

1998 Ontario Premier's Awards for College Graduates Recipients



Gwen M. Boniface Applied Arts Award Humber College

An experienced veteran with a 20-year service record, Gwen Boniface made headlines when she was appointed the first woman commissioner of the Ontario Police (OPP) in May 1998, becoming one of only three women in Canada to hold the top position in policing. A graduate of Humber College's Law and Security Program, Gwen started out as an OPP constable and progressed through the ranks serving in the First Nations and Contract Policing Branch, the Organizational Development Bureau, and most recently as Chief Superintendent, Western Region. Her success shows that the sky is the limit - today she provides leadership to over 6,000 OPP members.

A member of the Law Society of Upper Canada, Gwen is one of only five appointed to the Law Commission of Canada and has appeared before the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs addressing sentencing provisions, gun control, and The Young Offenders Act. A director of the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police, she

provides expertise to various legal committees of both the Ontario and Canadian associations and has the honour of being an Associate member, by invitation, of the First Nations Chiefs of Police. Gwen is an Adjunct Professor with the University of Western Ontario Law School and guest lecturer at York University and Osgoode Hall Law School.

Gwen M. Boniface exemplifies the potential of college graduates to succeed in today's challenging world. It is with great pleasure that we present Gwen with the Premier's Award for a Graduate of Applied Arts.

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Val Azzoli Business Award Seneca College

As Co-Chairman/Co-CEO of The Atlantic Group, Val Azzoli shares the top spot with the label's founder - a feat achieved only once before in the company's recently celebrated 50-year history. In 1996, after just 16 months at the helm, Val, a 1977 graduate of Seneca's Business Administration Program, led Atlantic to become the number one label in America.

Val has taken Atlantic to the top of Billboard Magazine's year-end charts, earning his place for four consecutive years among the top 101 most powerful people listed in America's entertainment industry by Entertainment Weekly. Atlantic's 1998 achievements included 33 Grammy Award nominations. His vision and savvy in attracting exciting new talent to Atlantic's roster was evident even before he joined the company in 1990, as demonstrated by his success in managing and marketing Canada's legendary rock trio-Rush.

Val has exercised his considerable influence with celebrities to the benefit of such charitable causes as City of Hope, dedicated to the prevention, treatment and cure of cancer, diabetes, HIV/AIDS and other life threatening diseases; the MusiCares Foundation for the health and welfare of people in the music industry; and RAINN's (Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network) 24-hour toll-free hotline for survivors of sexual assault.

As the leader of one of North America's top record companies, Val Azzoli is living proof of the value of a college education. When coupled with determination - no goal is unattainable. It is with great pleasure that we present Val with the Premier's Award for a Graduate of Business.

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Karen Bridgman-Acker Health Sciences Award Sheridan College

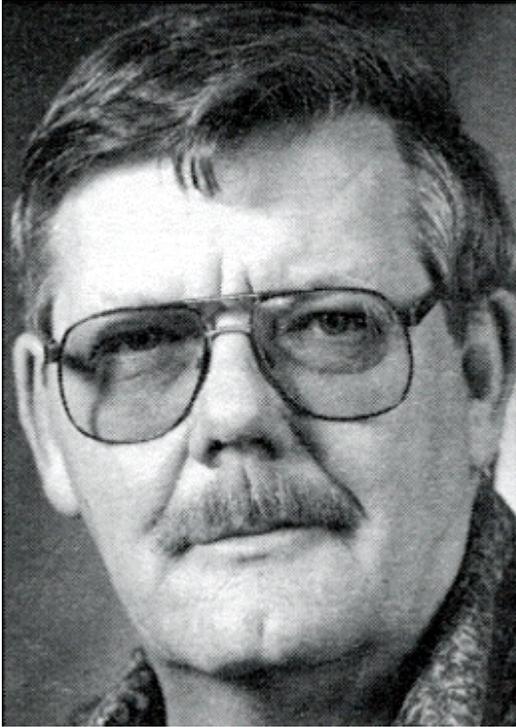
Karen Bridgman-Acker soared from an employment training program at Sheridan to achieve the Board's Silver Medal and honours in her Social Service Worker Program in 1986. This articulate advocate, published author and teacher volunteers tirelessly on behalf of women and children in need, inspiring them with her background as a sole-support parent with a grade 10 education.

