

CALEDON ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

ENVIRONMENTALIST OF THE YEAR AWARD PROGRAM

RECIPIENT FOR 2008:

Caledon East Wetlands Environmental Team (CEWET)

The Caledon Environmental Advisory Committee (CEAC) is pleased to grant the 2008 Environmentalist of the Year (EOTY) Award to a group of Caledon East Residents who have worked tirelessly, entirely as volunteers, for many years on a multitude of environmental projects. The multifaceted projects have all been done without monetary reward or fanfare and benefited countless Caledon residents in both the Humber and Credit Watersheds. The group consists of the following 5 members:

Horst Truttenbach, Walter Getman, Dave Mullan, Ed Elliotson, and Warren Young

One of the first major projects by CEWET was the co-ordination of the restoration of the Caledon East Wetland and adjacent Centreville Creek. Subsequent installation of elevated and railed wooden walkways and nature viewing platforms enhanced the area adjacent to the Trans-Canada Railway close to the centre of the Village. Under the auspices of the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, this project was completed by these volunteers and included careful creation of small ponds, tree and shrub planting and a snake Hibernaculum.

CEWET realized for some time that the feeder tributaries of the Centreville Creek were severely impacted by the installation of roads and sub-divisions, destruction of habitat by tree and peat removal, inappropriate and illegal pond creation and dumping; and, in the past, stream straightening which was historically used to drain fields. This group has done extensive work on private property, and organized 'hands on' workshops to help educate grateful owners on how to do bank and habitat rehabilitation adjacent to streams on their property. They assisted the congregation of the new Caledon East Baptist Church in extensive native tree and shrub planting and created bottom draws on the large, barren bank ponds created by a previous owner (to extract peat) to help ensure that valuable fish spanning areas did not receive heated water from the pond surfaces.

Another of CEWET's amazing abilities is that of knowing exactly which Funding Group to approach when they need money for materials and occasionally equipment. Groups that have helped are principally Ontario Streams, its staff and through those connections to expert advice, and from the Canada TD Trust 'Friends of the Environment' but as their volunteer labour benefits so many projects the Ministry of Natural Resources, the Toronto Region and Credit Valley Conservation Authorities, and the Town of Caledon enlists this 'free' group of gentlemen for many stream and wetland restoration projects on publicly owned land. The group has also 'tapped' organizations like Molson's Brewery to help feed groups of volunteers on daylong rehabilitation or planting projects.

Other CEWET projects include extensive stream rehabilitation, shade planting, to by-pass two on-line ponds for the Stewart Farm and one on the Petlyn Farm near Caledon East; a variety of projects and assistance on Coffey Creek; habitat installation and re-establishment of small creeks in the Mono Road area; education of owners and efforts to restore the creek east of Caledon Village where the now rare and endangered Red-sided Dace reside. They have also done walking bridge construction and stream rehabilitation adjacent to Puckering Lane. A Caledon East developer gave the group many young trees and shrubs during site preparation for planting on other projects on condition that they did the 'digging'. Additionally, the individuals making up the CEWET group are contributing to the increase in fish species now evident in Caledon's rivers and tributaries, due to the stream rehabilitation efforts they have made. This includes Atlantic Salmon and the native Brook Trout.