

New Student Bursary Supports Conservation

To mark Earth Day this year, the Mersey Tobeatic Research Institute (MTRI) is pleased to launch its new Clapp Conservation Award for students embarking on post-secondary learning. The new award honours the remarkable efforts of Diane and Harold Clapp and family of Digby county.

They are founding members of the research and monitoring organization based in Kempt. As long-time volunteers in the boardroom and in the woods and waters, the Clapp's have led by example in building MTRI and are an inspiration to people of all ages interested in conservation. "The Clapp family is full of super volunteers," says Amanda Lavers, MTRI Executive Director. "As a team Harold and Diane travel across southwest Nova seeking and discovering new populations of the endangered Blandings' turtle, and new locations of several significant forest lichens.

"Their business experience is also impressive, with Diane leading MTRI's fundraising efforts and chairing its board of directors over many years of growth as an organization."

"Their daughter Christian, who now lives in California, has given her beautiful wildlife artwork to be featured on holiday and greeting cards, as well as, hooked rugs, and their son Sam continues to donate resources to help MTRI establish green technologies at its field station."

From its inception as a science-based field station established to support research and monitoring, MTRI has always had a strong academic foundation with many key post-secondary partners. Board and NSCC Faculty member Leif Helmer says the award is very much about giving back to the rural communities we work in and encouraging youth to be engaged in meaningful conservation projects close to home.

To apply for the bursary, students need to demonstrate their interest in nature conservation by providing a video or an essay with photos that describe their role in a conservation project. Full details about the application and the research institute can be found at www.merseytobeatic.ca