

2000 Ontario Premier's Awards for College Graduates Recipients



Betty Bedard-Bidwell
Applied Arts Award: Community Services
Fanshawe College

The words care and compassion are synonymous with an incredible woman named Betty Bedard-Bidwell. Each day she improves and heals the lives of children and youth in Huron County who have been victims of abuse or who face physical and developmental challenges. She founded Betamarsh Incorporated, an integrated series of programs and residences, to meet the needs of these clients.

Betty graduated from Fanshawe College in Recreation Leadership in 1972 and Child Care Worker in 1982. Betty is also recognized and highly respected at the Master's Level in art and play therapy. She has been instrumental in developing, promoting and teaching art and play therapy and among her many accolades, she earned the prestigious Monica Herbert Award from the Canadian Play Therapy Association.

Betty spearheaded the writing of *Hand in Hand: A Practical Application of Art and Play Therapy*. For over 15 years Betty has supported the Huron County Child Abuse and Prevention Committee. What she describes as her best piece of work is a program for adolescent girls aged 12 to 15 called *Declaration of Pride*, a practical way to raise self-esteem and awareness among girls.

Without exaggeration, Betty has helped hundreds of children to recover from abuse and other traumatic situations. Early in her career, Betty identified a distinct gap in services for children and youth and she set out to find solutions. Betty credits her two college diplomas for giving her the skills and groundwork to build an incredibly rewarding and remarkable life.

It is with great pleasure that we present Betty Bedard-Bidwell with the 2000 Premier's Award in Applied Arts: Community Services.

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Paul Rowan
Applied Arts Award: Creative Arts & Design
George Brown College

Paul Rowan is the co-founder and vice-president of Umbra Ltd., an innovative Canadian housewares design company known world wide for its products that blend design, function and affordability.

Paul designed all of the Umbra products in the early years. As the company developed and grew, his role transitioned into more of a leadership role. He is now responsible for the creative direction of Umbra's product development, overseeing a department of six full-time industrial designers and four full-time graphic artists that both initiates new projects and directs outside designers. Today, the Umbra collection has over 1,240 products sold throughout Canada, the United States, Europe, Japan and South America.

A graduate of the Graphic Design program at George Brown College (1973) Paul has been recognized with a number of international design awards. Last year, his mesh garbage can designs

became part of the permanent collection of the Museum of Modern Art in San Francisco.

Today much of Paul's focus is on helping others. He takes great responsibility in encouraging good designers and recruits graduates from George Brown and other colleges and universities. He has been actively involved in internship programs, student contests, program donations and advisory boards. Umbra's Year 2000 charity donation program includes the Partners in Caring pivot photo frame for which Umbra donates the profits from each frame sold to breast cancer research, seriously ill children's wishes and the prevention of violence against women and children.

As Umbra envisions the housewares needs and desires of a new generation, Paul will continue to draw upon the training he received at George Brown College and to encourage other young designers anxious to make their mark in the design world.

It is with great pleasure that we present Paul Rowan with the 2000 Premier's Award in Applied Arts: Creative Arts and Design.

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Paul Vessey Business Award Durham College

While many people dream of making it to the top of the business world, Paul Vessey is one of the very few who made it happen. He's also one of those rare individuals who achieve a high level of career success and remain down to earth.

From his start in the advanced management training program at the Toronto Dominion Bank in 1974, Paul has held increasingly important positions at a number of well-known financial institutions including American Express Canada and the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce (CIBC). His most recent appointments, as Chief Operating Officer and Executive Vice President at Visa U.S.A., mark the latest successes in his illustrious 25-year career. In a company news release, Visa U.S.A.'s president and CEO stated, "His years of experience in our business allow him to roll up his sleeves and make things happen quickly."

Paul's current and past board experience has been with organizations such as Prologic Corporation, CIBC Mortgage Corp., Equifax Canada, the Toronto Film Festival and Women's College Hospital. He is also a director of the Durham College Foundation and played an important role in the college's highly successful Creating Futures Fundraising campaign, helping to secure a large corporate donation.

Through his very high level of achievement Paul serves as a role model and source of inspiration to Durham College grads and students. In his convocation address to Durham's graduating class of 1999, Paul stressed the need to take risks, not to fear failure, and to learn from every job and assignment.

In addition to his Durham College diploma, Paul holds a graduate degree from Harvard University. In 1999, Paul was named a Durham College Alumnus of Distinction.

It is with great pleasure that we present Paul Vessey with the 2000 Premier's Award in Business.

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Hazel McDonald Health Sciences Award St. Clair College

Hazel McDonald, a mother of five by the time she returned to high school in the early 1970s, wanted to be a nurse. She immediately set about winning guidance counsellors over to her dream, feverishly diving into her schoolwork and, before long, finding herself accepted to St. Clair College. Overcoming financial challenges, and with the quiet support of a husband and family who believed in her, Hazel graduated with a nursing diploma.

Today, Hazel displays a youthful exuberance about her career that belies the stressful nature of her job. Her career however is only a small part of what makes Hazel remarkable.

Honduras is the place where Hazel's devotion to others sees its fullest expression - healing the sick and empowering minds in impoverished areas by organizing health clinics and a mobile trade school through an organization she founded called Community Partners for Progress for International Development Inc. CPP supports health and

education projects for children and families in Latin America and Africa. Along the way, Hazel has even helped organize medical teams for disaster relief such as she did in response to the damage done by Hurricane Mitch in Honduras.

Hazel credits St. Clair College (Thames Campus) for providing her with the training that has had such an impact on her life. There is no doubt that had it not been for her College education, she could not have had the positive impact that she has had halfway around the world.

Hazel works as a certified emergency room nurse at Chatham-Kent Health Alliance. She works all the overtime hours she can get to help pay for her twice-yearly trips to Honduras.

Today, with kudos from the government of Honduras and the Ontario government, there's no telling what Hazel may do next - but that's her choice.

It is with great pleasure that we present Hazel McDonald with the 2000 Premier's Award in Health Sciences.

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Kirk Mandy Technology Award Algonquin College

Kirk Mandy is best known as President and Chief Executive Officer of Mitel Corporation, but he also plays another role: that of tireless champion—both of his city and the high-tech industry. Information and communications technologies have spurred tremendous growth in the economy of the City of Ottawa. Kirk has been a driving force behind that growth.

Kirk has been active in just about every high-tech initiative in Ottawa. He's a member of The Ottawa Partnership and the Canadian Microelectronics Consortium. Earlier in his career, Kirk chaired Computer Information Technology Ontario, helped launch O Vitesse, a retraining strategy to introduce graduates from other disciplines into the technology field, and held key positions with the Ottawa Centre for Research Innovation. In 1997, he received an award from the Canadian Advanced Technology Association for his outstanding contribution to technological innovation, and for expanding the frontiers of Canada's high-tech

industry.

Kirk recognizes the vital role education plays in Ottawa's prosperity. He continually lobbies policy-makers for infrastructure improvements, and frequently makes himself available for functions at his old alma mater, Algonquin College (Electronics Engineering Technologist, 1978). While Kirk is quick to attribute much of his success to his Algonquin experience, it is his foresight and business acumen that have led him to where he is today: leading a pre-eminent company in the advanced-technology sector.

Ottawa has become Canada's hub of advanced technology, thanks in part to the efforts of Kirk Mandy. His energetic leadership and lobby efforts have helped ensure the industry's future, which looks brighter than ever.

It is with great pleasure that we present Kirk Mandy with the 2000 Premier's Award in Technology.