

About the Discovery Awards

The Discovery Awards began in the spring of 2002 with the mandate to recognize talented individuals and outstanding companies in Nova Scotia for their national and international work in the science and technology fields. The awards bring together universities, corporations, businesses, government and the local community for an evening of celebration, where we honour people whose leading-edge work have helped make Nova Scotia a leader in science and technology innovation. Our award recipients put science achievement in the minds of the local community along with serving as role models for youth who may well be our scientists of the future.

Recognized by six award categories

- **Hall of Fame** – Individuals who have achieved outstanding lifetime contributions to science and technology
- **Science Champion** – an individual who promotes science and technology to the public in above and beyond the normal avenues of communication
- **Innovation** – a company that has produced a commercially viable product or service and is ready or has already launched it into the market
- **Professional of Distinction** – an individual who is a leading innovator, a role model for people who choose science as a career
- **Emerging Professional of Distinction** – an individual under the age of 35 who demonstrates intellectual achievements, excellence and potential for ongoing growth and development
- **Youth** – A student or students who has been recognized by the Nova Scotia Science Fairs as worthy of being recognized for his or her outstanding achievements

Nominations for awards begin in February and close in May with the final selection by our committees is made in November. Nominations are sought throughout the province with calls going out to universities, innovation Centres, government, colleges, science and technology associations, and the media. Each category can have only three finalists, all of whom participate in the final presentation in November. Only one in each category receives an award except in the Hall of Fame where several people may be entered in one year.

Discovery Centre Background

Discovery Centre is Nova Scotia's hands-on science centre. The Centre helps to build scientific literacy and positive attitudes towards science by empowering children with knowledge and sharing with them structured experiences in a safe, stimulating environment. We want children to see science as fun and creative from an early age, to be science literate, to maintain their involvement in science throughout their schooling and to consider the sciences as a career choice. The Centre opened in 1990 and is a registered charity (# 108076662RR0001). It is governed by a board of directors, employs twenty-five people, and offers a variety of programs and services (such as: workshops, exhibits, summer camps, outreach programs).

Past Recipients List

Hall of Fame

2017

- **Peter Allen**, Ph.D., recognized for his contributions to the solar energy research and development community
- **William Howard Feindel**, Ph.D., (posthumously) recognized for his outstanding contributions to neurosurgical research and development of medical diagnostic equipment

2016

- **Jeff Dahn**, Ph.D., Recognized as one of the pioneering developers of the lithium-ion battery that is now used worldwide in laptop computers and cell-phones
- **Henry Marshall Tory** (posthumously) For his leadership in establishing world-renowned Universities and research labs across Canada

2015

- **Axel Becke**, Ph.D., a physical chemist, is one of the most referenced researchers in the world (over 100,000 citations) and credited with accurately modelling the motion of electrons in atoms, molecules, and solids
- **George C. Baker**, (posthumously), an early champion of tidal power and instrumental in the creation of the Fundy Environmental Science Committee which oversaw the first study of the Bay of Fundy

2014

- **Leo Vining**, Ph.D., (posthumously), recognized worldwide as one of the greatest chemical biologists in the field of natural production of antibiotics, member of Canadian Society of Microbiology, and Professor Emeritus of Dalhousie University
- **Charlotte Keen**, Ph.D., internationally-renowned marine geophysicist and a research scientist at the Bedford Institute of Oceanography

2013

- **George Geoffrey Meyerhof**, Ph.D., (posthumously), served as the Dean of Faculty of Engineering at the Nova Scotia Technical College (later TUNS, now Dalhousie), Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Engineering and the F.H. Sexton Award
- **Thomas John (Jock) Murray**, Ph.D., internationally known neurologist, founder and director of the Dalhousie Multiple Sclerosis Research Unit in Halifax

2012

- **Sir J. William Dawson** (posthumously), helped put Joggins on the map and was the first Canadian-born scientist of international reputation
- **Dr. Roy Bishop**, Ph.D., professor emeritus and Honorary Research Associate of Physics at Acadia University

2011

- **Dr. Donald Hebb** (posthumously), described as the father of neuropsychology, he was president of both the Canadian and American Psychological Associations and awarded eight honorary degrees
- **Dr. W. Ford Doolittle**, Ph.D., is Professor Emeritus (Biochemistry and Molecular Biology), Dalhousie University

2010

- **Dr. Enid Johnson** (posthumously), the first anesthetist to administer a muscle relaxant (curare) during surgery
- **Dr. Arthur McDonald** performing ground-breaking research in neutrinos, Queens University

2009

- **Oswald Avery** (posthumously), key scientist in molecular biology whose contributions include DNA and its role in genetics
- **Dr. Brian Hall**, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus (Biology), Dalhousie University

