

# Kawartha Highlands Local Stakeholder Committee Receives National Award

Members of the Kawartha Highlands Local Stakeholder Committee received a national environmental award on June 6, 2005 at the Liberty Grand in Toronto.

The *Canadian Environment Awards* recognize the commitment of Canadians acting locally to help protect, preserve and restore the country's environment.

The Kawartha Highlands Local Stakeholder Committee was among 17 finalists, chosen from more than 150 nominations, to receive a *Community Award* plaque. The plaques, donated by Canada Post, feature a series of stamps commemorating the work of wildlife artist John James Audubon.

Elizabeth Tanner, the Chair of the former Kawartha Highlands Local Stakeholder Committee, said the committee would donate the award to Ontario Parks, to display in any future Kawartha Highlands Signature Site Park office or interpretive centre.

In July 2000, the Ministry of Natural Resources appointed a 12-member Local Stakeholder Committee to provide advice on the future protection of the *Kawartha Highlands Signature Site*, an area of over 36,000 hectares, just north of Peterborough. The Committee conducted extensive public consultations before recommending the area be protected as a park. Special legislation was developed for the area, based largely on the recommendations of the Local Stakeholder Committee.

The *Canadian Environment Awards* are a partnership between the Government of Canada and Canadian Geographic Enterprises, which manages the program and publishes the digests. The Awards are also supported by 14 Canadian corporations.

Details of the Canadian Environment Awards and finalists can be viewed at <http://www.cangeo.ca/cea2005/en/default.asp>.