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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **For Immediate Release – Friday, March 5**

#### **Provincial Environmental Award Winners Announced**

(Halifax) – The Nova Scotia Environmental Network has announced the winners of their annual Eco-Hero Awards. Every year, the Network gives awards in eight categories. The winner of the Nickerson Lifetime Achievement is Beth McGee of Halifax and who is the longtime chairperson of the Five Bridges Wilderness Heritage Trust. The Eco-Heroes Group of the Year Award went to the Avon Peninsula Watershed Preservation Society for their work to protect their watershed and agricultural land from further gypsum mine development. The Eco-Hero Environmentalist of the Year was Wolfville veterinarian Marilyn Cameron, who is the hard-working chair and spokesperson for the Biosolids & Wastewater Group and has advocated against the spreading of HRM sewage sludge on rural farms. The Cole Award for Excellence in Environment and Health was presented to Dartmouth residents Helen Jones and Maureen Reynolds who founded the group, Real Alternatives to Toxics in the Environment (RATE), and have passionately advocated for many years for a provincial ban on residential pesticides. The Marshall Award for Aboriginal Environmental Leadership was presented to IKANAWTIKET, an inspiring initiative of the Maritime Aboriginal Peoples Council based in Truro. Janice Ashworth, a Masters student at Dalhousie University and dedicated volunteer with the Energy Issues Committee of the Ecology Action Centre, was given the Youth Environmental Leadership Award. The Award for Environmental Political Will was given to Mark Parent, former Conservative Nova Scotia Minister of Environment for creating the Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Act, rejecting the Digby Quarry and Marine Terminal Project, expanding protected areas, supporting local agriculture, and developing the climate change plan for the province while in office. Jamie Simpson, Coordinator of the Forestry Program at the Ecology Action Centre, accepted the Langille Honour in the Woods Award for his work to stop clearcutting and whole-tree harvesting for biomass. Winners received their awards at a ceremony at the Nova Scotia Public Archives on Friday, March 5. More information about the awards can be found on the Network’s web site: <http://nсен.ca/ecohero.php>

#### **BACKGROUND:**

NSEN Eco-Hero Awards Information: <http://nсен.ca/ecohero.php>

NSEN Eco-Hero Award Photos: <http://nсен.ca/ecohero.php>

Photography credit: Margo Gesser \*Please feel free to use any of the pictures.

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For more information or to interview the award winners, please contact:

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