

Document: CCA is a Great Grant Winner
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Hi Everybody,

Last night at the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) Great Grant Awards for Halton Peel, the CCA was awarded the *Grant Review Team Chair's Award*. It is a true honour for the Trillium Foundation to recognize our efforts since 2001 with this award.

In light of our efforts last week, the award was very relevant! Here is the description from the program:

Caledon Countryside Alliance
Don't pave our paradise

The volunteers of the Caledon Countryside Alliance (CCA) believe that their countryside is a permanent feature, instead of land waiting to be developed. With OTF on its side, CCA continues to protect its rural roots.

The Foundation provided grants in 2001 and 2005 totaling \$419,800 to implement its "Ecological Footprint" initiative. Residents, local groups and institutions were encouraged to take action to reduce waste and conduct sustainable practices. Through projects like the Weedgee Kidz Organic Lawn Care program and the Buy Local Guide for the Headwaters Region, CCA involved the community in activities that emphasized the importance of nature conservation and rural life.

Run with passion and determination, CCA's initiatives were instrumental in Caledon winning the Greenest Town Award in 2003 and an Environmental Award in the Grassroots category from the Rural Ontario Award Program in 2002. CCA can now add the GRT Great Grants Award 2007 to the mantle.

The Ontario Trillium Foundation has been a long time supporter of CCA's innovative programs providing approximately \$60,000 per year for 7 years in organization funding. We certainly thank them and say that we couldn't have done it without them.

Here is the "reconstructed" thank you speech that I gave last night:

I like to think of Caledon as the place where the Niagara Escarpment and the Oak Ridge Moraine meet. But it is also the home to four watersheds - the Credit, the Humber and the Etobicoke and Mimico Creeks and the Peel Plain or the South Slope. This magnificent landscape and natural heritage calls us to action all the time.

With help from the Ontario Trillium Foundation, we were able to answer this call and develop community programs to make a difference. Beginning in 2001 the OTF funding allowed us to start with helping Caledon residents reduce their ecological footprint. Thank to the Trillium Foundation this was possible. And, especially thanks to our wonderful Program Manager Gilmar Militar. We couldn't have done it without you.

At the end of the day, it is also the volunteers who have also made it happen. This award belongs to the many people who care about Caledon – from the CCA's Board, to our staff, to our many program partners, to our project leaders, to our hiking group where it all began, to people who regularly attend meetings and events, to people who have taken action to reduce their ecological footprint, to people who have volunteered at any of our many events like the Dandelion Festival. It is all these people who have taken the time to make a difference and make no mistake, it is all important and it all helps. Thank you.

Thanks is due to David Jobe (CCA Board Member), Don Mitchell and Donna Davies (former Trillium Grant Review Team who understood our vision in 2001 and 2005) and Gail Grant (current Trillium Grant Review Team) who were all in attendance last night.

Thanks to everybody who helped make this happen.

The OTF recently wrote a grant story about the CCA and you can view it at:
http://www.trilliumfoundation.org/cms/en/going_green.aspx.

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