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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Bonnieheath Estate Lavender & Winery named 2014 Sustainable Tourism Ambassador**

NORFOLK COUNTY, January 28, 2015 – Bonnieheath Estate Lavender & Winery took home the *2014 Sustainable Tourism Ambassador of the Year Award* presented by the Long Point World Biosphere Reserve Foundation at the Economic Development Symposium on January 28<sup>th</sup> in Port Dover.

The award honours leaders in sustainability whose businesses have made significant differences in the social, economic, natural and cultural environments of Norfolk County. The award is a symbol of achievement and celebrates the accomplishments of community and business leaders who have actively engaged the tourism community to promote and encourage best practices.

“Bonnieheath creates a sense of place by providing guests with visual and educational experiences that focus on the preservation of Norfolk’s natural assets including local agricultural history and quality farm-produced products,” said Paul Givens, Director of the Long Point World Biosphere Reserve Foundation.

Members of the Long Point World Biosphere Reserve Foundation’s Board of Directors faced a difficult task selecting Bonnieheath as the winner. Award finalists included *Blueberry Hill Estates*, *Burning Kiln Winery* and *Grand Experiences Canoe and Kayak Outfitters*.

Anita and Steve Buehner, the owners of Bonnieheath, were presented with an eagle sculpture carved from Norfolk Ash by Long Point artisan Jack Worton. In addition to the stunning sculpture, Bonnieheath received a free year-long Charter Membership from the Long Point World Biosphere Reserve and a decorative plaque to display at their property.

The Sustainable Tourism Ambassador of the Year Award is just one initiative of the Biosphere’s sustainable tourism project in partnership with Norfolk County. Last year’s inaugural award went to Whistling Gardens botanical gardens in Wilsonville. The Long Point Biosphere, together with Ontario’s three other biosphere reserves (Georgian Bay, Niagara Escarpment and Frontenac Arch), received an Ontario Trillium Foundation grant to help advance sustainable tourism in each biosphere community. For more information about sustainable tourism initiatives in Norfolk, visit [www.longpointbiosphere.ca](http://www.longpointbiosphere.ca)