

# NATURE INSPIRATION AWARDS <sup>2019</sup> WINNERS

The Canadian Museum of Nature is proud to present these remarkable stewards of nature. The leadership of these exceptional individuals and organizations inspires Canadians to engage with natural history, connect to nature and explore a pro-nature future that will protect our natural environment for future generations. Visit [nature.ca/awards](http://nature.ca/awards) in February 2020 and nominate candidates for the **2020 Nature Inspiration Awards!**



**LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT**  
**John Coope, PhD**  
Vancouver, British Columbia

Founding member of the Jericho Stewardship Group, John Coope has worked hard for 20 years to remove invasive plant species from Vancouver's Jericho Beach Park. He has conducted weekly patrols, kept a detailed inventory of the park's 300 plant species, and reduced invasive wild chervil from 30,000 plants to almost none.



**YOUTH**  
**Sophia Mathur**  
12 years old  
Sudbury, Ontario

Since age seven, Sophia has been lobbying for the environment. She has helped build the Fridays for Future youth climate-action movement in Canada. Her leadership, from speaking at conferences to creating climate-justice art installations with friends, has inspired her peers and earned her much media attention.



**ADULT**  
**Laurence Packer, PhD**  
Toronto, Ontario

Dr. Laurence Packer single-handedly created the largest bee collection in Canada. The Packer Lab at York University houses over 90% of the world's bee genera. He has created a digital bee archive, led an international effort to genetically barcode all bees, and authored an award-winning book on bee conservation.



**NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS**  
(small to medium)  
**The Great Trail (Trans Canada Trail)**  
Montreal, Quebec

Completed in 2017 and renamed The Great Trail, this national network boasts 24,000 km of urban, rural and wilderness trails that connect over 15,000 communities. Initiatives to promote sustainability and stewardship include signage, workshops, and funding support for 170 community-led spring clean-ups.



**NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS**  
(large)  
**Second Harvest**  
Toronto, Ontario

What began as a mission by two friends in 1985 to reclaim food discarded by restaurants and stores is now an organization that rescues millions of kilograms of food annually and redistributes it to social services. In 2019, Second Harvest released the first-ever industry survey and analysis of food waste in Canada.



**BUSINESS**  
(small to medium)  
**Abeego**  
Victoria, British Columbia

Abeego founder Toni Desrosiers invented beeswax food wrap in 2008 as an alternative to plastic. Her company, which operates with a zero-waste system, has led the way in the sustainable food wrap industry. Toni's innovation has earned her awards through RBC as well as the Greater Victoria Chamber of Commerce.



**BUSINESS**  
(large)  
**Calstone Inc.**  
Scarborough, Ontario

This family-owned furniture-maker is committed to re-greening urban spaces by working with students, school boards, and a regional conservation authority. Projects include transforming 16 km of transmission corridor in Scarborough to green space, as well as a pollinator garden and outdoor learning centre at Tom Longboat Junior Public School.

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