

Ontario Parks Association Foundation Board Member Receives Two Awards

Liz Klose, Chair of the Bursary and Scholarship Selection Committee of the Ontario Parks Association Foundation and Superintendent of the Niagara Parks Commission, School of Horticulture, was presented with *The College Horticulture Educator of the Year Award*. The award was in recognition of her many years of support of horticulture at the college level, involvement with the Ontario Horticulture Education Council, involvement with Landscape Ontario and initiating with her team the first college Certified Horticultural Technician Test at Niagara Parks Commission.

The award was presented by Ms. Sandie Birkhead Kirk, Director of the Workplace Training Branch, Ministry of Training, Colleges, and Universities and Tony DiGiovanni, Executive Director of the Landscape Ontario Horticultural Trades Association at Landscape Ontario's Awards of Excellence Ceremony held at their Congress in January.

Klose stated, "It is truly an honour to be recognized by my industry colleagues. Education is constantly evolving with new technology and information. It is our responsibility as educators to ensure that students are well trained to successfully manage and embrace the challenges in their future careers. I share this award with all staff, students, alumni and industry colleagues with whom I have the privilege of working with. Their knowledge and contributions are a constant source of inspiration and encouragement. They are equally deserving of this honour!"

"This recognition by Liz's peers speaks volumes about her dedication and commitment to the education in the field of horticulture and the NPC School of Horticulture stands proudly in the reflected glory of this honour," remarked John Kernahan, General Manager, Niagara Parks Commission.

In November, at the Alumni Association of the Niagara Parks Commission School of Horticulture's Annual Educational Conference, Klose also received an *Award of Merit* for her contributions to the school, alumni association and the industry.

The Niagara Parks Botanical Gardens and School of Horticulture is a family of students, staff and alumni whose passion for the art, science and mystery of horticulture is evident in superior education, research, leadership, industry professionalism and stewardship of their gift to the world - the Botanical Gardens.

The world renowned School of Horticulture is a full three year horticulture program (40 hours per week, 48 weeks per year for 36 consecutive months) and offers a unique alternative to post secondary horticulture education, unlike any in North America. It is a blend of academic studies and practical training throughout all four seasons at the Niagara Parks Botanical Gardens...a one-of-a kind horticultural educational opportunity. It also embraces several industry certification programs within the context of their curriculum. Applications to the NPC School of Horticulture are accepted each year in June for enrolment starting the following March. See www.schoolofhorticulture.com for application details. Application deadline is June 30, 2007.

Each year the Ontario Parks Association Foundation presents seven \$2,500.00 bursaries and scholarships to deserving and qualified students in their first year of post-secondary study who continue their education in any phase of public parks work, related horticulture, landscaping, conservation or environmental resource management.

The Bursary and Scholarship Selection Committee also includes Foundation Members Bruce Carr, Glenn O'Connor and Stu Koch. See www.opassoc.on.ca OPA Foundation, Bursaries and Scholarships for application details. Deadline for bursary and scholarship applications is Tuesday April 10, 2007. Encourage a qualified student to apply!