

# Waterford Fifth Grader Wins Clean Water Calendar Contest

December 7, 2010

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Michalina DeVita, a fifth grade student at Jayno Adams Elementary School in Waterford Township is the grand prize winner in the Oakland County Water Resources Commissioner's 2010 Kids' Clean Water Calendar Contest. Her drawing was selected from nearly 1,400 others and will be featured on the cover of the 2011 calendar. The announcement was made at a luncheon held Saturday at the Cranbrook Institute of Science in Bloomfield Hills.

The calendar contest is one way Commissioner John P. McCulloch and his staff educate children in Oakland County about the importance of protecting the environment is through the annual calendar contest. By giving children the opportunity to take an active part in researching the calendar subject matter, the WRC is helping to educate local children, who in turn, educate others around them.

"Children and adults alike need to understand that our actions have a direct impact on the environment," McCulloch said. "Keeping water clean takes hard work and education. Our popular Kids' Clean Water Calendar Contest, which began in 2005, is just one way we spread the word."

McCulloch said that there were just 125 entries for the inaugural calendar. Since then the program has grown tremendously to nearly 1,400 students from 40 schools in Oakland County participating in last year's contest.

The focus of the contest is educating children and the public about the importance of clean water. This year's subject matter is: **Kids – We Can All Help Protect Oakland County's Rivers, Lakes and Streams.** The annual event is was open to Oakland County fourth and fifth-grade students. Entries were judged on the effectiveness of the message, creativity, educational aspects and uniqueness. Twelve month winners were selected and their art featured on the pages of the popular calendar.

The WRC has received generous donations from the Great Lake Guardians to assist in calendar printing, prizes for the winners and the award ceremony at the Cranbrook Institute of Science. The Great Lakes Guardians is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation and protection of precious water resources.

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