

NICKEL, Dawn

Dawn writes winning essay highlighting love of nature

By Henry Bury

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Dawn Nickle's concern for the environment has been parlayed into provincial recognition.

The adult student at Moira Secondary School was one of 15 chosen from Ontario through a "Save The Forests" essay contest sponsored by University of Toronto's forestry faculty.

More than 2,500 essays were submitted and Nickle's essay, "Managing Forests for White-tailed Deer" was one of 10 second prize winners.

Nickle says she's pleased with the award but, more importantly, the recognition her concern for nature will generate.

Nickle's essay and those of the other winners, will be contained in a booklet prepared by the university's forestry faculty.

"I'm very nature oriented," she said this week. "I love the outdoors and I don't want to see people take advantage of it or even ignore it."

Nickle said many people don't realize what nature has to offer while others just don't care.

"I do what I can for the environment and everyone can do their share too. We all need to

try and improve things," Nickle said.

Her 4,000-word essay dealt with how the forestry and wildlife departments work together to provide a good habitat for wildlife "while still meeting society's demand for forest products".

"The forestry department is doing a good job in keeping a balance in the forest between society's needs and the needs of the ecosystem. Unfortunately, not too many people know what forestry departments do except, of course, plant trees," Nickle said.

The mature student has a fascination with deer and has seen them while on nature walks.

"My grandchildren should be able to see a deer running in the woods, instead of in a zoo. It's not just for deer's sake but ours as well," she said.

An awards ceremony is being held today at the University of Toronto. However, Nickle said she'll have to skip the ceremony as she doesn't want to miss any classes at Moira.

Nickle returned to Moira last fall to take some additional courses, necessary for admission to Loyalist College's registered nursing program.



Dawn Nickle