

2003 Ontario Premier's Awards for College Graduates Recipients



Susan Margaret Taylor Schmaltz
Applied Arts: Community Services
Algonquin College

Susan Taylor Schmaltz is taking early childhood education to the poorest communities of Guatemala. After an impressive career as preschool educator, nursery school founder, teacher and clown, Schmaltz left Pembroke for Guatemala, where she has opened four preschools, training local women in ECE philosophy. With her husband, she also established a program delivering lunches to street dwellers and provided villagers with looms and sewing machines to start a weaving co-operative. Schmaltz is negotiating for funding to set up a preschool for 80 children being taught by one teacher in a room with a dirt floor, as well as for beds and blankets for a homeless shelter.



Beverly D. Thomson
Applied Arts: Creative Arts & Design
Seneca College

Beverly Thomson is the new co-host of CTV's Canada AM. The award-winning journalist, broadcaster, event personality and documentary star has always had a deep passion for news and current events. She publicly announced her battle with breast cancer and became an official spokesperson for the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation. She made a documentary called *Where There is No Fear* that follows her diagnosis, treatment and the impact it had on her life, family and career. Thomson also devotes time to the Seneca College Broadcast Communications Advisory Board, the Hospital for Sick Children, Children's Aid, Charles H. Best Diabetes Foundation and a number of other organizations.

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Rose Adams
Business
Georgian College

Rose Adams overcame a difficult childhood to get where she is today. Growing up in foster homes, the Barrie lawyer financed her college education by cleaning houses and checking coats at a local bar. In 1991, she was crowned Miss Black Ontario and entered law school as a mature student. She now runs her own family law and real estate practice. Adams has taught business courses at Georgian College and Ontario Business College and volunteers for non-profit community groups such as the Out of the Cold program. She served on the board of Big Brothers and the Simcoe Literacy Network.



Dr. Heather Lee Kilty
Health Sciences
Niagara College

As well as teaching undergraduate nurses as an assistant professor at Brock University, Dr. Heather Lee Kilty is a speaker, trainer and researcher in leadership, workplace health and palliative care. She runs her own business, Kilty Resource Associates, offering counselling, training and research services. Kilty is a social justice activist who has volunteered for many causes and helped to launch several social service organizations. In addition, she has run for regional and provincial office, hosted a series of cable TV shows and published a book called Influence, Choice and Drugs. In 1986, she adopted two girls from St. Vincent.

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Suzanne Marie Demars
Recent Graduate
Sheridan College

A survivor of domestic abuse and a single mother of three children, one of whom was sexually abused, Suzanne Marie Demars is using her own experience to help others. She is the founder of Not My Child, which offers support and counselling services to families dealing with child sexual abuse, including a buddy program for families going through the court system. Demars co-ordinates a Red Cross sports abuse prevention program for Brampton hockey coaches and volunteers as an Abuse Prevention Educator in elementary schools. The recipient of many awards, Demars gained national recognition as one of Flare magazine's 2003 Volunteer Award winners.



Donald Jan Dekker
Technology
Northern College

Donald Jan Dekker's career combines technology and education. He served as the Canadian Long-term Advisor and Director in a \$25 million project to develop an international technical school in Copiapo, Chile. In Africa, he taught technical courses in Zambia, set up the Department of Mines in Botswana and developed the Zimbabwe School of Mines. A teaching master at Northern College for many years, he was the college's first academic Dean of Technology. Dekker also contributed to many major developments in the north. He received the Engineering Achievement Award and the Excellence in Education Award from the Ontario Association of Certified Engineering Technicians and Technologists.