

CVC honours local teen and Town

Credit Valley Conservation (CVC) presented Georgetown teen Harnoor Gill with a Young Conservationist Award at its recent Friends of the Credit Conservation Awards.

In total CVC presented 36 awards in four categories at the annual awards ceremony, held at the Mississauga Grand Banquet and Convention Centre.

Gill, 14, has contributed more than 1,000 volunteer hours with various environmental and community organizations. He is a founding member of the Green Team at his school, a member of the Youth Caucus at POWER (Protect Our Water and Environmental Resources) and a

Youth Volunteer Leader at Willow Park Ecology Centre. Gill is a role model for youth and is leading by example through his passion for the environment and his community.

For more than 20 years, CVC has presented awards to individuals, landowners, community groups, small businesses, corporations, municipalities and agencies that have made a significant contribution to managing natural resources in the Credit River Watershed.

Through these awards, CVC's Board of Directors celebrate important work done across the watershed to help ensure its long-term environmental health.

Awards were presented in the following categories: Award of Distinction; Young Conservationist; Certificate of Merit; and Watershed Legacy Donor.

Town of Halton Hills Office of Sustainability received a Certificate of Merit for creating a culture of sustainability at Town offices, ensuring considerations are made to minimize environmental impacts.

"We are honoured to have received this Friends of the Credit Conservation Award," said Mayor Rick Bonnette. "It recognizes our long-standing commitment to sustainability and to implementing a variety of practical actions."



Harnoor Gill (centre) of Georgetown receives his CVC Young Conservationist Award from CVC members and Peel councillors Pat Mullin (left) and Allan Thompson. Gill is the youngest person to receive this award.
Submitted photo

Local play chosen for BC theatre festival

Local actor/playwright Ian O'Brien's play, *Placid Ends At Mothballed Beginnings*, has been selected as one of two National shows to be showcased at the Fringetastic Theatre festival in Nanaimo, BC in August 2012.

Placid Ends, as it has come to be known, is O'Brien's oldest play, started when he was 17 and ultimately finished in his first year of theatre school.

Three pairs of people and their god inhabit an area of space as close to nowhere as possible. They suffer and mourn in chilling isolation, in the end wholly aware that the world is not but a cycle of detriment and loss, played out to the tune of the divine.

Winner of multiple awards at the Sears Drama Festival, the show has been described by a drama teacher as "A bleak, Beckett-like social commentary that plays with the gloomy aspects of class stratification. Darkly funny. Strangely touching."

As a writer, O'Brien has been heavily influenced by the late 20th century Absurdist such as Beckett and Ionesco, as well as writers and theorists like Artaud and Jarry. His plays thrust characters at the end of their tolerance into impossible situations, forcing them to deal with the fruitlessness of endeavor and the mortality of existence.

Fans of *Placid Ends* should also keep an ear, and an eye open for his two newest shows, *Opie Come Home* and *Pinchin*, both being prepared for completion, workshops and theatre applications in the summer.

Placid Ends had a successful, controversial, and



IAN O'BRIEN

thought-provoking run in the 2011 GLT Studio Shows.

"Those performances (The Studio Shows) were very important for the future of that play. They proved that we could fill a space with people, have them laughing, have them crying, and have them anxious to leave, all within the confines and setting of that 50 minute show," says O'Brien.

"It affected people, in many different ways, and all reactions were welcome. This gives us great confidence in introducing the show to a professional setting such as Fringetastic. With the help and backing of our new creative team, we are excited to bring *Placid Ends* to its next level and beyond, and as a playwright I am eager to apply the things I've learned from this show's evolution to my present and future works."

That "we" he refers to is the newest creative endeavor in town, The Failed Magicians' League (tFML), a creative collective/theatre company

started by local thespian, Aidan Hammond.

The Nanaimo production of *Placid Ends* will be the company's first major production and the members have already approached the project with vigor and enthusiasm. With a healthy crop of creative youth and young adults on board, the members are hoping for the support of the community going forward.

tFML is currently in the midst of fundraising for the show. Local artist Jonathan Travis, of Travis Images, will be hosting a *Placid Ends* themed gallery evening of his works for purchase, with some of the proceeds going directly to the cause of bringing *Placid Ends* out west.

If you, or your business, would like to donate something for use in a silent auction, or if you'd like to learn more how you can help the *Placid Ends* cause, email O'Brien at io-brien163@gmail.com



Frankie goes to Georgetown

After gardening guru Frank Ferragine, also known as Frankie Flowers, gave an entertaining how-to on Spring container planting he chatted and signed copies of his new book *Get Growing*. Here Jessica Heath gets some tips and her book signed. Ferragine was the keynote speaker at the Mompreneururs show held recently at Christ the King High School.

Photo by Jon Borgstrom

Teams wanted for Grate Groan Up Spelling Bee

Literacy North Halton is now recruiting for teams for the Grate Groan Up Spelling Bee 2012 to be held on May 3, 5:30-9 p.m. at the Granite Ridge Golf Club in Milton.

An old-fashioned spelling bee with a twist! Teams of three from local businesses and groups work together to correctly spell words in support of a great cause—literacy upgrading for adults in our community. This high visibility, action packed evening includes more than 20 teams from Georgetown, Milton and Acton businesses and organizations,

Space is limited, register early.

Spelling

competing in a hilarious battle for spelling supremacy. Team fee is \$300; individual tickets, \$35 (includes dinner).

The event includes dinner and silent auction.

All proceeds to Literacy North Halton.



In Ontario, one in five adults has serious difficulty understanding printed materials, another one in four can only do the simplest math and writing. For Halton businesses, it costs almost \$1 million a year in lost earnings, productivity, industrial accidents, health care costs and direct training.

Info: 905-873-2200, www.literacynh.org