

VANIER AWARDS FOR OUTSTANDING YOUNG CANADIANS

HOW IT ALL STARTED:

The idea to recognize outstanding young citizens was conceived by Durward Howes, 1930-31 president of the U.S. Junior Chamber of Commerce (Jaycees). Howes compiled and published an annual from 1934 to 1937 titled "America's Young Men," highlighting the works of 12 exemplary leaders each year. The U.S. Junior Chamber of Commerce assumed responsibility for selection of the Ten Outstanding Young Men in 1938 and the national Jaycee organization has been associated with the program since then. In January, 1985, the U.S. Jaycees Board of Directors voted to include women and the 1986 program became Ten Outstanding Young Americans.

JUNIOR CHAMBER INTERNATIONAL (JCI INTERNATIONAL)

In 1981, JCI officially adopted the Ten Outstanding Young People (TOYP) Program. The purpose of the TOYP is to honour ten individuals annually between the ages of 18 and 40 who exemplify the finest attributes of the world's young people. The first TOYP ceremony took place in November, 1983 during the JCI World Congress in Taipei, Taiwan. Since 1989 the program was expanded and opened up to all countries, including those without a Junior Chamber.

Canadian TOYP Honourees are Peter Dalglish, 1989, Humanitarian and/or Volunteer Service; Rick Hansen, 1987, Personal Improvement and/or Accomplishment; Andre Viger, 1985, Humanitarian and/or Volunteer Service.

THE INITIAL PROGRAMS IN CANADA:

The first Outstanding Young Men awards in Canada were conducted by the Etobicoke Jaycees as the '1967 Three Outstanding Young Men (TOYM) of Ontario'. The Canada Jaycees adopted the Vanier Awards for Five Outstanding Young Men program at the 1967 National Convention. All the provinces conducted a provincial OYM in 1968. They forwarded their 1968 Honourees as nominations to the first Vanier Awards program which was conducted by the Ottawa West Jaycees and hosted by them on February 14, 1969.

THE VANIER AWARDS:

The Democratic Process - From Idea to Adoption by the Canada Jaycees General Assembly

In 1967 all proposed programs and resolutions to be adopted by the Canada Jaycees had to pass through a grass-roots democratic process, starting at the chapter level.

A Jaycee would first submit a Project Proposal Form (Business Plan) to a chapter general meeting. If it was intended that all chapters in the province were to conduct the program the chapter would then submit it to the designated 'commission meeting' at the annual provincial convention. A 'commission' was a grouping of programs with a common purpose such as Individual Development or Community Development.

The Vanier Awards Outstanding Young Men Awards was classified as a program within the Public Relations Commission.

A Jaycee member attending the convention could fully participate in any 'commission meeting', and speak and vote on the motions presented. Often, motions and resolutions were amended before adoption and forwarded for consideration by the General Assembly, at which only accredited chapter delegates could participate.

If the program was proposed as a national program the chapter would submit it to the designated 'commission' at the national annual convention.

A chapter had the option to gain provincial political support by seeking approval at the commission meeting and the general assembly at the provincial convention. The provincial officers, and often all the chapters of the province, would then support the adoption of the proposed program at the 'national commission' and 'national general assembly'. The chapter, to provincial, to national adoption process was the route by which the Vanier Awards program was approved.

Each commission meeting was a caucus of Jaycee members present at a convention who wished to attend. It permitted all attendees to debate and vote. In this way each Jaycee could be a major participant in the democratic process. This trained the individual in debate, in parliamentary procedure, and how to be effective in political and democratic lobbying and organization. Most important, because of the grassroots involvement in the decision-making, there was a strong commitment by individuals, chapters, and national and provincial officers to the programs and resolutions so adopted.

ADOPTION - Key Dates:

1. March 5, 1967 - General Georges P. Vanier dies early in the morning. Jaycee Harry Weldon sits at his kitchen table and drafts an outline for the Vanier Awards program. Ottawa West President Gord Lowry is called and agrees to support the proposal.
2. March 7, 1967 - Ottawa West Jaycees approve the Vanier Awards proposal.
3. May 2, 1967 - Mde. Pauline Vanier consents to the Vanier Award proposal.
4. May 21, 1967 - At Thunder Bay, Ontario the Ontario Jaycees Public Relations Commission approves, and the Annual General Assembly unanimously adopts, a resolution requesting the Canada Jaycees to adopt the Vanier Awards program.
5. July 2, 1967 - At Ottawa, Ontario the Canada Jaycees Public Relations Commission approves, and the Annual General Assembly unanimously adopts, the Vanier Outstanding Young Men Awards - Jeunes Hommes Remarquables Vanier (VOYM - JHRV).
6. Ottawa West Jaycees, with Harry Weldon as Chairman, to conduct the first program - the 1968 Vanier Awards, with the presentations in February, 1969.

