

# LATORNELL

# *Leadership Awards*

## 2017



From 1999 to 2012, the Latornell Conservation Symposium honoured individuals who have demonstrated life-long, outstanding contributions to the field of conservation. They were recognized for their innovation, leadership and dedication to the conservation field. Either through their personal activities and/or leadership, they have gone beyond the call of duty or responsibility to an employer, client, or their community.

These individuals have helped to celebrate and inspire innovation in the conservation field and have made a difference in their field of expertise. Nominees have encouraged and motivated others to take similar

leadership roles towards conservation work.

To commemorate the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Symposium in 2013, it was decided to revise this award in order to also recognize individuals who have made significant contributions at any time, for any duration – and not just over the course of their entire lifetime as long as their achievements demonstrate leadership accomplishments. To reflect this, the award was renamed the Latornell Leadership Award.

Nominations are reviewed and evaluated by a special sub-committee of the Latornell Steering Committee.



# MEET THE 2017 AWARD RECIPIENTS

## **Brian Kelly** Whitby, ON

Nominated by: Regional Municipality of Durham



Brian Kelly has been a ground-breaking innovator for all of his 47 years of practice in the field of environmental stewardship. His co-founding of Pollution Probe and subsequent efforts to reduce the level of phosphates in the Great Lakes in the 1960's was reflected in the amendments to the *Canada Water Act* which resulted in a 50% reduction in Lakes Erie's phosphate levels by 1975. Brian led the development of the

Renewable Energy Technologies Strategy and Program at Ontario Hydro – representing the utility at the World Business Council for Sustainable Development. He had a lead role in developing the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Ontario Roundtable on

Environment and Economy and currently coordinates the Durham Region Roundtable on Climate Change. Brian introduced The Natural Step to Canada, is a board member of the Clean Air Council and even finds time to participate in the sustainability committee at his church.

In terms of succession, Brian has ensured that his work will be carried on by future generations. As the co-director of the Sustainability and Education Academy, his goal is to inspire school teachers across Canada to integrate sustainability education into all subjects rather than as an individual course. At the upper end of the education spectrum Brian is the founding Director of the Sustainable Enterprise Academy at York University's Schulich School of Business where he is also an instructor for the Business Strategies for Sustainability and Environment programs. Brian frequently presents on climate, energy, and conservation issue at community events.

## **Geoffrey Peach** (Posthumous Award) Blyth, ON

Nominated by: Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority



Geoff Peach was an environmental advocate whose actions and influence spanned 3 decades along the Lake Huron coast. He is best known for bringing people together in the common cause of coastal stewardship for the health of the Lake. He packed a lot into these years and leaves a substantial legacy reflected in his body of work as an author, in co-founding the Lake Huron Coastal Centre and in a coastal scholarship now being

developed in his name.

Graduating in 1985 from Western University with an Honours B.A. Degree majoring in Geography, he joined the workforce at the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority (CA) from 1986-1987 and then moved north to work a joint position shared with the Saugeen Valley CA and with the Maitland Valley CA (1987-1997) as co-employers. During this time with the CA's he advanced shoreline management and promoted wise stewardship. He embedded himself in the community where he lived and raised his family, joined as a Director with the Maitland Valley Foundation and acted

as Chairperson for the TD Friends of the Environment – Goderich Branch.

Geoff co-founded with Patrick Donnelly the Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation (the Coastal Centre) in 1998 and served as a Coastal Resource Manager till his passing in 2017. During this time he authored over 24 publications on Coastal Resource Management and regularly acted as a presenter at conferences and workshops. He also continued his professional affiliations as a Canadian Certified Environmental Professional (2003) and was a longstanding member of the Canadian Coastal Science & Engineering Association.

As a mentor and educator, Geoff's legacy remains in the shoreline communities, municipal staff and politicians and the approximately 20 staff he tutored during the subsequent 19 years at the Coastal Centre. The keen and eager students of conservation all went on graduating into jobs at all levels of government, private consulting, teaching at universities and in research positions in several environmental non-profit organizations. His expertise in coastal management, especially in the field of beach and dune ecosystems, meant his work was known and respected from all over the Great Lakes to Australia and California. He had a unique gift of using humour and story telling to explain and articulate how the "coast works".

## Master of Ceremonies

### **Carolyn O'Neill**

Manager, Great Lakes Office  
Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change



Carolyn is the Manager of Ministry's Great Lakes Office. Her job is to advance Great Lakes programs and policies including Ontario's Great Lakes Strategy, the Great Lakes Protection Act and Great Lakes agreements. Prior to joining the Ministry, Carolyn was with Environment Canada where she worked to advance protection of the Great Lakes and the Fraser River in British Columbia.



**Mark Heaton** Aurora, ON  
 Nominated by: Ontario Streams



Mark Heaton's contributions to conservation in Ontario have been diverse and far reaching for more than 30 years. As is often the case with leaders such as Mark – his influence extends well beyond his job as a biologist with Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry. He is a founding member of Ontario Streams where he co-wrote Ontario's Stream Rehabilitation Manual (2003). Mark has been the science advisor for the unique fisheries at

Beauchene Wilderness Lodge (Que.) for 20 years. In Ontario, he has worked with TRCA to mitigate several barriers to trout and salmon on the Humber River, linking Lake Ontario to the upper watershed in Caledon and King townships. Mark led the planning, design and construction of the Milne Fishway on Rouge River and coordinated transfers of adult Rainbow Trout at Norval Dam in conjunction with the Credit River Anglers Association. He contributed to the development of the SiltSmart turbidity monitoring protocol to protect Redside Dace during urban

development of adjacent lands. He is a member of various recovery teams including; Redside Dace, Atlantic Salmon and the Peregrine Falcon. Mark's interest in the Peregrine Falcon goes back many years and he has banded in excess of 500 Peregrine chicks over the past two decades.

