

## Recent Awards Recognize Local Volunteers

by LINDA ANDREWS, WAHNEKEWENING BEACH



Diane Leblovic, centre left, receiving the 2019 Robert Robitaille Award  
Let's loudly and proudly applaud our volunteers! Here is a sampling of a few award winners.

### Tiny Township Volunteer Awards

The 2019 Robert Robitaille Award was presented to **Diane Leblovic** for her commitment to developing and advancing parks and recreation, and improving the quality of life in Tiny. Diane is a resident of Balm Beach and was the driving force and principal organizer of the Balm Beach Family Fun Day Event — a hugely successful township-sponsored community event in Balm Beach during the summers of 2018 and 2019. Proceeds from this event go towards the new Children's Playground at Parkside Park.

In her acceptance Diane said, "My heart has always been in Tiny Township as my family has resided in this community for five generations. We have enjoyed the memories that have been created by not only its beautiful beaches, vistas and scenery but also by its growth and maturity over the years, especially in the area of parks, recreation and events."

The award is in memory of Robert Robitaille, a teacher, entertainer, historian and athlete whose life touched many people in Tiny.

The 2019 Corrie Hamelin Award was presented to **Ingrid Egner** in recognition of the contribution of one resident who volunteers his/her time and energy to more than one community association, organization or cause, in a selfless manner, because of strong beliefs in giving back to the community of Tiny and benefiting the people of Tiny. Ingrid has been an active member of the Bluewater Dunes Ratepayers Association and is a passionate environmentalist — often seen at invasive Phragmites removal events up and down the shore, pulling garlic mustard, counting butterflies and tending to the needs of turtles.

Corrie Hamelin was an active community volunteer, and among her activities she was involved in the Kettle's Beach Residents Association from its inception in 1978. After her death in 2003, residents renamed the Kettle Beach park in her honour.

### Severn Sound Environmental Association (SSEA) Partner Awards

Annually, the SSEA acknowledges the contributions made by landowners, partners and volunteers to various SSEA programs and projects, and recognizes environmental champions.

The recipient of the 2019 Severn Sound Environmental Association Stewardship Award was the **Woodland Beach Property Owners Association**. Six years ago, this association was among the first to declare war and take action on invasive Phragmites on its beach. Through its "Phrag Busters" program, the association worked with the Township of Tiny's Stewardship Program to raise awareness, educate and advise residents of the plan of action, and engage volunteers.

The recipient of the 2019 SSEA Drinking Water Source Protection Award was the **Township of Tiny**. The township has gone above and beyond to help promote the program as well as supporting initiatives of their Risk Management Official. Everyone, from Council to staff to the residents and agricultural committee, has embraced the program.

**Peter Andrews** was made an honorary member of Team SSEA in recognition of his many contributions to environmental stewardship and invasive species management on Farlain Lake.

### FOCA (Federation of Ontario Cottagers Associations) Achievement Award

The 2019 recipient was the **Farlain Lake Community Association**. The discovery of Eurasian Watermilfoil in Farlain Lake, near Awenda Provincial Park, resulted in the association developing a comprehensive control program. In 2019, the association received a \$200,000 grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation for the program.

The Farlain Lake Community Association is committed to sharing their experiences and what they learn with other communities in Ontario; <https://farlainlake.ca/>.



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