SUPPORTING THE SOCIETY

The Royal Canadian Geographical Society has been inspiring Canadians to learn more about their country since 1929. As a registered Canadian charity and non-profit educational organization, it would not be able to continue as a leader in geographical literacy, expeditions, research and public engagement without the generous donations of its supporters. There are many ways to support the RCGS:

- **Give:** rcgs.org/donate
- **Major Donations:** rcgs.org/compassrose
- **Attend:** rcgs.org/programs
- **Subscribe:** cangeo.ca/subscribe

50 SUSSEX

The Society’s headquarters at 50 Sussex Drive, Ottawa, is a building of national interest in one of the most significant geographic locations in the capital — an unmatched combination of historic and modern eras set against the backdrop of the Ottawa River, Rideau Falls, and the Gatineau hills. New above-ground galleries and boardroom and meeting spaces have transformed 50 Sussex into an exceptional multi-use facility situated in an iconic location unlike any other in the National Capital Region. In addition, extensive renovations and upgrades to the building’s three below-ground levels mean that 50 Sussex is today both a landmark and a dynamic, globally connected building incorporating innovative technology and spaces that include a state-of-the-art 300-plus-seat theatre.

For more information about events and space rental, visit 50sussex.ca.

CANADA’S CENTRE FOR GEOGRAPHY & EXPLORATION

CANADIAN GEOGRAPHIC EDUCATION

The Society’s Canadian Geographic Education division creates its acclaimed bilingual grade-school curriculum and student programs for a network of 21,000 K-12 teachers, and works with them to improve geography teaching methods. Programs include the Canadian Geographic Challenge, a national quiz competition; the Classroom Energy Diet Challenge, in which classes compete for prize money to apply green technologies to their schools; Geography Awareness Week, with nationwide activities each November; and the Giant Floor Map Program, which makes themed 8x11-metre maps available to schools free of charge.

Can Geo Education supplies teachers with the tools they need for teaching geography, ensuring that students receive essential lessons about their country, their communities and the very ground they stand on.

Travel series host and author Michael Palin (left) and Canadian astronaut David Saint-Jacques (right) hosting Can Geo Education events.

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Can Geo Talks

The Society’s Can Geo Talks present many of Canada’s and the world’s greatest explorers, scientists, geographers, storm chasers, wildlife photographers and authors. In recent years, speakers have included cave diver Jill Heinerth, world adventurer and Monty Python member Michael Palin, and Canadian astronaut Steve MacLean. For updates and ticket information about upcoming Can Geo Talks, visit rrgs.org/talks.

EXPLORER-IN-RESIDENCE

RCGS Explorers-in-Residence cultivate awareness among Canadians of the expeditions and field research being carried out by the nation’s top explorers, scientists and conservationists. World-renowned cave diver Jill Heinerth, storm chaser George Kourounis, explorer Adam Shoalts, and rower, river conservationist Mylène Paquette and ultra-marathoner Ray Zahab are the Society’s Explorers-in-Residence.

THE SOCIETY

Canada’s leading geographers, scientists, historians, artists, soldiers, business leaders and educators make up the RCGS’s College of Fellows. Since the Society was founded in 1929, its Fellows have worked together to further the mandate “to make Canada better known to Canadians and to the world.”

Some of the first Fellows were Arctic explorer Vilhjalmur Stefansson, Group of Seven artist A.Y. Jackson and world adventurer Roista Forbes. Today, the Fellowship includes author Margaret Atwood, diplomat Mary Simon, former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, Sir David Attenborough, explorer and mountaineer Bernard Voyer, and paleoentomologist Philip Currie.

In 2016, Jeopardy! host and philanthropist Alex Trebek (Above Left) was named Honorary President—the first in more than 30 years. The Society’s Honorary Vice-Presidents include astronaut Roberta Bondar and ethno-botanist and author Wade Davis. Its Vice-Patrons are explorer and author Sir Christopher Ondaatje and Nellie Kusugak, commissioner of Nunavut (Above Right).

The Society is one of the largest non-profit educational organizations in the country, and its mission has never been more relevant: geography plays a vital role in understanding and responding to some of the most pressing challenges facing us today.

AWARDS

The Society presents as many as 12 different medals and awards each year in recognition of the people and organizations who have done the most to increase geographical literacy in Canada. The Gold Medal (for significant achievements in the field of geography), for example, has gone to author Margaret Atwood, wildlife painter Robert Bateman and Canada’s astronauts. For more information, visit rrgs.org/awards.

EXPERITIONS AND RESEARCH GRANTS

From supporting archeologists racing to save indigenous artifacts in melting permafrost to cave explorers mapping deep underground systems, the RCGS fosters the drive to discover and understand, sharing and celebrating new information.

The Society’s Research Program helps facilitate the field work of the country’s brightest minds in geography and natural sciences. The Expeditions Program supports and lends its Compass Rose Flag to those undertaking expeditions that educate the public about Canada.

As a partner in the Parks Canada-led 2014 Victoria Strait Expedition that discovered Sir John Franklin’s HMS Erebus, the RCGS helped stimulate global interest in Canada’s Arctic. The 2015 Malaspina Expedition, meanwhile, focused on the significance of Indigenous Traditional Knowledge as late Inuit historian and former RCGS Honorary Vice-President Louise Lamoule and Nunavut students to key Franklin and Inuit sites, passing down oral histories and place names.

Other Society-supported expeditions have been led by Jerry Kobalenko, Adam Shoalts, Mike Schmidt and Natalia Martinez, and the RCGS continually recognizes and celebrates the achievements of explorers such as Jean Lemire and Richard Weber.

In the last two decades alone, the Society has backed more than 100 expeditions and 130 research projects, and continues to seek out and share new knowledge of Canada with all.

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