THE 1968 PROGRAM:

Nominations & Selection

- Ten nominations received - Alberta 1; British Columbia. 1; Manitoba 1; Nova Scotia 1; Ontario 3;

- Each nominee attended at Ottawa where they were interviewed separately during the day by the Selection Committee as part of the selection process. The Selection Committee included Don Reid, JCI Senator and Mayor of Ottawa; Mrs. Bruce G. Craig, Executive Chairman of the Mayor's Committee on Youth; Mr. Aurele Gratton, Vice President, General Manager and Publisher of LE DROIT; Rev. Dr. Roger Guindon, Rector of the University of Ottawa; Mr. Roger N. Seguin, President of L'Association canadienne-française d'Éducation d'Ontario; Mr. G. Hamilton Southam, Director of the National Arts Centre; Mr. Russell Jackson, Ottawa Roughriders Quarterback and Vice-Principal of Sir John A. Macdonald High School.
- The five Honourees were Douglas Bruce Clement of Richmond, British Columbia; Alan Eagleson of Toronto, Ontario; David Samuel Horne MacDonald of Charlottetown, P.E.I.; Dr. Richard George MacKenzie of Montreal, Quebec; David Charles Ward of Edmonton, Alberta

Jaycee Creed Breakfast:

A special breakfast was held for all attending in Ottawa. The keynote speaker addressed the contents of the Jaycee Credo. All nominees attended as panelists.

Civic Luncheon:

The City of Ottawa hosted a civic luncheon for the nominees and special guests.

Presentation Banquet:

A sold-out banquet was held at a major hotel. It was Chaired by Harry Weldon. The Master of Ceremonies was Harvey Kirk, Executive Director, CTV News. Dinner and professional entertainment, including a live band, was followed by a specially recorded tribute to Georges Vanier narrated by Tom Earle, Bureau Chief, Parliamentary Press Gallery, CBC News, the story of the Vanier Trophy, and an address by the Hon. Joseph R. Smallwood, P.C., D.C.L., LL.D., D.Litt., Premier of Newfoundland (at that time he was the only living Father of Confederation as Newfoundland entered Canada in 1949).

The Chairman of the Selection Committee, Mayor of Ottawa, Don Reid, introduced each nominee to music especially arranged for each one. The Honourees were announced and presented with their award by JCI Senator George Gowling, the donor of the trophy.

Sponsorship:

The program was financed by the Ottawa West Jaycees.

Media Coverage:

Coverage of the event in newspapers appeared in at least 93 newspapers. Radio and television also reported on the event.

OVERVIEW

The Vanier Awards were established in 1967, with the permission of Madame Pauline Vanier, to honour the Late Governor General Georges P. Vanier, who was selected by Maclean's Magazine (June, 1999) as the outstanding Canadian of the 20th Century. The Roman Catholic Church is actively considering a nomination to confer sainthood on Vanier. His son, Jean Vanier, Founder of L'Arche, is generally considered, by persons of all faiths and other humanitarians, to be the male equivalent of the great humanitarian Mother Theresa.

In 1971 the program became the Vanier Awards for Five Outstanding Canadians as women became eligible for nomination and selection. Since 1969 the Vanier Awards have honoured 115 Outstanding Young Canadians (ages 18 to 40) who had shown outstanding promise and/or achievement or service to humanity.

Recommended Reading:

VANIER Soldier, Diplomat and Governor General by Robert Speaight
Published by Wm. Collins Sons & Co. Canada Ltd ISBN 0 00 262252 1

Film:

The National Film Board produced a biography, probably in the 1960s.

Georges-Philias Vanier

Born on April 23, 1888, Georges Vanier received his early education from the Jesuit fathers at Loyola College (now Concordia University), Montreal, from which he graduated with a B.A. He studied law at Laval University, Quebec City and was admitted to the Quebec in 1911.

His distinguished military career began in 1914 when he formed the 22nd battalion of the Canadian Expeditionary Force, which later became the first French-Canadian regiment, The Royal 22nd (Vandoos). He was awarded the Military Cross and DSO in 1915, and a bar was added to the Military Cross as a result of heroic action in a battle in which he lost his right leg. Although the loss resulted in his discharge, he returned to the same regiment in 1920, as second in command, and eventually commanded the Vandoos in 1925. His diplomatic service for Canada began with his appointment as aide-de-camp to Governor General Lord Byng in 1921. He also served similarly with Governor General Lord Wellington from 1926 to 1928. Vanier was a delegate to the preparatory Disarmament Commission of the League of Nations from 1928 to 1931. In 1931 he went to London as Secretary to the Commissioner, Vincent Massey.

