

2002 Ontario Premier's Awards for College Graduates Recipients



Gary & Joanie McGuffin
Applied Arts: Community Services
Seneca College

Gary and Joanie McGuffin paddle the Great Lakes, trek uncharted forests and explore unknown trails to save Canada's wilderness for future generations. The two - who met at College - have effected landmark gains. They were instrumental in Lands for Life, a government initiative that has produced 378 new or expanded parks and was recognized by the World Wildlife Fund as the single most important decision ever taken in Ontario to protect nature. The authors of five bestsellers, the latest In the Footsteps of Grey Owl, the McGuffins have had enthusiastic response to their gallery exhibitions, television specials, websites, photograph collections and magazine and newspaper articles.



Geoffrey Darby
Applied Arts: Creative Arts & Design
Algonquin College

As President of Production and Convergence for New York-based Oxygen Media Inc., Geoffrey Darby oversees the day-to-day management of vast television and online operations that include Oxygen TV, Oxygen.com, Oprah.com and Thrive, a gardening website. A former Executive Vice President of CBS, Geoffrey also held senior positions at the network's parent company, Viacom. He has written, produced and directed award-winning and precedent-setting children's television programs, including Don't Look Now and Double Dare. In his community of Glen Ridge, New Jersey, Geoffrey is active in the Glen Ridge Library, the Athletic Association and the Educational Foundation. He lectures periodically on broadcasting at Algonquin College.

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Martin Bayer
Business
Cambrian College

Martin Bayer specializes in Native Law, Civil Litigation, Natural Resources and Corporate and Commercial Law at Weaver Simmons, one of Northern Ontario's most prominent legal firms. He also lectures on law at Laurentian University and is Director and President of the Wabuno Fish Farms, a company owned by the Ojibways of Sucker Creek. In 1998, Martin became the Tribal Chairperson for the United Chiefs and Councils of Manitoulin, responsible for providing leadership on a wide range of economic, social and political issues. Martin won a national award from Employment and Immigration Canada and the Cambrian Alumni Award in 1999.



Nancy Heddle
Health Sciences
Mohawk College

A ground-breaking scientist whose research is saving lives, Nancy Heddle is Associate Professor at McMaster University and Director of Transfusion Medicine Trials. As a direct result of her studies, the frequency of blood transfusion reactions has declined from a high of 35 per cent to less than 2 per cent - and will soon be eradicated worldwide. Nancy is the author and co-author of countless scientific articles. Active in professional organizations, her numerous awards include the Gold Medal and Ortho Awards from the Canadian Society for Transfusion Medicine, and the Elmer L. DeGowin Lectureship in Blood Banking from the University of Iowa.

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Kevin King
Recent Graduate
George Brown College

Kevin King has made an exceptional contribution to his community. King became a youth advocate in his neighbourhood after a friend was shot. He then advised on youth issues at Toronto City Hall. As chair of the Toronto Youth Cabinet, King took part in the Future World Leaders Summit in Washington in 2000. With King as president, the George Brown Student Association developed its first constitution and a successful Black History Month. King is Public Affairs Coordinator at Xerox. He continues to work with his community, as co-founder of the Rexdale Foundation. King has won numerous awards, including the Harry Jerome Award for Outstanding Leadership in 2001.



Wayne Brocklebank
Technology
Sheridan College

Wayne Brocklebank tracks and analyzes industry safety for the Ontario Construction Safety Association's over 43,000 members and is president of the local union. A paraplegic and amputee as a result of a hit-and-run motorcycle accident, Wayne wasn't expected to live - he has beaten the odds to achieve a successful career and a notable commitment to his community. Wayne spends 20 to 30 hours a week volunteering on behalf of youth, coaching baseball, soccer and hockey in Mississauga. He donated his time to Scouts Canada for 15 years. Wayne received the Governor General's Award of Fortitude in 1998 and the City of Mississauga Civic Award in 2001.