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**OHIO JOURNALIST WINS VALLENTYNE AWARD**

Ann Arbor, MI

The International Association for Great Lakes Research (IAGLR) recently awarded its highest outreach honor to Tom Henry, environmental reporter, editorial writer and op-ed columnist at The Blade in Toledo for 21 years. IAGLR is the primary professional scientific organization dedicated to research and outreach on large lakes of the world including U.S .and Canadian Great Lakes.

Henry received the John R. (Jack) Vallentyne Award at the group’s annual meeting, held in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada on May 29, 2014. The award is named after and dedicated to the late Dr. Vallentyne who had a long and distinguished career as a scientist, but also dedicated decades of work to education and outreach.

The award goes to those who have contributed substantially to educating the public and informing policymakers about Great Lakes issues, leading to protection and restoration of great lakes of the world.

Henry has had a lifelong interest in the Great Lakes and Great Lakes reporting. He began writing about the Great Lakes in the early 1980’s as a cub reporter at his first paper, The Bay City Times in Michigan. He created the environment beat at The Blade in 1993. Since 2007 he has written environmental columns for The Blade and has written columns for Michigan State University's Great Lakes Echo since 2010.

Mr. Henry earned his bachelor's degree from Central Michigan University in 1981. He was one of eight journalists awarded a 1991-92 Kiplinger Public Affairs Reporting Fellowship to Ohio State University, which led to a Master of Arts in Journalism from Ohio State University. Since then he has received numerous short term study fellowships from the Society of Environmental Journalists and the Institute for Journalism & Natural Resources. In 2006, he was a Society of Environmental Journalists fellow at Yale Law School and in 2008 he received a fellowship at Harvard University's Nieman House, Lincoln Center on Public Policy.

Mr. Henry’s work and influence extends beyond Northwest Ohio and the Great Lakes to a national audience through his work with the Society of Environmental Journalists (SEJ). Mr. Henry has been an active member of SEJ since 1994.

Tom Henry served as an adviser on a National Science Foundation program in which several Great Lakes universities collaborated on ways to improve Great Lakes climate change communications. His essays have appeared in Harvard University's Nieman Reports and the Yale Forum on Climate Change & The Media, and he has received kudos for his work from Columbia Journalism Review and the Knight Science Journalism Tracker, among others.

Mr. Henry has presented at over two dozen statewide, regional, national and international conferences and has made numerous talks to local groups and colleges. He has shared his expertise with students as the professional mentor and volunteer adviser for the University of Toledo student newspaper, The Collegian, during the 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 academic years.

**Contacts**

For more information about this award, contact Val Klump, Awards Committee Co-Chair,

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