

EMBARGO UNTIL SEPTEMBER 24, 2002, 9 P.M. (EST)

Canadian Geographic Announces People's Choice Winners for the **Canadian Environment Awards 2002**

OTTAWA, September 24, 2002 – *Canadian Geographic* today announced the peoples' choice recipients for the **Canadian Environment Awards 2002: A Celebration of Community Achievement.**

The River Lobby at the Museum of Civilization in Hull, Quebec, was the site of a gala awards dinner last night to recognize the nominees for the inaugural **Canadian Environment Awards**. This new national program celebrates extraordinary Canadians who are acting locally to help protect, preserve and restore the country's environment. The **Canadian Environment Awards** was inspired by the community-action objectives of the Government of Canada's Environment Week. Nominees were selected by a panel of environmental leaders. In the first year, gold and silver recipients were chosen by members of the Canadian public who were asked to vote for one candidate in each of the eight categories of environmental achievement.

The People's Choice gold and silver recipients in each category were announced last night (complete list attached). The gold recipients are:

CLEAN AIR 2002

Citizens Stewardship Coalition
Port Alberni Community Group (British Columbia)

CLIMATE CHANGE 2002

Climate Change Caravan
Climate Change Coalition (New Brunswick)

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH 2002

Nicole Bruinsma, awarded posthumously
Instrumental in pesticide ban in Chelsea (Quebec)

ENVIRONMENTAL LEARNING 2002

Rita Banach
Founder, The Green Group (Ontario)

LANDS AND FORESTS 2002

John McCarthy
Ecologist and Forestry Activist (Newfoundland)

SUSTAINABLE LIVING 2002

Save the Oak Ridges Moraine Coalition
Citizens' Conservation Group (Ontario)

WILDLIFE AND NATURE 2002

The Petitcodiac Riverkeeper
Aquatic Restoration Group (New Brunswick)

CLEAN WATER 2002

Clive Callaway • Sarah Kipp
The Living by Water Project (British Columbia)

The keynote speaker for the **Canadian Environment Awards** gala was The Honourable David Anderson, Minister of the Environment. Tim Faithfull, president of Shell Canada, presented each gold recipient with a cheque for \$5,000, which will be donated to their environmental cause of choice. Each nominee was recognized with a commemorative plaque featuring the Natural Legacy Medallion produced by the Royal Canadian Mint.

The **Canadian Environment Awards** is produced and managed by *Canadian Geographic* in partnership with other community-minded organizations. Program partners include the Government of Canada, Shell Canada, CHUM Radio Network and *The Environmental Guides*. Toyota Canada is a presenting sponsor. Supporting sponsors include Panasonic, Quebecor, WestJet, VIA Rail, Royal Canadian Mint and Bostonian Executive Suites.

Additional information about the **Canadian Environment Awards 2002** and next year's awards program is available at www.canadiangeographic.ca

For more information, contact:

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CANADIAN ENVIRONMENT AWARDS 2002

PEOPLE'S CHOICE GOLD AND SILVER RECIPIENTS

CLEAN AIR 2002

People's Choice Gold Award
Citizens Stewardship Coalition
Port Alberni Community Group (British Columbia)

People's Choice Silver Award
André Bélisle
Association québécoise de lutte contre la pollution
atmosphérique (Quebec)

Mary Griffiths
Energy Activist and Researcher (Alberta)

Martha Kostuch
Environmental Activist (Alberta)

CLIMATE CHANGE 2002

People's Choice Gold Award
Climate Change Caravan
Climate Change Coalition (New Brunswick)

People's Choice Silver Award
David Coon
Conservation Council of New Brunswick

Jean Paradis
Founder and CEO, Négawatts (Quebec)

Ralph Torrie
Energy-Efficiency Consultant and Activist (Ontario)

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH 2002

People's Choice Gold Award
Nicole Bruinsma, awarded posthumously
Instrumental in pesticide ban in Chelsea (Quebec)

People's Choice Silver Award
David V. Bates
Air-Quality Researcher (British Columbia)

Donna Mergler
Research Scientist and Activist (Alberta)

Ann Marie Ross
Organizer, Cape Breton Coke-Oven Action

ENVIRONMENTAL LEARNING 2002

People's Choice Gold Award
Rita Banach
Founder, The Green Group (Ontario)

People's Choice Silver Award
Monique Fitz-Back
Établissement vert Brundtland (Quebec)

Tim Grant • Gail Littlejohn
Publishers, *Green Teacher* (Ontario)

Marcel Lafleur • Jean Robitaille
Creators, ERE Éducation (Quebec)

LANDS AND FORESTS 2002

People's Choice Gold Award
John McCarthy
Ecologist and Forestry Activist (Newfoundland)

People's Choice Silver Award
Allan Saganash Jr.
Forestry Activist and Policy-Maker (Quebec)

Peter Schleifenbaum
Owner, Haliburton Forest and Wild Life Reserve (Ontario)

Margo Sheppard
The Nature Trust of New Brunswick

SUSTAINABLE LIVING 2002

People's Choice Gold Award
Save the Oak Ridges Moraine Coalition
Citizens' Conservation Group (Ontario)

People's Choice Silver Award
Federation of Canadian Municipalities
Leader in Environmental Initiatives (Ontario)

Wayne Roberts
Project Coordinator, Toronto Food Policy Council (Ontario)

CLEAN WATER 2002

People's Choice Gold Award
Clive Callaway • Sarah Kipp
The Living by Water Project (British Columbia)

People's Choice Silver Award
Groupe de l'eau de la Covey Hill
Water Conservation Activists (Quebec)

Roy Howard, Co-founder
Fraser Headwaters Alliance (Quebec)

WILDLIFE AND NATURE 2002

People's Choice Gold Award
The Petitcodiac Riverkeeper
Aquatic Restoration Group (New Brunswick)

People's Choice Silver Award
Alain Branchaud • Andrée Gendron
Aquatic Biologists and Environmental Entrepreneurs (Quebec)

David Loewen
Wild-Salmon Advocate (British Columbia)