

GIBC, architect receive beautification awards

Courtesy of KMB



The Grosse Ile Bridge Co. recently won an award at the Keep Michigan Beautiful 2009 Awards Program for its landscaping project along Bridge Road and Meridian at the northern entrance to the island.

The project was one of 36 across the state that the KMB recognized.

The GIBC's landscaping project was designed and built by Grosse Ile resident Doug Henry, president of Grosse Ile-based Foliage Concepts. Henry developed the landscaping plan in consultation with GIBC owner and President Paul Smoke.

The GIBC decided to beautify the half-acre perimeter of the property and enhance road safety by replacing dead trees, undesirable brush and leaning trees with attractive landscaping and plantings that blend with the woodlands and wetlands in the area.

The landscaping project was started in the fall of 2007 and completed by the summer of 2008. It includes natural decorative boulders and earthen berms featuring 13 species of trees, six species of shrubs and six species of flowers designed to provide year-round color.

Also at the ceremony, Grosse Ile resident John Wilkie, principal in Wilkie & Zanley Architects was the architect for a winning project and received an award.

Islander Jack Frucci is the KMB president and his wife, Pamela, is a member of the KMB executive committee.

The ceremony was held last Friday at the Comfort Inn and Conference Center in Mount Pleasant and more than 100 people attended.

Founded in 1962, Keep Michigan Beautiful Inc. is a nonprofit, educational organization dedicated to promoting beautification and restoration projects across the state.

KMB comprises volunteers —men, women and youth—who work on a wide variety of projects intended to carry out KMB's objectives.

Included are municipalities, businesses, foundations, local organizations, schools and places of worship.

KMB is supported by donor memberships, other contributions and various fund-raising campaigns.

