

## Coalition of Concerned Citizens get Environmentalist of the Year award

2011-04-21 / News – Caledon Citizen

By Bill Rea



Councillor Patti Foley (left) and Mayor Marolyn Morrison (right) joined in congratulating members of the Coalition of Concerned Citizens (CCC) on being named Caledon's 2011 Environmentalist of the Year. On hand to receive the award, which was presented by Cat Cybulski (third from right) of the Caledon Environmental Advisory Committee, were Willa Gauthier, Penny Richardson, Lorraine Symmes and Lillie Ann Morris.

Photo by Bill Rea

The last couple of months have been very good for the Coalition of Concerned Citizens (CCC), and things got even better for the group Monday night.

CCC, which successfully led the fight against the Rockfort Quarry proposal on the west side of Caledon, was named Caledon's 2011 Environmentalist of the Year. The announcement was made at the Town's annual Volunteer and Citizen Achievement Awards ceremony.

The selection was made by the Caledon Environmental Advisory Committee (CEAC) in

recognition of CCC's 13 years of commitment to protecting the town's natural environment.

The presentation was made by CEAC member Cat Cybulski, and she described CCC as "a group of ordinary citizens who took on a long term commitment."

She added they were spurred into action in 1997 to oppose the quarry plans. Cybulski pointed out they had no previous experience in land use planning or political activism, but they learned.

Their efforts were rewarded in November, when the Ontario Municipal Board turned down the quarry application.

Cybulski observed there were about 150 dedicated volunteers in the coalition, and there were assumptions they would not stay the course. But they continued to grow and they never lost the faith.

CCC President Penny Richardson said they learned about the award three or four weeks ago.

"I thought it was awesome," she remarked. "I was a little bit overwhelmed."

Richardson was accompanied by fellow CCC members Willa Gauthier, Lorraine Symmes and Lillie Ann Morris in accepting the award.

Although the several years of fighting were an ordeal, Richardson said the CCC members learned a lot and made a lot of friends.

Getting the award wasn't seen as making up for all the trouble they went to.

"It's the exclamation mark at the end of it," Morris said.

"It's sort of the cream on the top," Gauthier added.

Symmes said it was "marvellous to be recognized."