Medal Ceremony Speeches

Paul Ruest, President of The Royal Canadian Geographical Society:

Your Excellency, Medal recipients, Governors, distinguished Fellows, ladies and gentlemen.

The Royal Canadian Geographical Society has a long tradition of honouring people for their contribution to the description of the geography of Canada, for research, education and for expeditions.

The oldest Society honour is the Massey Medal, established in 1959 and named for Governor-General Vincent Massey, and by tradition presented by the Queen's Representative.

As a Royal Society, we have longstanding ties to the Canadian Crown, and the Society is deeply honoured that His Excellency, the Rt. Hon. David Johnston, Governor General of Canada, has joined us today for this very special ceremony honouring not only the recipient of the 2013 Massey Medal, but other Society honourees.

Today is made even more special for the fact that we will be presenting for the first time the Sir Christopher Ondaatje Medal for Exploration, and the Education Innovation Award, for only the second time the Martin Bergmann Medal for Excellence in Arctic Leadership and Science.

As well, we will be presenting an award for our partners at the Canadian Polar Commission today.
Your Excellency, thank you for gracing us with your presence. You have placed a special emphasis on education and innovation, and few Canadians know the geography of Canada better than you.

The Royal Canadian Geographical Society is deeply honoured to have you with us for this celebration of geographical excellence.

Thank you.

**André Préfontaine, President and Publisher of Canadian Geographic:**

Mr. Adam Shoalts

The Royal Canadian Geographical Society’s coveted compass rose flag has been carried on expeditions across Canada and around the world. It has been to the highest peak in every province and territory in Canada, on grueling solo expeditions to some of the most remote corners of the country and around the globe.

In the summer of 2013, historian and explorer Adam Shoalts undertook a flag expedition through a treacherous overland route to the headwaters of the Again River to photograph, measure and document the precise location of seven waterfalls he had discovered the year before.

At 27, Adam Shoalts is already a thoughtful, articulate spokesperson on exploration in Canada and, today, he returns his expedition flag to the Patron of the Society.

Your Excellency, Mr. Adam Shoalts
André Préfontaine:

Good afternoon everyone. We have the honour today to celebrate the recipients of the 2013 Geography Awards.

Bonjour à tous. Nous avons l’honneur aujourd’hui de célébrer les récipiendaires des Prix de géographie 2013.

Et, à ce moment, j’aimerais inviter M. Maxim Jean-Louis à venir vous présenter le récipiendaire du Prix de la recherche scientifique sur le Nord de la Commission canadienne des affaires polaires.

Maxim Jean-Louis, Canadian Polar Commission:

Dr Gérard Duhaime

Le Prix de la recherche scientifique sur le Nord est octroyé chaque année à une personne ou à un groupe qui a apporté une contribution importante à la connaissance et à la compréhension du Nord canadien.

Le Dr Gérard Duhaime est à la fois visionnaire et innovateur et ses efforts pour trouver des moyens d’améliorer la vie des collectivités nordiques a fait de lui l’un des principaux chercheurs au monde en sciences sociales. Son travail de description, d’analyse et de compréhension des conditions de vie dans le Nord – pour faire ressortir la vie telle qu’elle est, plutôt que telle qu’elle est imaginée, a changé la façon de mener les recherches socio-économiques dans le Nord.

M. Duhaime a créé des outils permettant de rédiger des politiques sociales adaptées aux réalités nordiques et cela a été un instrument précieux pour ceux qui travaillent à améliorer les conditions sociales dans le Nord, des organisations autochtones aux organismes gouvernementaux et internationaux.
Professeur à l’Université Laval depuis 1988, M. Duhaime s’est fait le pionnier d’une approche multidisciplinaire par laquelle les chercheurs examinent un problème sous une multitude d’angles, en tenant compte des facteurs complexes qui participent aux conditions socio-économiques.

Le travail de M. Duhaime a permis d’établir des données solides que les organisations autochtones de l’Arctique canadien et d’ailleurs dans le Nord circumpolaire ont pu utiliser pour appuyer leurs points de vue.

Votre Excellence, le Dr Gérard Duhaime.