Working with Halton Children's Aid Society and the Elizabeth Fry Society, Karen has developed and coordinated innovative programs for women's and children's issues including WISH, enhancing parenting for women charged with shoplifting offenses, and Project First Step, a program helping single mothers receiving government assistance build self confidence, life and job skills. A published author, researcher and advocate for women and children, Karen received her M.S.W. from McMaster University (1997) and is now a social worker with the Hamilton Children's Aid Society, as well as a part-time faculty member at Sheridan College.

A host of volunteer committees benefit from Karen's knowledge and leadership. Promoting awareness of family law and the needs of women clients, she helped establish the Hamilton Women's Services/Family Lawyers Liaison Committee - a model for others. She chaired the regional committee of Making Services Work for People, a provincial initiative revamping services for children. A member of Burlington's Advisory Committee on Violence Against Women, Karen writes a monthly column in the Burlington News/Hamilton Spectator on family violence and children's issues.

From a short vocational program for women at Sheridan to publish postgraduate research in social work, Karen Bridgman-Acker is an inspiration. It is with great pleasure that we present Karen with the 1998 Premier's Award for a Graduate of Health Sciences.

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Donald C. MacKinnon Technology Award Northern College

Donald C MacKinnon's career began at Northern College's Haileybury School of Mines where he graduated from the Instrumentation Engineering Technician Program in 1970. A talented leader with distinctive business acumen, he quickly climbed the corporate ladder from his entry-level beginnings to Vice President of Underground Operations for Kinross Gold Corporation in Timmins, Kirkland Lake and Zimbabwe. Under his leadership Kinross Timmins has locked into a mine developer's paradise - Zone 1060, a new gold structure promising to yield billions.

Applauded for its commitment to its employees, Kinross Gold Corporation has achieved an impressive safety record receiving many prestigious awards. As a manager, Don is appreciated for his compassion and "open door policy" in dealing with his employees, always quick to credit the Kinross workers for the corporation's

success. For his outstanding leadership within his community and the mining industry, the City of Timmins presented Don with a 1997 Award of Merit. That same year, Timmins celebrated the sod turning for Kinross Place, a \$2.1 million children's treatment centre named to honour the corporation's generous donation.

Committed to business success, to a safe environment and the well being of his employees and the Timmins community - Donald C. MacKinnon's contribution is extraordinary. We are delighted to honour Don with the 1998 Premier's Award for a Graduate of Technology.

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Dr. Catherine Henderson Honorary Award Sheridan College



Dr. Catherine Henderson's 20-year association with Ontario community colleges is remarkable. Starting as a student of Early Childhood Education, Catherine first taught and then moved to administration at Sheridan. Until recently, she was CEO of one of the system's largest colleges, Centennial, for five years. She is the first college graduate to become a college president.

Catherine has had a substantial impact on the system at all levels, from individual programs to provincial initiatives, her focus always on students and how to make college training better meet their needs. She is best known for her vision and determination on three fronts: improving learning and teaching; building business and community partnership; and supporting the evolution of communications. She was in on the early stages of developing province-wide standards for college education and in 1996 was the sole college representative on the Ontario government's five-member Advisory Panel on the Future of

Postsecondary Education. One of her most significant achievements for Centennial was the creation of the \$33 million Bell Centre for Creative Communications, Canada's largest interactive multimedia training facility and international showcase producing national and international award winning students. Catherine's leadership demonstrated the powerful influence colleges can have on the local and international communities.

Catherine received her Ph. D. in Adult Education from the University of Toronto. She holds a M.Ed. From Brock University, a diploma in Early Childhood Education from Sheridan College, and an Honours BA in English from the University of Toronto. Catherine became President of the Ontario College of Art and Design in August 1998.