

'Green' schools win accolades

The Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board was honoured with an environmental achiever award Thursday for its work promoting and constructing "green" buildings.

The board was one of three local Enviro-Achievers recognized by the Citizens Environment Alliance for their contributions promoting or implementing progressive environmental conservation practices.

"Around here the Catholic school board is really leading in terms of the built environment," said C E A spokesman Derek Coronado. "(Its) new buildings are being developed to be very energy-efficient and low-impact on the environment in terms of resource use. And it's something that's really long overdue in this area and something that needs to be encouraged for a communitywide effort."

The Windsor Bicycling Committee also won a plaque for advancing cycling as a viable mode of transportation, according to a CEA news release. And another award was handed posthumously to Danny Steinke, the 20-year-old Windsor man who died in 2006 after a lifetime battle against cancer and the toxic chemicals linked to

the disease.

Coronado said the achievement winners were nominated by CEA's members.

The group also handed out its Weenie Award, which recognizes "under-achievers" who have "achieved new lows in their contribution to environmental degradation in southwestern Ontario and Southeast Michigan," according to the CEA.

Coronado said the public submitted the nominees for the award.

"We usually get way more than we can cram in one awards show," Coronado said of the nominations.

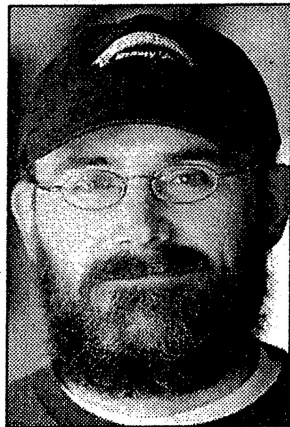
Amherstburg's General Chemical Canada was among the nominees for continuing to appeal the Ministry of the Environment orders to provide long-term maintenance and eventual closure of its waste disposal site.

Federal Minister of the Environment John Baird also made the list for his "ceaseless campaign against the Kyoto Protocol," the CEA said.

The Ontario Power Authority was also named a Weenie candidate for "its fundamentally flawed" Integrated Power System Plan, which the CEA said under-appreciates efficiency and conservation and underestimates nuclear risk.

"Whichever one receives the loudest volume or most amount of that booing is heckling is the actual winner of the award for the year," Coronado said.

The awards were handed out at the Rock Bottom Bar and Grill.



Derek Coronado