

**For Immediate Release**  
**November 17, 2016**  
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## **76 Years of Continued Conservation Successes within the Winooski Watershed and Beyond**

On Tuesday November 15, the Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District (WNRCD) celebrated 76 years of conservation successes at their annual dinner at the Canadian Club in Barre VT. The room was packed, the dinner was delightful and the presentations were informative.

Corrina Parnapy ; WNRCD District Manager opened the night by welcoming everyone and with the assistance of the District's Natural Resource Conservation Specialist; Holly Kreiner, summarized programmatic initiatives held between July 2015 and June 2016. Highlights included: over 20 farm visits, 146 soil samples and 10 manure samples collected, treatment of 3.7 acres of impervious surface, treating 42,768 gallons of stormwater, distributing 81 rainbarrels, planting 2,955 trees on 4 acres along sensitive riparian corridors, managing 3 acres for invasive species, replacing one failing culvert for aquatic organism passage, conducting 23 workshops and events, creating 29 online educational products and 8 new handouts in addition to working with 76 District residents to identify BMP's to implement on their property. Staff then touched on the evolution of program initiatives to meet the needs of District residents and issues identified by science. New initiatives focus on sodium chloride reduction strategies and outreach, Small farm agricultural outreach, E.coli impaction mitigation, in-school stormwater education, climate change and invasive species identification and management.

Following the WNRCD presentation, UVM NR206 Service based learning course students: Jenna Nash, Nikki Boudah, Jake Cioffi, Grace Scorpio, Jordyn Geller and Emma Butterfield presented on their work with the WNRCD to understand the current road salt application rates and best management practices of District towns and contractors.

After the yummy dinner provided by the Canadian Club and engaging conversations, Keynote Presenter: Eric Howe; NEIWPCC Program Director, Lake Champlain Basin Program & Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership, Presented; Managing the Lake Champlain Watershed: Using Science, Education, Culture, and Economics to Turn Challenges into Opportunities for a Cleaner Lake. Changes to the Lake Champlain watershed over the past 400 years have affected numerous pressures to the Lake's ecosystem. Landscape-level changes to the watershed have increased loading of sediment, nutrients and other pollutants, and changed diversity of its flora and fauna. In addition, changes in precipitation and temperature patterns have affected ice cover and surface temperatures around the Lake. The presentation reviewed some of these pressures and subsequent challenges to improving the quality of Lake Champlain imposed by pressures, the economic benefits of Lake Champlain, and areas in which management agencies, watershed groups, and our communities could focus their efforts to address these challenges. All presentations can be found on the WNRCD website at: [www.winooskinrcd.org](http://www.winooskinrcd.org)

District residents who have gone above and beyond to conduct natural resource conservation practices on their own property were then honored with the District's prestigious Stewardship Award. This year's recipients were: Wilderness Associates, Ed Kiniry; Bryan Ownership, Corrine Bryan and the North Williston Cattle Company, Lorenzo Whitcomb.

The night was concluded with the Watershed Stewardship FUND raffle, to benefit conservation projects within the District. Event sponsors included: City Market, Shelburne Farms, Cabot, Shelburne Museum,

Audubon Vermont, Birds of Vermont Museum, Echo Lake Aquarium and Science Center, Vermont Institute of Natural Science and the Mad River Glen.

The WNRCD would like to thank all our partners, supports and residents for another successful year of the protection of our natural resources. For more information on programs, initiatives or how the WNRCD can work with you to implement projects, please visit our website at: [www.winooskinrcd.org](http://www.winooskinrcd.org) or follow us on social media.

The Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District is one of 14 conservation districts throughout Vermont. It encompasses all of Chittenden and Washington County as well as parts of Orange County (Orange, Williamstown and Washington). The district relies on grants and individual donations to complete its conservation work. The WNRCD focuses its resources on completing conservation projects within the areas of agricultural assistance, forestland enhancement, urban conservation and watershed stewardship.

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