

## **Troy Fourth Grader Wins Clean Water Calendar Contest**

Waterford, Michigan. December 9, 2011 --- Chyanne Kuptz, a fourth grade student at Barnard Elementary School in Troy is the grand prize winner in the Oakland County Water Resources Commissioner's 2012 Kids' Clean Water Calendar Contest. Her drawing was selected from more than 1,000 others and will be featured on the cover of the 2012 calendar. The announcement was made at a luncheon held last Saturday at the Cranbrook Institute of Science in Bloomfield Hills.

The annual calendar contest is one way Commissioner John P. McCulloch and his staff educate children in Oakland County about the importance of protecting the environment. 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 Making the Difference in Water Quality**. The annual event is open to Oakland County fourth and fifth-grade students. Entries were judged on the effectiveness of the message, creativity, educational aspects and uniqueness. Twelve monthly 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 our precious water resources.

Copies of the 2012 calendar are available free of charge by contacting the Water Resources Commissioner's office Environmental Team at 248-858-0958 or email [envreq@oakgov.com](mailto:envreq@oakgov.com).

For media inquiries only contact Chip Tischer at 248-858-1120 or email [tischerc@oakgov.com](mailto:tischerc@oakgov.com).

