

OAK RIDGES MORaine CHAMPIONS HONOURED

New monitoring project launched

Although the Oak Ridges Moraine was the ultimate winner at the inaugural moraine hero awards gala event last week in **Caledon**, a number of GTA professionals were recognized for their efforts to protect the sensitive eco-system from urban development. Hosted by **Citizen's Environment Watch**, the event recognized the dogged determination of environmental lawyer **David Donnelly (Gilbert's LLP)**, who received one of the community champion awards.

The ceremony, attended by over 100 people including Caledon mayor **Marolyn Morrison** and

Uxbridge mayor Gerri Lynn O'Connor, also marked the official launch of **Monitoring the Moraine**, a collaborative project between **Citizens' Environment Watch**, **STORM Coalition** (Save the Oak Ridges Moraine) and **Centre for Community Mapping**. The

project is designed to engage and sustain community volunteers in science, stewardship, monitoring and decision-making on the Oak Ridges Moraine. Public involvement in monitoring the health of the moraine is key, said environmental commissioner of Ontario **Gord Miller**, the keynote speaker at the event.

While he praised the *Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan*, he warned, "all these protections and definitions are good but we have to ensure they're implemented."

"We have to make sure they're complied with, and we have to make sure that we monitor so that we know we're being successful," Miller said.

Traditionally, the Government of Ontario has been responsible for this type of monitoring. However, Miller said, the **Ministry of Natural Resources** and the **Ministry of Environment** are so "under resourced that they can't do the job that the public expects."

Toronto and Region Conservation Authority policy planning manager **Dave Burnett** accepted a collaborative planning award

on behalf of the **Conservation Authorities Moraine Coalition**. The nine conservation authority members—Central Lake Ontario, Credit Valley, Ganaraska, Kawartha, Lake Simcoe Region, Lower Trent, Nottawasaga Valley, Otonabee, TRCA—have worked with government agencies and citizens to help establish the conservation plan, and continue to monitor and defend it at the **Ontario Municipal Board**.

The award for proactive policy was presented to the **Region of Peel**, for taking action to ensure the sustainability of its groundwater resources for future

generations. Peel chair **Emil Kolb** accepted the award on behalf of the region.

Uxbridge CAO **Alex Grant** received the municipal leadership award for rising to the challenge of a new planning environment. Along with Donnelly—who was recognized for



David Burnett, Emil Kolb, Kathy Guselle, David Donnelly and Alex Grant.

his work with **Environmental Defence**—**Kathy Guselle** received a community champion award for helping unite citizens concerned about the growing threat of development in the Ganaraska River headwaters. •

Source: Citizen's Environment Watch

**Robins
Appleby
& Taub**

**Your low-rise and hi-rise
development law firm.**

Leor Margulies
Head, Development Team
Director of GTHBA and
Secretary of Executive Committee

Robins, Appleby & Taub LLP 416.868.1080 www.robinsapplebyandtaub.com