

Conservationist of the Year Award

Criteria

Ausable Bayfield Conservation has recognized outstanding conservation achievements each year, since 1984, with the Conservationist of the Year Award.

The award acknowledges one individual, farm, business, or group per year who puts into action positive conservation principles, over a number of years, with long-term benefits for water, soil, and habitat for all living things. Examples are:

- Improving local water quality
- Conservation farming
- Reforestation
- Conservation education
- Providing wildlife and fish habitat
- Promoting environmental awareness & action

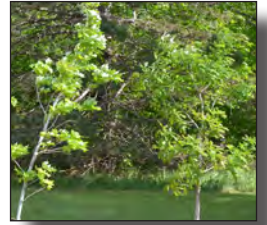
Eligibility

Individuals, farms, organizations, or companies that reside in, or have completed conservation work in, Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA) watersheds, are eligible to win the award. Current ABCA staff members and directors are excluded.



Recognition

Ausable Bayfield Conservation makes a donation for a tree and plaque at a Commemorative Woods site maintained by Ausable Bayfield Conservation Foundation.



**Please go to nomination form
on the back of this page**

Previous Conservationist of the Year Award Winners

- | | | | |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|
| • Lambton Shores Nature Trails | • Patricia Down* and Robert Down | • Township of Hibbert | • Bert and Margaret Daynard |
| • Michael and Lindsay Groot and family | • Lorne Teeple * | • Stephen Bright | • Ausable Anglers Club |
| • Peter and Esther* Warner | • Grand Bend Community Foundation | • Dinney Funeral Home | • Carfrey Cann |
| • Denys Farms Inc. – Jim, Dan and Mike Denys | • Stewardson Dairy | • Huron Fish and Game Club | • Keith Connelly |
| • Keith, Geoff and Mike Strang (Strang Farms) | • Boys' & Girls' Club (Middlesex ECO Crew) | • Garry Palmateer | • John Deeves |
| • Blue Bayfield | • Shadyside Farms, Paul and Vic Hodgins | • Lions Club of Clinton | • Nancy Glendinning |
| • Koos and Nathalie Vermue | • Ray Letheren, Friends of the Bayfield River | • Bluewater Recycling Assoc. | • Hayter Turkey Farms |
| • Rick Quinn and Diane Hawthorne and Family | • Environmentally Concerned Citizens of Lambton Shores | • Andrew Dixon | • Peter Rombouts |
| • Mels and Ruthanne van der Laan, Cold Stream Ranch | • Andy deBoer | • Ralph and Eleanor Smith | • Bill Thirlwall |
| • Lambton Shores Phragmites Community Group | • Stephanie Donaldson | • Elmer Trick | • Ausable Nomads |
| • Cordner Farms – Jane Sadler Richards and Doug Richards | • Everet and Joan Van Sligtenhorst | • Armstrong East Cottage Association | • Dearing Farms |
| • Bob Norris | • John MacPherson | • Lambton Wildlife Inc. | • Huron Soil and Water Conservation District |
| • Peter Darbshire | • Straw Family | • David Ball | • Murray and Ron McRae |
| • Joan and John Love | • George Cantrick * | • Adelaide Township | • Huron Board of Ed. |
| • Ann and Bill Phelan | • David McClure | • Arnold Westlaken | • Thomas Doherty |
| • Exeter Lions Club | • Brian Arnold | • Tuckersmith Township | • Huron Centennial School |
| | • Fred Dobbs | • Van Loon Farms | • Jerry Giesen |
| | • Lions Club of Arkona | • Village of Hensall | • Claybird Gun Club |
| | • Village of Arkona | • Bob Montgomery | • Wayne Woods |
| | | • Jim Reeve | • Bayfield Anglers Association |
| | | • DEL Farms | • Jay Campbell |
| | | • Bud Walker | |

** Award given posthumously.*

Conservationist of the Year Award

The nomination deadline is **February 15, 2026**.



Nomination Form

I wish to nominate the following person or organization:

Name of nominee: _____

Contact name (*if nominee is organization or business*): _____

Their address: _____

Postal code: _____ Telephone: _____

E-mail (*optional*): _____

Tell us why this person or organization is deserving in 300 words or less:

This nomination is being submitted by:

Your name: _____

Address: _____

Postal code: _____ Telephone: _____

E-mail (*optional*): _____

NOTICE OF COLLECTION: Personal information on this form is collected under legal authority of the *Conservation Authorities Act* for the purposes of reviewing and evaluating, by Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority, of nominations and the work of nominees to create environmental awareness and/or take positive actions for a healthier watershed. This information will also be used to assist conservation authority staff to recognize recipients through awards night and public recognition. Questions regarding this collection can be made to Davin Heinbuck, Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Officer, ABCA, 71108 Morrison Line, RR 3 Exeter, ON N0M 1S5 or phone **519-235-2610** or **1-888-286-2610**.

Please send nomination form to:

Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority • 71108 Morrison Line • RR 3 Exeter, ON • N0M 1S5

Attention: Tim Cumming, Communications Coordinator **E-mail:** tcumming@abca.ca

Website: abca.ca **Phone:** 519-235-2610 • **Toll-free:** 1-888-286-2610 • **Facsimile:** 519-235-1963