



## MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

### Friends of the St. Clair River Announces Youth Contest Winners

**SARNIA, MARCH 17, 2009** --- The Friends of the St. Clair River (FOSCR) is pleased to announce the winners of the St. Clair River Youth Awareness Contest that challenged teenagers in Lambton and Kent Counties to learn more about the health of the river through an online contest during January and February.

The contest winners are: **Adrian Graf** (13) and **Emily Ness** (16) of Sarnia, and **Ken Charron** (13) of Wallaceburg. Each of the three winners received an X Box 360 Pro gaming console at a special presentation on Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup> at the St. Clair Township Municipal office in Mooretown. In all, 158 teenagers entered the contest.

Darrell Randell, FOSCR president and a municipal representative on the St. Clair River Bi-national Public Advisory Council (BPAC) said the goal of the contest was to inform young adults about the current health of the river and encourage them to get involved in the clean-up process.

"We are beginning to see the positive results from efforts to improve the river but we recognize that some of the beneficial use impairments identified for the St. Clair will take several years to address," said Randell.

"We will need strong public support moving forward and the youth of today will be tomorrow's policy makers and voters. We need young adults to understand and care about the issues affecting our river if we want to be successful."

Bela Trebics, Canadian Co-chair of BPAC, said he is pleased with the level of response from local teens. The contest was promoted in all Lambton/Kent high schools and in the online Facebook community where many young people spend their free time.

"BPAC has been working to improve the river since the mid 1980s and we have made excellent progress but there is much more that needs to be done so the BPAC will continue to look for creative ways to educate and involve people on the remaining challenges that need to be addressed," said Trebics.

"If we are going to remove the St. Clair River from the list of pollution hot spots in the Great Lakes it will depend on everyone doing their part," he said.

For more information on the work of BPAC and Friends of the St. Clair River, visit [www.friendsofstclair.ca](http://www.friendsofstclair.ca)



Winners of the Friends of the St. Clair River Youth River Awareness Contest (L- R) **Adrian Graf**, **Ken Charron** and **Emily Ness** pose with their prizes along with FOSCR President Darrell Randell. The three lucky winners were chosen from the 158 contest entrants that completed the online river quiz on the FOSCR website [www.friendsofstclair.ca](http://www.friendsofstclair.ca). The contest was designed to engage local youth in clean up efforts to restore the St. Clair River.

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