding president of l'Union québécoise pour la conservation de la nature; **Kevin O'Reilly**, research director for the Canadian Arctic Resources Committee; and **David Schindler**, professor of ecology at the University of Alberta. "The nominees are a very impressive group," says *Canadian Geographic* editor **Rick Boychuk**, who is chair of the nominating panel. "Environmental problems don't lend themselves to quick fixes. These are people who have made lifelong commitments to protecting our common heritage. From local beginnings, they have had national impact and inspire us all."

Biographies of the 29 nominees have been published in digest-sized English and French magazines, which will be distributed with *Canadian Geographic*, *The Environmental Guides*, *Québec Science* and *La Presse*. From **May 1 to June 30**, the Canadian public is invited to vote online for the most outstanding nominee in each of the eight categories of environmental achievement — **Clean Air, Climate Change, Environmental Health, Environmental Learning, Lands and Forests, Sustainable Living, Clean Water, and Wildlife and Nature**. A list of nominees is attached. All nominees will be honoured at an awards gala in October. "The program was created to generate greater public awareness of the community-based environmental activities," says Paula Prociuk Blacklock, program director of the **Canadian Environment Awards**. "This is an opportunity for Canadians to get to know some of their environmental heroes. We're recognizing and celebrating individual and collective action. These nominees are the inspiration for all Canadians. They show us that we can all make a difference in helping to preserve and protect Canada's environment."

The **Canadian Environment Awards** is produced and managed by Canadian Geographic Enterprises, publishers of *Canadian Geographic* magazine. Program partners also include the Government of Canada, Shell Canada, CHUM Radio Network and *The Environmental Guides*. Toyota Canada is the sponsor of **The Green Team Challenge**, a youth program of the **Canadian Environment Awards**. Other supporting sponsors include Panasonic, Quebecor, WestJet, VIA Rail and Royal Canadian Mint.

An electronic version of the **Canadian Environment Awards** digest is available at: [www.canadiangeographic.ca/cea](http://www.canadiangeographic.ca/cea)

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**CHUM Radio Network**

**THE Environmental Guides 2002**



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## **NOMINEES OF THE CANADIAN ENVIRONMENT AWARDS 2002**

### **Lands and Forests**

John McCarthy, ecologist and forestry activist  
Allan Saganash, forestry activist and policy-maker  
Peter Schleifenbaum, proprietor, Haliburton Forest and Wild Life Reserve  
Margo Sheppard, The Nature Trust of New Brunswick

### **Clean Water**

Groupe de l'eau de la Covey Hill  
Roy Howard, Fraser Headwaters Alliance  
Clive Callaway and Sarah Kipp, Living by Water Project

### **Environmental Learning**

Monique Fitz-Back, Établissement vert Brundtland  
Marcel Lafleur and Jean Robitaille, ERE Éducation  
Rita Banach, The Green Group  
Tim Grant and Gail Littlejohn, *Green Teacher* magazine

### **Sustainable Living**

Wayne Roberts, Toronto Food Policy Council  
Save the Oak Ridges Moraine Coalition  
Federation of Canadian Municipalities

### **Wildlife and Nature**

David Loewen, salmon habitat steward  
The Petitcodiac Riverkeeper  
Alain Branchaud and Andrée Gendron, aquatic biologists

### **Clean Air**

André Bélisle, Association québécoise de lutte contre la pollution atmosphérique  
Citizens Stewardship Coalition, Port Alberni, British Columbia  
Mary Griffiths, energy activist and researcher  
Martha Kostuch, environmental activist

### **Environmental Health**

Nicole Bruinsma, instrumental in pesticide ban in Chelsea, Quebec  
David Bates, air-quality researcher  
Donna Mergler, research scientist and activist  
Ann Marie Ross, Cape Breton coke-oven action

### **Climate Change**

Jean Paradis, Négawatts  
David Coon, Conservation Council of New Brunswick  
Ralph Torrie, energy-efficiency consultant and activist  
Climate Change Caravan