



Media Advisory

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Margaret Atwood wins gold at geography dinner

What: The Royal Canadian Geographical Society (RCGS) Awards Ceremony
When: Wednesday, November 18, 2015, at 4:50 p.m.
Where: Canadian Museum of History, 100 Rue Laurier, Gatineau, Q.C.
Who: [Dr. Jacob Verhoef, Margaret Atwood, and Graeme Gibson](#) – [The Gold Medal](#)
[Dr. Brian Osborne](#) – [Massey Medal](#)
[Louie Kamookak](#) – [Lawrence J. Burpee Medal](#)
[GreenBug Energy Inc.](#) – [3M Environmental Innovation Medal](#)
[Jean Lemire](#) – [Sir Christopher Ondaatje Medal for Exploration](#)
[Dr. John Smol](#) – [Martin Bergmann Medal](#)
[Janet Ruest](#) – [Innovation in Geography Teaching Award](#)
[Zachary Vanthournout](#) – [Geographic Literacy Award](#)
[Kathryn McCain and Milbry Polk](#) – [Capt. Joseph-Elzéar Bernier Medal](#)
[Bruce Amos and Louise Maffett](#) – [Camsell Medal](#)

The Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario will officiate at the 2015 Medal Ceremony of The Royal Canadian Geographical Society. Ms. Dowdeswell will present the prestigious Massey Medal to Queen's University professor emeritus **Brian Osborne**, whose historical geography work led to Fort Henry and the Martello tower fortifications in Kingston being included in the Rideau Canal's 2007 designation as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The Honourable Nellie Kusugak, Commissioner of Nunavut, will also be attending.

The Society is honouring our country's trailblazers in the field of geography. Renowned Canadian geographer **Dr. Jacob Verhoef** of Halifax, and celebrated authors **Margaret Atwood**, and **Graeme Gibson** will be receiving the Society's highest honour the Gold Medal, for their distinguished contributions to literature, conservation and geography. Acclaimed Inuit geographer, **Louie Kamookak** of Gjoa Haven, NU is receiving the Lawrence J. Burpee Medal for his contribution to Inuit oral knowledge and his role in the find of the HMS *Erebus*. Delphi, ON's **GreenBug Energy** is receiving the 3M Award for Environmental Innovation for developing technology that harnesses the capacity of low-carbon hydropower. **Jean Lemire**, now residing in Québec's Magdalen Islands, is receiving the Sir Christopher Ondaatje Medal for Exploration for his Canadian Arctic and Antarctica expeditions to raise awareness about the conservation of our planet's natural resources. **Dr. John Smol** of Kingston will be awarded the Martin Bergmann Medal for his exceptional contribution to our knowledge of the Arctic, as a teacher, facilitator, mentor, and leader in Arctic environmental research and education. **Zachary Vanthournout** of Moncton, N.B. will be receiving the Geographic Literacy Award for his singular dedication to, and achievement in, fostering geographic literacy in Canada. **Jane Ruest** of Cobble Hill, B.C. is receiving The Innovation in Geography Teaching Award for her exceptional contribution to geographic education in Canada. **Kathryn McCain** of Toronto and **Milbry Polk** of Palisades, N.Y. are receiving the Bernier Medal for their exemplary efforts to enhance the Society's mandate across Canada and around the world. **Bruce Amos** and **Louise Maffett**, 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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