



Press Release: March 6, 2010

Saskatchewan Eco-network 7th Annual Environmental Activist Awards

*I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:*

*Two roads diverged in a wood, and I-
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.*

The Path Less Trodden – Robert Frost

Three Saskatoon residents and one Saskatoon organization received the Saskatchewan Eco Network's Environmental Activism Awards at the "See the Change Be the Change Environmental Film Festival" Friday, March 5, at 7 p.m. at the University of Saskatchewan, in the Neatby Timlin Theatre.

Writer, Candace Savage, former MLA and Cabinet Minister Peter Prebble and environmental organizer Karen Weingeist are this year's (2010) recipients of the Saskatchewan Eco-Network's 7th Annual Environmental Activist Awards. The Coalition for a Clean Green Saskatchewan is the organization that has taken this year's Saskatoon Group Award.

"The recipients of these awards would not be likely to receive recognition for their community work from any other awards ceremony, the work they do has significant political ramifications. These people have taken the path less trodden. These are people who spend virtually every spare moment devoting their lives protecting Saskatchewan's environment, speaking out about endangered species, habitat loss, water conservation, climate change, alternative energy and the dangers of nuclear energy. These thoughtful people ask themselves who needs to hear this information? How can I tell this story so people will hear? How can I make a difference?" says Paul Trottier, Board Member of the Saskatchewan Eco-network.

Over the last thirty years, **Candace Savage** has written dozens of books and articles that have carried the conservation message across the province, across the country and beyond. Over the last thirty years, Ms Savage's books, many of them award winners, have been published in North America, England, Spain, Italy, Germany and the United States. Ms. Savage served as a nature correspondent for National Public Radio in the U. S. Closer to home, she has served on the board of the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society and is currently an active and effective Director of the Nature Conservancy of Canada, Saskatchewan Region who nominated her for this award. Her master work, *Prairie: a Natural History*, has sold out of its first edition and will be re-released, revised and updated in 2011. A prairie person, born and bred, she has been a co-sponsor of a scholarship in grassland ecology at the University of Saskatchewan and is currently undertaking the restoration of a quarter section in the Carpenter Hills, in collaboration with her partner, Keith Bell. Candace Savage's contribution to environmental awareness has been recognized by the Rachel Carson Institute, Chatham College in Pennsylvania. The Board of Directors of SEN believe that it is time to recognize Ms. Savage in her home province.

Those serving in public life are often not given the formal recognition they sometimes deserve. Peter Prebble is a good example of a public servant that deserves a very public thank you. It would be virtually impossible to go into the entire contribution that Peter has made to the environment, but his nominator David Forbes has cited the following:

Peter's work on Saskatchewan protected areas, in particular Dore Lake and the Great Sand Hills. Over 140 hectares were protected due to Peter's diligence and commitment over the years to the Great Sand Hills. Peter worked on water conservation plans for Saskatchewan. Peter's determination that this be a success was truly admirable. Renewable Energy work is in many ways Peter's passion. No one has quite the depth of knowledge and yet the commitment to learn more. He is a champion of renewable energy, travelling throughout the province giving talks and presentations. People in Saskatchewan are truly benefitting from his very balanced and well-researched information. Mr Prebble's other contributions are in his efforts to re-establish the Office of Energy Conservation (now closed for the third time) and the work that he did to arrange for the purchase of Tipperary Creek, which is now the Wanuskewin Heritage Park

One of Peter's most enduring qualities is that of "our work is not yet done" and daily he brings that to his work. He is a kind and gentle man who is always interested in what a person has to say – a truly good listener! He recognizes that though he has taken a large role, the work to which he has been given credit could not have been accomplished without the support and assistance of many others: ranchers, farmers and residents of Saskatchewan.

Karen Weingeist was one of the founders of the Coalition for a Clean Green Saskatchewan (CCGS) in 2006, established with the dual purpose of opposing the expansion of the nuclear industry in Saskatchewan, while promoting alternative renewable, clean energy. The goals of the Coalition were formed with the intention of contributing to environmental sustainability through protecting all living beings, waters and soils from the radioactive toxicity that result from nuclear operations, accidents, and waste storage. Karen has tirelessly worked ever since the inception of the Coalition to maintain (CCGS's) direction providing a major proportion of the day-to-day, month-to-month administration of the Coalition on a volunteer basis.

Karen played a major role in organizing meetings throughout the province with internationally renowned speakers such as Helen Caldicott, Gordon Edwards, Tim Weiss and others. Ms. Weingeist played a key role in arranging debates between nuclear industry representatives and opponents of nuclear energy. Karen worked many nights on impossibly short deadlines to write and print handbills and pamphlets, and organize meetings. She set up displays for many public events where the aims and goals of non-nuclear energy sustainability were promoted. Karen works behind the scenes to make sure that information is available, written in clear and understandable language, accurate in detail and timely. She is unassuming and prefers working behind the scenes to advance the cause of sustainable, renewable clean energy.

The Coalition for a Clean Green Saskatchewan too is being recognized. As an entirely volunteer-run organization, hundreds upon hundreds of hours are donated to researching and disseminating information on nuclear energy at a time when nuclear energy is being promoted in the province of Saskatchewan. Pamphlets and letters to the Editor appear everywhere focussing on the comparative costs on nuclear energy vs. cleaner, accessible alternatives; on the hazards of nuclear waste and the contamination of land and water that occurs for hundreds of thousands of years. The Coalition was effective in creating a groundswell of opposition to nuclear reactors and a similar groundswell of support for alternative energy on a smart grid. The Coalition put sustainable energy solutions into the language and on the lips of average citizens.

Ms. Savage, Mr. Prebble and Ms. Weingeist and the Coalition for a Clean Green Saskatchewan are Saskatoon recipients of the Environmental Activist Awards. For more information, please call Lynn Hainsworth at the Saskatchewan EcoNetwork at 652-1275.

Lynn Hainsworth
Saskatchewan Eco Network