



**White Owl
Conservation
Awards**
Imperial Tobacco
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Awards Committee:
Robert Franson
Roderick Hunter
Dr. Adrian Jones
Sen. Maurice Lamontagne
Gisèle Lamoureux
Louis Lapierre
Tony LeSauter
Peter Middleton
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Montreal, December 6, 1974 - The Canadian Environmental Law Research Foundation of Toronto is the winner of this year's \$10,000 White Owl Conservation Award. Jack O'Dette of Kingston, Ontario, took the \$2,000 Award in the "individual" category.

The Awards are offered by Imperial Tobacco each year for the group and the individual deemed to have made the most outstanding contributions to the environment in Canada. Winners are selected by an independent Awards Committee from among nominations submitted from across the country.

Federal Environment Minister Jeanne Sauv  presented the cheques along with whalebone carvings of the Snowy Owl to the winners during a brief ceremony in Montreal today.

In her speech, the Honourable Jeanne Sauv  outlined some of the achievements that have earned the Canadian Environmental Law Research Foundation its Award. First among these is the group's book "Environment on Trial". Using Ontario law as an example, the book gives the citizen an insight into his environmental rights and how he can assert them, legally and politically. The editors, David Estrin and John Swaigen, also present the legal reforms necessary to protect our natural resources, and propose a model Canadian Environmental Bill of Rights.

CELRF, as a coalition of lawyers, law professors, scientists, conservationists, politicians and housewives, has used legal tools to prevent and control environmental damage on a number of occasions in its four years of existence. When representations to elected members, presentation of briefs and other means have failed, CELRF has gone to



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court in the public interest to set precedents for environmental law, to demonstrate the inadequacy of existing law, or to remedy an environmental problem.

The winner of the individual Award has a longer history of environment work. In fact, 22,000 hours is considered a modest estimate of the time Jack O'Dette has devoted to the conservation cause - all outside of his career as a metallurgical engineer.

Mrs. Sauvé commended him for his public education activities, as well as for the many problem-solving projects he has undertaken over the years.

Since 1955 Mr. O'Dette has been a director or executive officer of the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters, and this involvement has prompted him to tackle a number of problems related to renewable resource management.

A founding father of the Canadian Wildlife Federation, he led the C.W.F. into the American court battle that stopped - for now at least - the Alaska Pipeline project.

Jack O'Dette has always taken the time to share his concern for the environment with others, and through numerous television appearances, lectures, slide presentations and radio shows, has done a lot over the years to raise the awareness of his fellow citizens.

The White Owl Conservation Awards program, which includes a system of grants for environment projects, was initiated in 1968 by Imperial Tobacco Products Limited of Montreal.

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