IT WAS A GRAND NIGHT in the Grand Hall at the Canadian Museum of History as more than 400 guests, including members of The Royal Canadian Geographical Society, gathered to celebrate award winners at its annual College of Fellows dinner on Nov. 7, 2012. The evening is a celebration of the Society’s efforts to make Canada better known to Canadians and to the world, of the tireless work of its numerous volunteers and, ultimately, of Canada’s unique geography.

World-renowned paleontologist Philip Currie was awarded the Gold Medal, the Society’s highest honour, in recognition of his exceptional contribution to Canadian paleontology and education. Canadian actor Dan Aykroyd and his wife Donna Dixon, both enthusiastic supporters and close personal friends, introduced the paleontologist and presented him with the award.

John Geiger, President of the Society, extended a special welcome to the new members of the College of Fellows in attendance that evening. Fraser Taylor, a distinguished research professor and director of Carleton University’s Geomatics and Cartographic Research Centre, received the 3M Award for Environmental Innovation for his developmental work in the use of data-rich interactive maps. Also in attendance was James Boxall, who was awarded the Geographic Literacy Award for his unique contribution to geographic education at the Annual General Meeting of the College of Fellows held that afternoon.

All proceeds from the dinner, which also included a stunning silent auction, go to support The Society’s vital programs. To learn more about the Royal Canadian Geographical Society and its work, please visit rrgs.org.
Dan Aykroyd with Donna Dixon

Dan Aykroyd with his mother, Lorraine Aykroyd

From left: Vice-Admiral Paul A. Maddison, John Geiger, RCGS President; Grete Hale, Chairman Emeritus of Morrison Lamothe Inc.; Kevin MacLeod, Canadian Secretary to Her Majesty the Queen

From left: Jacob Irving, President of the Canadian Hydropower Association, Peter Milliken, former MP and 54th Speaker of the House of Commons; Shari Graydon, former CBC commentator; David Mitchell, President and CEO of the Public Policy Forum

From left: Bruce Amos, Vice-President of the RCGS; His Excellency Francisco Barrio Terrazas, Ambassador of Mexico

From left: Cedar Bradley-Swan, Vice-President of Adventure Canada and a RCGS Fellow

Philip Currie, world-renowned paleontologist, Gold Medal recipient and keynote speaker

AnnuaL COlleGe Of Fellows DinneR 2012
From left: Elise Maheu, Director of Government Affairs at 3M Company Canada; D. R. Fraser Taylor, winner of the 2012 3M Award for Environmental Innovation; André Préfontaine, President and Publisher of Canadian Geographic, Executive Director of the RCGS.


From left: Deborah Graham, wife of Mark Graham, Vice-President of Research and Collections at the Canadian Museum of Nature; John Nightingale, President and CEO of the Vancouver Aquarium.

Connie Wyatt Anderson, Chair of Canadian Geographic Education; Rob Langton, representative for Manitoba/Saskatchewan at Canadian Geographic Education; Roni Jones, National Geographic Alliance Liaison.

Gavin Fitch, Vice-President of the RCGS; Allen Clarke, member of the RCGS Board of Governors; Dan Ayroyd, member of the RCGS Board of Governors.

Jenny Jackson Green and Graham Green, Senior Associate, Hill & Knowlton Strategies.

John Geiger, RCGS President, and Christine Simpson, Vice-President and General Manager of CDS Global Canada.

Jo Lynn Allen, co-founder and President of the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation, with her son Gardner Allen Patton.

The new Fellows inducted into the 2012 College of Fellows.
Andrew Zimakas, Vice President of Marketing at ING Direct, and Joanne DiCosimo, former President and CEO of the Canadian Museum of Nature.
From left: Denis St-Onge, former RCGS President, and John Geiger, RCGS President

Keith Exelby, Treasurer of the RCGS Board of Governors

Jean Andrey, President of the Canadian Association of Geographers

James Maxwell, former Executive Director and Chair of the RCGS By-laws Committee

Gisèle Jacob, former President of the RCGS; Jean Fournier, former member of the RCGS Board of Governors and recipient of the 2012 Camsell Medal

James Boxall, recipient of the 2012 Geographic Literacy award

Connie Wyatt Anderson, Chair of Canadian Geographic Education

Adrienne White, recipient of a RCGS student research grant

The RCGS Board of Governors from left: (back row) Paul R. Ruest, Jim Murray, Joanne DiCosimo, Jim Lewis; (second row) Brian Hodgson, Keith Exelby, Bruce Amos, Allen Clarke, Glynis, Evan Flish, (front row) Gisèle Jacob, Jodi Decker, John Geiger, Connie Wyatt-Anderson. Not pictured: Robert J. D. Page, Alison M. Gill, W. Peter Adams
2012 annual College of Fellows dinner

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