



## Quarterly Progress Report Vol 1-09 December 2009



### Background

On September 22, 2009, the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority, Ontario, Canada was announced as the Thiess International Riverprize winner in Brisbane, Australia. The LSRCA has created a basin wide Integrated Watershed Management Plan to protect and restore Lake Simcoe and its watershed.



*The award gives us international recognition, and our integrated watershed management program has been a long journey. But our work will not be finished until we have restored all of the damage done by 200 years of neglect and abuse... until we have changed the behaviours that caused the damage... and until protection and restoration become part of everyone's daily lifestyle choices.*

*Excerpt from Virginia Hackson's acceptance speech in Brisbane, Australia, September 22, 2009*

### Twining initiative

In November of 2009, the Authority commenced work on selecting a twinning partner. By mentoring this twinning organization, we would share best practice knowledge to help them restore their watershed. The Board of Directors approved the following criteria for reviewing potential twinning partners:

- compatibility
  - size of watershed, organization type, current support
  - ability to leverage funds from the authority
  - geographic placement
  - willingness to participate
  - cultural barriers
- safety
  - political stability
  - natural hazards
- return on investment
  - partnership maintenance
  - training/education on the ground
  - institutional capacity building
  - milestones achieved
  - ability to measure change
  - potential outreach/multiplier effect

### Showcasing the Riverprize award

Since winning this prestigious award, the LSRCA has been busy with several initiatives:

- a one page flyer on the Thiess International Riverprize has been widely distributed
- we have created a web page at [www.lsrca.on.ca/thiess](http://www.lsrca.on.ca/thiess)
- press releases were distributed and 6 print media articles were produced
- 2 television stories/interviews were conducted
- one radio interview on the award has been completed
- a celebration of over 100 partners was hosted by the LSRCA on November 3, 2009
- a tag line on our authority signatures will now go on all letters and emails: "Proud Winner of the 2009 International Thiess Riverprize"
- new stationery will incorporate the IRF logo
- presentations on the award have been given to several partners, including Conservation Ontario
- the River Foundation logo has been integrated into several Authority presentations
- the Riverprize Award has been integrated into our Watershed Excellence Showcase

### Twining committee announced:

Councilor Virginia Hackson, Board Chair  
Gayle Wood, Chief Administrative Officer  
Mike Walters, Director, Watershed Management  
Brian Kemp, Director, Conservation Lands  
Ken Neale, Acting Director, Corporate Services  
Gina Casey, Coordinator, Board and CAO  
2 additional members to be announced in the new year