

# Awards presented for conservation initiatives

By **Stephanie Thiessen**  
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

They were from all walks of life, but there was one common thread that tied together recipients at Conservation Halton's recent awards ceremony — their concern for the environment.

And it's a concern they've translated into action.

The 2006 Conservation Awards of Excellence ceremony, held at Conservation Halton's (CH) administration centre in Burlington, was an expanded version in recognition of the environmental agency's 50th anniversary.

Awards were presented in numerous categories to more than 40 recipients, and a new program was officially launched.

"Conservation Halton needs the help of all our partners and citizens who really make a difference," said Allan Elgar, Oakville councillor and CH's chair of resource planning, who presented the Stewardship Conservation awards.

The North Halton Area Scouts and Dufferin Aggregates were both recipients for their active involvement in tree planting.

The scouts hold an annual tree planting at Dufferin's Milton and Acton quarries, where up to 5,000 trees are planted in one day.

"Their ongoing efforts have made a significant contribution to watershed health," Elgar said.

Dufferin has worked with Scouts Canada since 1990 to plant these trees.

"Our vision at Dufferin is to keep turning our lands into something very beautiful," said Sarah Lowe, Dufferin's property and resource manager.

Two Burlington schools, C.H. Norton Public School and St. John Catholic School, were recognized as participants in CH's Stream of Dreams program, which was officially launched. The program gives presentations about keeping streams and rivers clean, after which participants are given wooden fish to paint. The fish are then hung on chain link fences near streams.

Students from St. John School gave a colorful and energetic performance representative of one they'd give to a grade 1 class participating in Stream of Dreams.

Fish painted by local celebrities and politicians lined the walls of the auditorium, the lead fish painted by artist Robert Bateman.

"More than 200 fish were painted and as you can see, they're quite spectacular," said Jean Williams, chair of the 50th anniversary steering committee.

Milton councillor Jan Mowbray took the award for best fish representing a municipality for her design.

A number of Miltonians — Peter Keir, Jim and Susan Ball, Valerie Priseman and Glen Alford, and Neil Campbell — were recognized for their participation in the Hamilton/Halton Watershed Stewardship Program, which assists homeowners with stewardship initiatives on their land.

"We really appreciate this award. We work hard to try to

maintain the natural area," Alford said upon receiving his award.


A new addition to the awards program this year was the Government Environmental Achievement awards to recognize notable conservation actions carried out within CH's watershed.

CH Chair and Milton Councillor Brian Penman presented the Region of Halton with an award for its new tree cutting bylaw and its environmental youth awards.

The tree bylaw prohibits ecologically-damaging tree harvesting and clear cutting, and increases the penalties for violators.

"I want to say this award means a lot to us," said Regional Chair Joyce Savoline, adding although she has the honour of accepting the award, the real work was done by the Region's staff, partners and residents who came out to the public meetings.

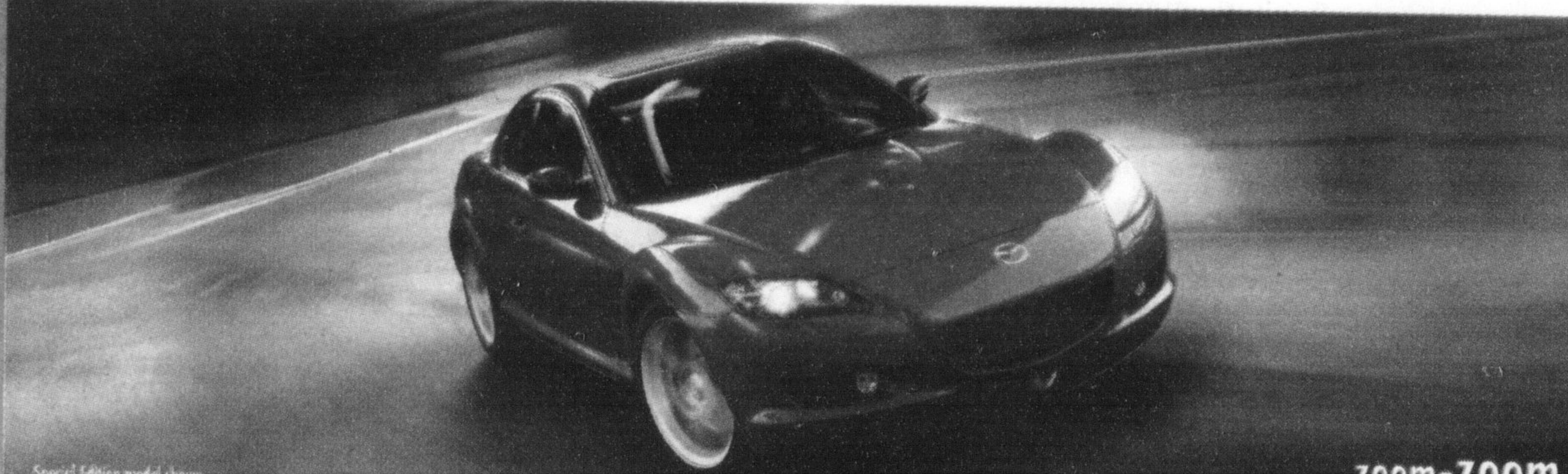
• see MILTON on page B4



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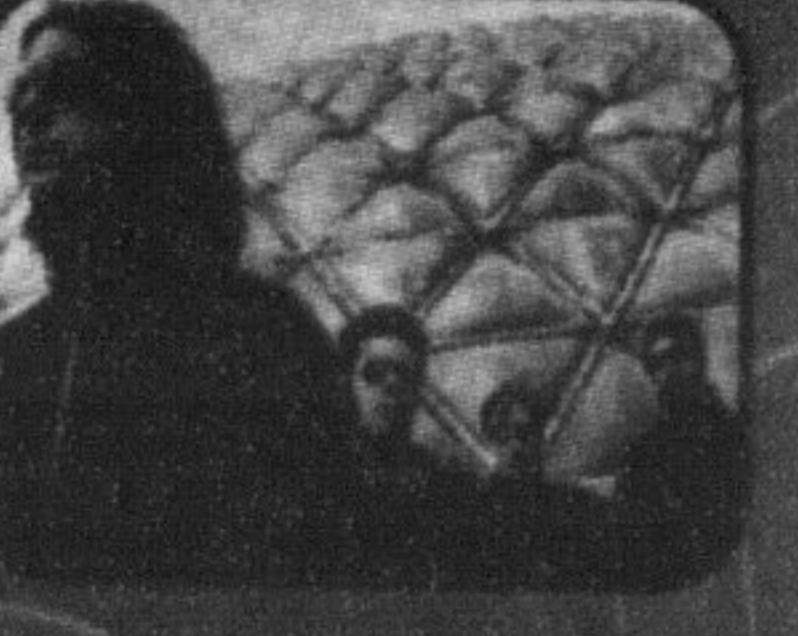

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