Connie Wyatt-Anderson, Chair of CG Education

Ms. Anne Smith Mansfield

We would now like to present the 2013 Geographic Literacy Award to Anne Smith Mansfield of the faculty of education at Queen’s University, to recognize her significant contributions to geographic literacy in Canada.

Anne Smith Mansfield’s influence on geographic literacy in Canada is deep and abiding. She has supported geographic education on many levels and in many spheres for which she is recognized locally, provincially, nationally and internationally for her commitment and contribution.

She has worked with industry and determination to foreground geographic education and she has influenced its development from the curriculum to the classroom. As an instructor of future geography teachers, Anne Smith Mansfield is innovative, resourceful, inspiring and forward-looking, and numerous organizations continue to benefit from the generous donation of her time and talents.

The Royal Canadian Geographical Society is honoured to present the 2013
Geographic Literacy Award to Anne Smith Mansfield for her exceptional dedication to and achievement in fostering geographic literacy in Canada.

Your Excellency, Ms. Anne Smith Mansfield.

Connie Wyatt-Anderson:

Mr. Andrew Young

It is an honour to present the inaugural Innovation in Geography Teaching Award to Andrew Young for his exceptional contribution to geographic education in Canada.

Andrew Young is an exceptional geography teacher. For more than twenty years, he has taught the essence of geography while situating it within a broader scientific and social context.

Andrew Young is a staunch advocate for geographic education in Canada. He has worked with commitment and enthusiasm to develop courses, publish papers, lead workshops, instruct pre-service teachers and conduct field trips for a generation of students.

The Royal Canadian Geographical Society is honoured to present the inaugural Innovation in Geography Teaching Award to Andrew Young for his exceptional dedication to and achievement in strengthening geographic education in Canada.

Your Excellency, Mr. Andrew Young.

Élise Maheu, Director, Government Markets and Public Affairs, 3M Canada:
Mr. Jeff Golfman

The 3M Environmental Innovation Award was established by The Royal Canadian Geographical Society and 3M Canada to recognize outstanding individuals in business, government, academia or community organizations whose innovative contributions to environmental change are benefiting Canada and Canadians and few can reflect the true spirit of the award better that Mr. Jeff Golfman, recipient of the 2013 3M Environmental Innovation Award.

The Royal Canadian Geographical Society's 2013 3M Environmental Innovation Award, is presented to Jeff Golfman to honour his contributions in improving the environment through the creation of a more sustainable kind of paper. Fifteen years in the making, Mr. Golfman’s quest for a high-quality and affordably-priced paper made with agricultural waste has resulted in an alternative product for consumers interested in forest conservation.

As a co-founder and current president of Prairie Pulp & Paper, Inc., Mr. Golfman has been a force behind researching paper types with minimal environmental impact.

The result was Step Forward Paper, a variety made with wheat-straw waste and recycled tree-based paper with 40 per cent less carbon footprint and requiring 50 per cent less energy than virgin tree-based paper.

For his innovative work with sustainable paper creation and his active involvement in the green community, Jeff Golfman has been awarded the 3M Environmental Innovation Award of The Royal Canadian Geographical Society.

Your Excellency, Mr. Jeff Golfman.
André Préfontaine:

Dr. David Hik

The Martin Bergmann Medal was established in 2012 by the Society to honour the memory and contribution of the late Martin Bergmann and recognize singular achievement for Arctic leadership and science.

The inaugural medal was awarded posthumously last year to Martin Bergmann and the 2013 recipient, David Hik, is being honoured for his outstanding contribution to our understanding of the Arctic region and for his ability to link this emerging knowledge base to community needs and to action.

As an academic Dr. David Hik has led ground-breaking research in the field of alpine and high-latitude ecology. Numerous students and post-doctoral fellows have been inspired by David’s teaching and mentoring in the lab and in the field.

David Hik brings people together across disciplines and across boundaries through his tireless leadership on numerous Canadian and international committees and scientific projects.

David truly conveys the vision, leadership efforts, energy and personal warmth of Martin Bergmann.

The Royal Canadian Geographical Society is honoured to award the Martin Bergmann Medal in Arctic Leadership and Science to David Hik for his exceptional contribution to our knowledge of the Canadian Arctic.

