

Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

We are proud to announce that Chantry Island has won the Local's Know competition to determine Canada's number one hidden gem destination.

The announcement was made in a press release Friday by Bruce County Tourism.

"We're thrilled to have retained the crown of having Canada's Best hidden travel gem in 2010. Chantry Island is one of our great natural assets," said Bruce County Tourism Manager, Kim McPhedran. "Receiving the title of having Canada's Best Hidden Travel Gem brings real credibility to the area as a major tourism destination in the county. It's a great selling feature to bring other media up here," McPhedran added.

The picture received over 30,000 votes and far outnumbered any of the other pictures on the site. The photo featured on the Locals Know website, which is no longer available online, was taken by James C. Swartz, a professional photographer and cottager in the area.

"Having a cottage in Port Elgin, we spend a great deal of time enjoying the sandy beaches and sunsets on Lake Huron," Swartz said in an e-mail. "As a professional photographer I am always looking to discover the beauty of Saugeen Shores and Bruce County. One day I chartered a private plane to see the region from the sky. As we circled over Chantry Island, I was very impressed with the size and striking beauty of the island from the air." More of his photos can be seen at www.jcswartz.com.

The honour is a huge seal of approval for the hard work of the Marine Heritage Society and the Propeller Club's volunteer members who took the dilapidated structures on the island and restored them to works of beauty the entire community could be proud of.

"We are proud to have been chosen the Locals Know Hidden travel gem of 2010," said Rick Smith, chair of the Marine Heritage Society. "The journey continues in celebrations this August of our 10th year of providing tours to the island."

It is also fantastic news for the Saugeen Shores Chamber of Commerce and Tourism in the area. "I think we locals have always known that Chantry Island is a hidden gem for tourism and now it's confirmed - the rest of Canada agrees with us," said Joanne Robbins, Chamber General Manager. "The whole community has made this possible and it's wonderful to know that the Chantry Island Tours, and tourism in general will benefit from this well deserved distinction."

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