Mark has been diligent at ensuring that the knowledge he has gained continues to be made available to the community and especially to future generations. Throughout his career Mark has worked directly with landowners, educating them on the importance of land use to river health and the further linkages to human health. These efforts have resulted in numerous projects including livestock fencing, barrier mitigation and fish species reintroduction. Mark helped to create the Atlantic Salmon Classroom Hatchery Program which engages students in habitat restoration efforts while fostering a sense of ownership towards the environment. Under this Program Mark oversees 10 classroom hatcheries which have released 50,000 hatchery fish into local watersheds. Mark has been and continues to be a mentor for young conservationists by getting them actively involved in such undertakings as bringing students to the river for fish releases or for the banding of Peregrine Falcon chicks.

**Dr. Steven Cooke** Ottawa, ON  
 Nominated by Past & Current Students of the Fish Ecology and Conservation Physiology Laboratory, Carleton University



Dr. Steven J. Cooke ([www.fecpl.ca](http://www.fecpl.ca)) is a Canada Research Chair and Professor at Carleton University in Ottawa. Cooke began working seasonally as a summer student for the Grand River Conservation Authority (GRCA) in 1991 doing outreach and aquatic habitat restoration when he was in high school. Cooke parlayed that experience with the GRCA into a research career focused on mission-oriented partnership science related

to the management of fish and aquatic resources. Although the majority of the research in his lab is focused on fish ecology, physiology, and behaviour, Cooke is also engaged in research on human dimensions, knowledge mobilization, and policy. In 2015 he founded the Canadian Centre for Evidence-Based Conservation which synthesizes information for policy makers. His research

findings (600+ peer reviewed publications) have informed fish passage solutions and habitat restoration activities, addressed issues related to fish and turtle bycatch, and led to innovations in recreational fisheries management. He has also worked to raise the profile of freshwater fish so they are considered in decisions related to resource development in Canada and beyond. Cooke has been recognized for his ability to engage in partnership research and train the next generation of conservation practitioners (e.g., Roderick Haig-Brown Award from the Canadian Wildlife Federation, NSERC E.W.R. Steacie Award given to top six under-40 Canadian scientists or engineers annually, elected to the College of the Royal Society of Canada). Cooke has held leadership positions including the President of the Canadian Aquatic Resources Section of the American Fisheries Society. He has served as Chair for the Great Lakes Fishery Commission Sea Lamprey Research Board since 2011 and is Editor or editorial board member for seven journals where he specializes in handling papers that deal with freshwater fish (e.g., for Environmental Biology of Fishes, Endangered Species Research, Restoration Ecology).

**Interested in nominating an individual for consideration for the  
 2018 Laturnell Leadership Award?**

See the criteria detailed on the Laturnell Conservation Symposium website at  
[www.laturnell.ca](http://www.laturnell.ca)



# PREVIOUS AWARD WINNERS

2016

Thomas McClenaghan, Richard (Dick) Hunter, Clarke Birchard, Gord MacPherson

2015

Peter Gray Muriel Andreae, Ian Buchanan, Tom Prout, Bob Rogers

2014

Judi Brouse, Debbe Crandall, Lorrie Minshall

2013

Mike Garrett, Peter Middleton, Russ Powell, Bill Dickinson, Jean-Marc Filion

2012

Peter Orphanos, John Sibbald, Jack Imhof, Scott Gillingwater

2011

Jim Anderson, Liette Vasseur, Paul Aird, Tom Taylor

2010

Stew Hilts, Vicki Barron, Don Ross, Gil Henderson

2009

Ian Parrish, Ian Macnab, Allan Ralph, Ernie Crossland, Craig Mather

2008

Dr. John Gunn, Lorne Smith, Harold Parker, Jim Myslik, Bob Whittam

2007

Bruce Duncan, Deborah Beatty, Lou Wise, Michael Hough, Ted Mosquin

2006

Sally Beaton, Robert Bowles, Ron Reid, George Stormont

2005

Don Lobb, Dr. Gray Merriam, Dr. David Pearson, Dr. Anthony Smith, Ben Vanderbrug

2004

Malcom Kirk, Patrick J. McManus, Dr. Duncan Sinclair, David Cressman, Maria and Paul Heissler

2003

Ron Scott, Jack Macpherson, Arthur Herbert Richardson, Greta McGillivray, William McLean

2002

Hal Hooke, Terry Sprague, Jim Bruce, Terk Bayly, Rheal Proulx, Tom Millar, Peter Harvie

2001

Ken Mayall, Murray Miller, Douglas Hoffman, Elwood Moore, George R. Richardson, Gordon Oldfield

2000

Jim Bauer, Janet Fletcher, Harry Barrett, Trevor Dickinson, Ray Lowes, Bob Burgar

1999

John Murray, Charles Alexander, Len Johnson, Dr. Dave Ankney, Christine Nornabell, Russell Piper, Mac Coutts, Ken Higgs



**FOR MORE  
INFORMATION**

Latornell Conservation Symposium  
c/o Steering Committee, Conservation Ontario  
120 Bayview Parkway

Newmarket, ON L3Y 3W3  
Tel.: 905-895-0716 Fax: 905-895-0751  
info@latornell.ca | www.latornell.ca