

Tarred Duck Award messy honour

by Gazette staff

The 'winners' of the annual Tarred Duck Award for outstanding dis-service to the environment have been announced by the Ecology Action Centre.

Joint winners of the dubious distinctions are the Hon. George Henley, Nova Scotia Minister of Lands and Forests, and E.L.L. Rowe, the Provincial Deputy Minister of the Environment.

Henley has been recognized for remarks he made in August, when he stated that citizens opposed to the spraying of herbicides were "subversives, perhaps funded by a foreign power". The statement was vigorously rejected by provincial groups, who pointed out that their

funds came largely from auctions and bake sales.

Rowe has been dishonoured for his testimony during a hearing of an injunction to stop the spraying of herbicides in parts of Nova Scotia. In response to a question about why he had issued a permit to spray near a private dwelling, Rowe responded "Why not?"

"We disagree strongly with any such casualness toward the use of toxic substances in the environment," said Susan Holtz, director of the Ecology Action Centre.

Neither Henley nor Rowe were available for comment on their awards.

The E.A.C. also presented its Sunshine Award for environmental

"good works" to Ginny Point for her work in forestry and sustainable agriculture. Point has also done extensive work in the fields of toxic wastes, recycling, and environmental education, according to Holtz.

Runner-up for the Sunshine Award has been given jointly to Susan Hower and Hester Lessard for publishing an environmental news bulletin on topics like uranium development and herbicide use, said Holtz.

Both the Tarred Duck and Sunshine awards have been given annually since 1976 to persons or entities chosen by the general membership of the Ecology Action Centre.



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