



LOWER TRENT
CONSERVATION

PRESS RELEASE

Working with Local Communities to Protect our Natural Environment

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 20, 2017

Student Environmental Solutions are Winners for Earth Week

Local students clearly care about the environmental health of their communities. Six student teams presented their ideas on how to solve a local environmental issue as part the Caring for Our Watersheds™ contest. It wrapped up last night at Timber Ridge Golf Course, near Brighton, with the awarding of the \$1,000 first place prize.

Radana Bizaroza from a Warkworth homeschool, placed first for her idea entitled, 'Raise Awareness of Public Awareness'. Her proposal addressed her concern about environmental awareness of the public being a leading determiner of environmental health. Her proposal is to develop a survey assessing people's awareness of environmental issues within the Lower Trent Conservation Watershed.

Through the Caring for Our Watersheds™ contest, Grades 7, 8 and 9 students are asked to answer the question, "What can you do to improve your watershed?" Students research their local watershed, identify an environmental concern and prepare a proposal describing their solution.

A total of 108 students from nine schools competed for \$4,500 in prizes. Their schools were also receive matching cash rewards. Participating schools included: Hillcrest Public School, St. Mary Catholic Elementary School (Campbellford), Smithfield Public School, Murray Centennial Public School, Ecole Secondaire Publique Marc-Garneau, Roseneath Centennial Public School, Trenton High School, Bayside Public School, and a Homeschool.

"This is the seventh year for the contest. We continue to be impressed with the environmental ideas presented by all of the students," says Glenda Rodgers, Lower Trent Conservation CAO. "What better way to celebrate Earth Month than by acknowledging the keen interest and enthusiasm of these young people and how they would propose to improve the natural environment of their own community."

"As well, we have \$10,000 in funding to offer all of the participating students who submitted a proposal for the 2017 contest. They can apply for the funds to implement their ideas," adds Rodgers.

Caring for Our Watersheds™ is a joint program between Lower Trent Conservation and Agrium, Inc. Agrium Inc., a worldwide producer and distributor of fertilizers and agricultural products and services, is the global founder of the Caring for Our Watersheds™ contest.

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The contest was brought to the Lower Trent Conservation watershed region several years ago by former Agrium CEO, Mike Wilson, as he wanted youth from his hometown of Campbellford to have the opportunity to participate in the contest. After launching the program in Campbellford in 2011, the contest has been expanded to include all schools located within the Lower Trent Conservation watershed region.

As the initial funding commitment by Agrium will end this year, Lower Trent Conservation has started a fundraising program in hopes of continuing to deliver the Caring for Our Watersheds™ contest along with other youth environmental programs. This year, supporters of the contest include Mystical Distributing along with an anonymous donation.

Judges for the final event included: Val Deziel, Assistant Conservation Biologist, Nature Conservancy of Canada; David Bree, Sr. Natural Heritage Education Leader, Presqu'île Provincial Park; Barb Toffelmire, Retired Teacher & Lower Trent Conservation volunteer; Mary Tadman, Lower Trent Conservation Board Member & Councillor for Municipality of Brighton; and John Brisbois, Trustee for the Algonquin & Lakeshore Catholic District School Board.

For more information about Caring for Our Watersheds™, visit www.ltc.on.ca/education.

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Attached:

2017 Caring for Our Watersheds™ Winners

Picture of Finalists

- Front: Samuel Beylerian
- Back Left to Right: Cassandra Paul, Caroline Clitherow, Gillian Forestell, Xavier Nickerson, Felix Brouillard, Paige Palmer, Radana Biaroza, Kendrick Webster

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