



OTTAWA FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB Conservation Award – Member -- 2005

Iola Price

The OFNC Conservation Award is given in recognition of a club member who has made an outstanding contribution towards protecting our natural environment. Iola Price is a very worthy recipient of this award in recognition of her effective membership in the City of Ottawa's Forest and Greenspace Advisory Committee (OFGAC) to promote conservation of trees and forests.

As the current Chair of the Ottawa Forests and Greenspace Advisory Committee, and co-chair before that, Iola provides an articulate and credible voice on issues related to conservation of the trees, forests and greenspace of our Nation's capital.

The Ottawa Forests and Greenspace Advisory Committee (OFGAC) was established in the fall of 2001 to advise Ottawa City Council and provide a forum for citizens on issues related to trees and forests. The committee has 15 members, appointed by City Council, from all areas of the City of Ottawa. The OFGAC is working with City Council toward greening of streets, parks, and communities by developing an Ottawa Forest Strategy, a Greenspace Master Plan, a Biodiversity Strategy, a tree cover inventory and tree cover objectives and a Good Forestry Practices Bylaw. Details of the committee's objectives and activities can be found on their very informative website (www.ottawaforests.ca).

Iola's accomplishments include review of OFGAC position papers before transmission to appropriate authorities, preparation of numerous written briefs and making powerful submissions to city committees. For example, Iola recently exhorted City Council at a budget planning meeting to "think of trees as green infrastructure as essential to a well-ordered city as sewers, lighting and roads".

On many occasions, Iola has made a powerful and persuasive intervention during the City's planning process in support of the importance of greenspace and protection of sites of urban natural ecological significance. Her recent interventions in support of the General Burns Community Association deposition arguing against development along the Nepean Creek Corridor as well as her deposition to the City of Ottawa Planning Department for improving the criteria utilized for determining appropriate urban density development levels underscores this dedication towards the maintenance and protection of trees and greenspace in the National Capital Region.

There are numerous other examples. At the City's Planning and Environment Committee, Iola has reminded city planners and councilors of the need to respect principles enunciated in the Official Plan about maintaining and enhancing greenspace. She has also provided recommendations to strengthen ecological provisions in urban

design studies such as Riverside South Community Design and Leitrim Community Design. Iola spearheaded opposition to such controversial development projects as the highly controversial Carp Ridge housing project and the Phase 2 Leitrim Wetlands development which if approved would extend housing into the wetland itself.

Iola is recognized as a very effective and valuable “networker”, regularly liaising with other tree and greenspace-oriented community groups operating in the NCR. This includes our Club through the Conservation Committee and Fletcher Wildlife Garden. Members of these committees wholeheartedly appreciate that Iola is very quick and efficient in replying to queries and in exploring issues and ideas, which helps so much when it allows one to continue one’s work without delay.

Through this award, OFNC members recognize the outstanding efforts towards protecting our natural environment by one of our members – Iola Price.

