

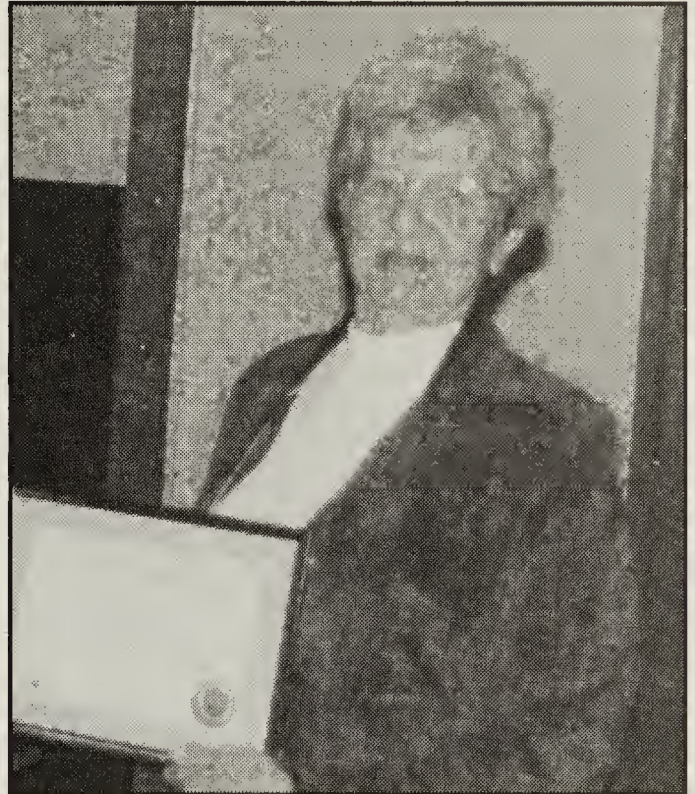
NATURE SASKATCHEWAN NEWS

At our Fall Meet, Nature Saskatchewan had the privilege of presenting the following annual awards to a group of dedicated volunteers. The **Larry Morgotch Award** was given to Lorne Scott for spinning an interesting tale from a few beautiful photos of Naturalizing Through a Living Room Window. Paul Geraghty received the **Cliff Shaw Award** for his field sketches that have appeared in recent issues of *Blue Jay* (see text below). The **Volunteer of the Year Award** was given to both Attila Chanady (current Conservation Director) and Diether Peschken (current Second Vice-president and former Research Director) for their collaborative work on Nature Saskatchewan programs and advocacy. Paule Hjertaas was made a **Fellow of the Society** for her many years of dedicated and passionate volunteer service including a long stint as Nature Views editor, and being President, Member-at-large and holding other volunteer positions over the years. The **Conservation Award** was presented to Eleanor Bowie by Attila Chanady (see text below).

Diana Bizecki Robson (Past President) created a new Nature Saskatchewan award this year. The **Long-term Volunteer Service Award** is designed to honour people who have given sustained, volunteer service to the society for many years. This year, we had the privilege to honour several people: Anna and Ted Leighton for their excellent work on the *Blue Jay* and both Kathy Fellner and Ruth Englund for doing numerous and various jobs for the society over many years.

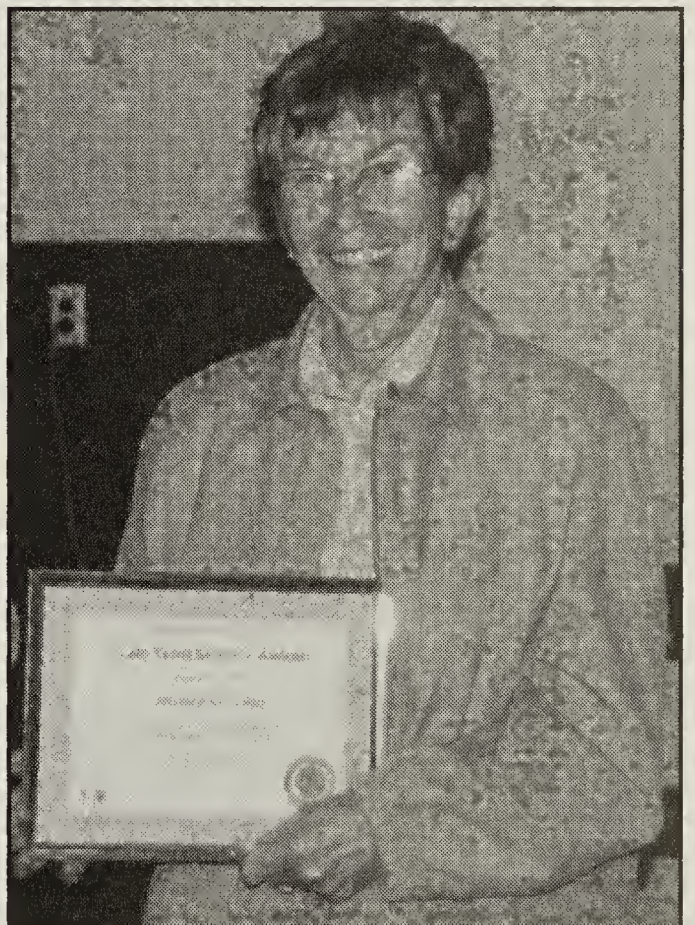
Thanks to all of the volunteers and members of the society who have helped keep the society running for more than fifty years.

- Michele Williamson, NS President



NS volunteer Kathy Fellner

Margaret Skeel



NS volunteer Ruth Englund

Margaret Skeel

Conservation Award

Perhaps more than any other single individual, Eleanor fought hard and with great passion to prevent oil and gas development in parts of the R.M of Piapot designated as “environmentally sensitive.” She collected data and submitted relevant information to the R.M Council with respect to environmental damage due to industrial activity in the Great Sand Hills. She addressed the annual general meeting of the Saskatchewan Environmental Society, and Nature Saskatchewan’s Spring Meet in Leader, and met with government ministers, MLAs and other politicians in Regina. Her presentations were always passionate, but they had entirely rational underpinnings, based as they were on careful research and documentation, displays, maps and other supporting material.

In July the Government decided not to allow a bylaw amendment by the RM of Piapot that would have opened the way to natural gas development in the area. Although at the same time the Government also announced a major review of the 1991 Land Use Strategy for the entire Great Sand Hills, the decision to turn down the Piapot application for rezoning sensitive areas represented a significant victory for conservation. It was also a well-deserved victory for Eleanor.

- Attila Chanady, NS Conservation Director

Cliff Shaw Award

Although usually given for a written submission of excellence, this year the Cliff Shaw Award went to Paul Geraghty for his field sketches. Paul is able to capture animals and birds in a wonderfully candid, yet artistic way that tells us as much about their behaviour and their appearance. The sketches are full of life and detail, with the immediacy of glimpses we see in nature yet have no way to record except in memory. The natural history value of the sketches goes beyond the fact that they are pleasing to look at and educational: they remind us of the wealth of detail that nature provides



Michele Williamson presenting award to Anna Leighton.

Margaret Skeel



Attila Chanady presenting Conservation Award to Eleanor Bowie.

Margaret Skeel

to those with a watchful eye, and the time and patience to observe.

- Anna & Ted Leighton, Editors