During the Second World War he was Canada's Minister to Paris in 1940 and eventually had to flee occupied France. Following the war he became Ambassador to France, from which he retired to Montreal at the age of 65.

On August 1, 1959, on the recommendation of Prime Minister George W. Diefenbaker, Queen Elizabeth appointed him to serve as Canada's second native-born Governor General.

A much beloved and admired Canadian, he died on March 5, 1967. After lying in state, under gray skies, the streets in Ottawa were lined with thousands of Canadians when his cortege proceeded from Parliament to the Roman Catholic Cathedral on Sussex Drive.

PRIX
VANIER
AWARDS

OUTSTANDING YOUNG CANADIANS - JEUNES CANADIENS REMARQUABLE

YOUTH - UNITY - SPIRIT | JEUNESSE - UNITE - ESPRIT

HONOUREES – listed alphabetically

A

Andreychuk, Anita Raynell
Atwood, Margaret
Augustyn, Frank

B

Badger, Raymond
Barber, Charles
Bates, Dr. Robert
Bauman, Alex
Bondar, Dr. Roberta
Boyd, Liona
Boyd, Mary Jane
Brott, Boris
Burgess, Rachel

C

Campbell, Maria
Caputo, Frank
Cardinal, Harold
Chant, David
Charest, Jean J.
Cheverie, David
Chilton, David

Chipman, Dennis
Clement, D. B.
Coish, Donna & Emerson
Colby, Adrienne
Correy, Ryan
Corson, Jennifer
Cosgrove, William
Crocker, Dr. John
Crombie, David

D

Dack, Skye
Dalglish, Peter
Day, W.
Deans, Ian
De Cesase, Michel
de Rappard, George
Devine, Hon. Grant
Doane, John Chalmers
Dougall, Fraser
Drabinsky, Garth
Dupuy, Diane
Durling, Margot

E

Eagleson, Alan
Elliott-Clark, Melodie

F

Fonyo, Steve
Foreman, Sean
Foster, David
Fraser, David

G

Garneau, Marc
Godfrey, Dr. John
Godfrey, Paul
Gosbee, George F. J.
Gretzky, Wayne

H

Hamel, Andre
Hansen, Rick
Hawkins, Arnot
Hayter, Ronald
Heppner, Ben
Hiebert, Carl E.

Hoffman, Abigail

I

J

K

Kain, Karen
Keith, Victoria
Kramer, Dale

L

Lalonde, Don
Law, Alvin
Lawrence, Gerald Andrew
LeBlanc, Paul
Le Frank, Helen Susan
Levangie, Shawn
Lightfoot, Gordon

M

MacDonald, David
MacDonald, Lanny
Mac Dougall, Jack
Mackay-Lassonde, Claudette
MacKenzie, Dr. R. G
Magnussen, Karen
Manley, Elizabeth
Manuel, Douglas
Mathis, Dr. Nancy
McCormick, Shaun
McCuigan, Ralph Kim
McDonald, Joanne
McDonals, Dennis
McCrea, John Coles
McKenna, Frank
Miller, Claudette
Modry, Dennis
Mortifee, Anne
Murray, Anne

N

Nattrass, Susan
Nicholas, Cindy

O

Osborne, Gina

P

Payuk, Ed Louis
Peckford, Brian
Philips, Dr. Anne M.
Piccininni, Paul Michael
Plozczansky, Irene Luba

Q

R

Raychaba, Brian
Read, John
Reid, Timothy
Robertson, John Ross
Ross, Ronald
Rousseau, Pierre-Alexandre
Ryckman, Lawrence G.

S

Saik, Dr. Brent
Schreyer, Edward
Scott, Dr. John
Sills, Ronald
Simpson, Kimberley
Sittler, Darryl
Smith, Dr. Ian
Solursh, Dr. Lionel
Springate, George
St. Clair Selig, Millage
St. Jean, Claude
Sternleib, Dr. John
Struthers, Lindsay
Sutherland, Amanda

T

Tehong, Judy
Thornhill, Rolan
Timbrell, Dennis Roy
Tremblay, Remi

U

V

Viger, Andre

W

Waldo, Carolyn
Ward, David
Weber, George Brian
Weeks, Tanya Shaw
Williams, Lynn

TESTIMONY:

FINAL REPORT - VANIER AWARDS - FIVE OUTSTANDING YOUNG CANADIANS

Dartmouth Jaycees, N.S., Host of 1976 Program - Presentations on March 5, 1977

“Our Atlantic Canada communities have a new positive awareness of Jaycees . . . local units have been approached by business leaders with invitations to call on them for support in other project endeavours. New members have come forward and we have enhanced our opinion of ourselves for what we think and what we do as Jaycees.”