



Media Advisory

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 19, 2014

Governor General David Johnston to Preside RCGS Awards Ceremony Canadian Astronauts and Parks Canada Divers to be Honoured

What: The Royal Canadian Geographic Society (RCGS) Awards Ceremony

When: Wednesday, November 19, 2014, at 4:50 p.m.

Where: Canada Aviation and Space Museum, Ottawa

Who: Canadian astronauts Dr. Roberta Bondar, Dr. Robert Thirsk, Dr. David Williams, Dr. Marc Garneau, Dr. Steve MacLean, Jeremy R. Hansen, Dr. David Saint-Jacques – The Gold Medal
Dr. Graeme Wynn – The Massey Medal
Ryan Harris, Jonathan Moore, and Marc-André Bernier – The Lawrence J. Burpee Medal
Ross Thurston – The 3M Environmental Innovation Medal
George Hobson – The Sir Christopher Ondaatje Medal for Exploration
Dr. Donald Forbes – The Martin Bergmann Medal
Mike Farley – The Innovation in Geography Teaching Award
Dr. Iain Wallace and Dr. Chris Burn – The Camsell Medal

His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor General of Canada and patron of the Royal Canadian Geographical Society, will officiate at the 2014 Medal Ceremony of the 2014 Annual College of RCGS Fellows Dinner. His Excellency will present the prestigious Massey Medal to Vancouver's Graeme Wynn for his internationally renowned work on Canada's historical geography and honour Canadian geographers who have helped build a broader knowledge and deeper appreciation of Canada.

The Society is honouring our country's trailblazers in the field of geography. Canadian astronauts and the Canadian Space Agency will be receiving the Society's highest honour for their scientific research and exploration in Canada and space. Parks Canada's Victoria Straight underwater archeology team will be receiving the Lawrence J. Burpee Medal for finding the HMS *Erebus* and helping to create a greater awareness of Canada's Arctic. Calgary's Ross Thurston is receiving the 3M Award for Environmental Innovation for his system that segregates and concentrates nutrients while recycling clean water from livestock manure. George Hobson of Ottawa is receiving the Sir Christopher Ondaatje Medal for Exploration for providing logistical support in scientific and exploratory work in the Arctic. For his lifetime work in Arctic geography, and as a mentor and leader in community adaptation to climate change in coastal Arctic communities, Dr. Donald Forbes of Halifax, will receive The Martin Bergmann Medal. Mike Farley of Toronto is receiving The Innovation in Geography Teaching Award for developing [ChangeGamer](#), a free computer game database with original supporting curriculum to help students better understand geography. Dr. Iain Wallace and Chris Burn, both from Ottawa, will be receiving The Camsell Medal for their tireless support of the RCGS and its commitment "to make Canada better known to Canadians and to the world".

Funds raised during the evening will support the Society's vital educational programs.

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For more information, please contact:

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