Your Excellency, Dr. David Hik
André Préfontaine:

Ms. Jill Heinerth

Established by the Royal Canadian Geographical Society in 2013, the Sir Christopher Ondaatje Medal for Exploration recognizes singular achievements and the pursuit of excellence by an outstanding Canadian explorer anywhere in the world, or by a non-Canadian for exploratory achievements within Canada.

The inaugural Sir Christopher Ondaatje Medal for Exploration, is presented to Jill Heinerth, Canadian underwater cave explorer and filmmaker. As the first winner of the medal, Heinerth advances the Society’s mandate “to make Canada better known to Canadians and the world.”

In her quest for photography and filmmaking, Ms. Heinerth has dived deeper into caves than any woman in the world. She has seen the inside of the earth from Siberia to the Antarctic and has produced the PBS documentary series Water’s Journey as well as being a go-to woman for difficult underwater camera scenes.

For her work as an explorer, a filmmaker and underwater photographer, Jill Heinerth has been awarded the Sir Christopher Ondaatje Medal for Exploration of the Royal Canadian Geographical Society.

Your Excellency, Ms. Jill Heinerth

André Préfontaine

Yvan Désy and Sylvain Lemay, on behalf of the Mapping Information Branch

The Gold Medal was created to provide an opportunity for the Society to recognize a particular achievement by one or more individuals in the general field of geography; or a significant national or international event.
It is a most fitting way to acknowledge the signal achievement of the Mapping Information Branch, Earth Sciences Sector, Natural Resources Canada in completing the topographic mapping of Canada at the 1:50 000 scale.

In 2012, the Mapping Information Branch has completed this monumental work that had begun in 1904 with the result that the entire country is now accessible through geospatial data and topographic maps. The formidable challenges presented in mapping the remaining areas in the northern territories were met through determination, collaboration, ingenuity and innovation.

The Society is proud and pleased to recognize this outstanding cartographic contribution to the country that ensures for all Canadians the opportunity to know a sense of place.

Your Excellency, Yvan Désy and Sylvain Lemay, on behalf of the Mapping Information Branch

André Préfontaine:

Mr. Robert Bateman

For his unique and incredibly personal contribution as a geographer, naturalist and one of the world’s most accomplished and celebrated wildlife artists, the Society is immensely proud to award its Gold Medal to Mr. Robert Bateman.

He is a man known both for his exquisite paintings of the natural world, but also for his ideas and his idealism. He has spoken passionately about the need for young people to experience nature, and about the cost to humanity of losing a sense of
place.

Mr. Bateman has captured much of the beauty of the planet in his peerless art. He has sought to educate people about the consequences of their actions in the environment, and he has, in turn become one of the natural world’s leading advocates.

For all of his work as a geographer, a geography educator, a naturalist and as a renowned wildlife painter, Robert Bateman has been awarded the Gold Medal of the Royal Canadian Geographical Society.

Your Excellency, Mr. Robert Bateman.

**André Préfontaine:**

Dr. David Ley

The Royal Canadian Geographical Society’s Massey Medal is presented to David Ley in honour of his exemplary record of research leadership and disciplinary service in human geography, in Canada and beyond.

Dr. Ley has helped to shape the field of geography through his formative research on gentrification, immigration and other factors that influence our urban landscapes.

As a founding director of the Vancouver Metropolis Centre for Excellence, Dr. Ley has been recognized for furthering geography through interdisciplinary research and informing government policy on housing and immigration.
He has said his work in geography, which includes a distinguished publishing record, has always revolved around social problems and issues that matter to ordinary people.

The Royal Canadian Geographical Society is proud and pleased to award the Massey Medal to David Ley for his lifetime work as a geographer, a professor, a mentor and a leader.

Your Excellency, Dr. David Ley.

Paul Ruest:

Votre Excellence, votre présence ici cette après-midi a rehaussé de façon toute particulière la reconnaissance accordée à la riche contribution des récipiendaires des médailles et des prix octroyés par la Société et ses partenaires.

Your personal commitment as Patron of the Society, as demonstrated by your presence here today, encourages the Society’s thousands of volunteers and friends to continue their work in the service of our great country.

Please accept the expression of our deepest appreciation and respect.