



AUSABLE BAYFIELD CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

ANNUAL AWARDS AND PARTNER APPRECIATION DINNER

March 20, 2008 at Ironwood Golf Club, 5 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Programme

- 5 p.m.** Informal Social Time
- 5:25 p.m.** Greetings from Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors
– *Lawrence McLachlan, Chair*
- 5:30 p.m.** Buffet dinner is served
- 5:55 p.m.** Thanks to Michele Hodgert and Ironwood Golf Club
– *Tim Cumming, ABCA Communications Specialist*
- 6 p.m.** Formal programme begins with Salute to ABCA Partners
– *Tom Prout, ABCA General Manager and Secretary Treasurer*
- 6:10 p.m.** Conservationist of the Year Award
– *Presentation by Lawrence McLachlan, Chair
and Tom Prout, General Manager and Secretary Treasurer*
- 6:20 p.m.** Special Award of Recognition to Volunteer Community Groups Helping to
Protect Lakeshore Water Quality
– *Mari Veliz, ABCA Healthy Watersheds Coordinator*
- 6:30 p.m.** Presentation of ABCA Years of Service Awards
– *Remarks by Tom Prout, GM and Kate Monk, Stewardship and Conservation Lands Supervisor
– Congratulations by Lawrence McLachlan, Chair and Jim Ginn, Vice Chair*
- 6:40 p.m.** Feature Presentation – Introduction of Keynote Speaker
– *Mari Veliz, ABCA Healthy Watersheds Coordinator*
- 6:50 p.m.** Community Action to Protect the Lake Huron–Georgian Bay Watershed
– *Ted Briggs, Great Lakes Advisor, Ontario Ministry of the Environment*
- 7:10 p.m.** Questions and Answers
- 7:15 p.m.** Thanks to Speaker
– *Alec Scott, ABCA Water and Planning Manager*
- 7:20 p.m.** Closing Remarks
– *Tom Prout, ABCA General Manager/Secretary Treasurer*

*Thank you for your coming – and for your commitment to
'building better environmental conscience.'*

CONSERVATIONIST OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNER

GRAND BEND COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

The Old Ausable Channel, south of Grand Bend, is one of the most unique ecological features in southwestern Ontario.

This waterway, isolated from the Ausable River at the end of the 19th century, provides habitat to three rare species-at-risk fishes and is adjacent to the globally-rare Oak Savanna forest.

Apart from the exceptional ecological importance of this area, this ecosystem also provides recreational opportunities to potentially 600,000 Pinery Park visitors annually and 700 residents who live in Grand Bend neighbourhoods bordering the channel.

In 2005, the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority approached Grand Bend Community Foundation and other partners (The Pinery Provincial Park, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, local resident associations) with a proposal to develop a management plan for this unique ecosystem.

Grand Bend Community Foundation has demonstrated its commitment to water quality and watershed improvements in the Grand Bend area through its generous contribution to creation of the Old Ausable Channel Long-Term Management Plan in 2006, 2007 and to the implementation of the plan in 2008.

Furthermore, the Grand Bend Community Foundation has recently established an endowment fund called the Environment Legacy Fund to support community actions that protect and enhance the local environment, in the future.

The Old Ausable Channel Long-Term Management Plan Steering Committee, which has recommended agency management actions, and individual resident actions, from Friends of the Old Ausable Channel among others, have helped to protect the integrity of this area. Their work would not have been possible without the vision and commitment of Grand Bend Community Foundation to make that work happen. The local conservation community recognizes the leadership of the Grand Bend Community Foundation in protection of a unique and vital ecosystem.

The Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority would like to present the Conservationist of the Year Award to Grand Bend Community Foundation for its generous commitment to this planning process and their priority on water quality and conservation issues and the implementation of the plan.