2008

- **Donald Crowdis** served as the Nova Scotia Museum as Curator and Director, one of the first popular hosts of CBC The Nature of Things, a fellow of the Canadian Museum Association and the Royal Arts Society
- **Simon Newcomb** (posthumously), graduate of Harvard, Professor of Mathematics and Astronomy, US Naval Observatory, Washington and the John Hopkins University, Washington

2007

- **Frederick Sexton** (posthumously), CBE, Director of the Technical Education of Nova Scotia and Principal of the Nova Scotia Technical College, Halifax
- **Dr. Robert Ackman**, Ph.D., O.C., retired, Canadian Institute of Fisheries Technology and Dalhousie University, Halifax
- **Dr. Ransom Myers** (posthumously), Ph.D., Professor of Mathematics and Biology, Dalhousie University, Halifax

2006

- **Dr. Nancy Lane**, D.Phil., Sc.D., LLD (Hon), D.Sc.(Hon), F.I.Biol., OBE, Cell Biologist and Senior Research Associate, Zoology Department of Cambridge University, England
- **Alexander Graham Bell** (posthumously), PhD (Hon), Legion of Honour, Baddeck

2005

- **Dr. Erwin Zodrow**, Professor Emeritus, Dept. of Geology, Cape Breton University, Sydney
- **Dr. Charles Huggins** (posthumously), Nobel Prize Winner, Chancellor Acadia University, Wolfville

2003

- **Willard Boyle**, Nobel Prize winner (presented in 2011), Physicist, retired Executive Director of Research, Communications Sciences Division, Bell Labs and co-inventor of the Charge Coupled Device, Halifax

- **Abraham Gesner** (posthumously), physician, geologist, chemist, inventor, professor & author
- **Dr. Mary Anne White**, Killam Professor, Materials Science and Chemistry and Physics, Dalhousie University, Halifax

2002

- **Dr. Richard Goldbloom**, O.C., M.D., C.M., F.R.C.P.C, Professor of Pediatrics (Emeritus), Dalhousie University & the IWK Health centre
- **Dr. Kelvin Ogilvie**, C.M., PhD., D.Sc., F.C.I.C., Past President & Vice Chancellor, Acadia University
- **Elinor Nicoll**, MEd., retired teacher, Halifax Regional School Board

Science Champion

- 2017 **Matthew Lukeman**, Ph.D., Chemistry Professor, Acadia University, Wolfville
- 2016 **Boris Worm**, Ph.D., Marine Research Ecologist and Associate Professor, Dalhousie University, Halifax
- 2015 **Rob Thacker**, Ph.D., Professor & Canada Research Chair in Computational Physics, Saint Mary's University, Halifax
- 2014 **Jeff Hutchings**, M.A, part time lecturer at Mount Saint Vincent University, author, and meteorologist with Roger's Radio Broadcasting group, Halifax
- 2013 **Richard Zurawski**, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Biology, Mount Saint Vincent University, Halifax
- 2012 **Dr. John Young**, Professor Emeritus, Department of Chemistry, Saint Mary's University, Halifax
- 2011 **Dr. Daniel Silver**, Ph.D., Dean, Department of Computer Science, Acadia University, Wolfville
- 2010 **Dr. Martha Jones**, Ph.D., Chair of the Department of Biology, Cape Breton University, Sydney
- 2009 **Dr. Truis Smith-Palmer, Ph.D.**, Chemist and Professor, Department of Chemistry, St. Francis Xavier University, Antigonish
- 2008 **Dr. Adam J. Sarty**, Professor, Department of Physics, Saint Mary's University, Halifax
- 2007 **David J. Lane**, Astronomy Technician and High-Performance Computing System Administrator, Saint Mary's University, Halifax
- 2006 **Dr. Gerhard Stroink**, Ph.D., Professor of Physics, Dalhousie University, Halifax
- 2005 **Dr. Robert Fournier**, Professor, Oceanography, Dalhousie, Guest Scientist on CBC Information Morning, Halifax
- 2003 **Dr. Richard Wassersug**, Professor in the Dept. of Anatomy and Neurobiology, Dalhousie University, Halifax
- 2002 **Dr. Graham Daborn**, Professor of Biology and Director of Acadia Centre for Estuarine Research, Acadia University, Wolfville

Innovation

- 2017 **Densitas Inc.**, Halifax
- 2016 **Natural Ocean Products**, Halifax
- 2015 **Decell Technologies**, Halifax
- 2014 **Carbon Cure Technologies Inc.**, Halifax
- 2013 **SENSElab**, Halifax
- 2012 **DeNovaMed**, Halifax
- 2011 **Elekta Atlantic**, Halifax
- 2010 **Resolution Optics**, Halifax
- 2009 **Origin BioMed**, Halifax
- 2008 **Atlantic Fibre Technology**, Halifax
- 2007 **ImmunoVaccine Technologies**, Halifax
- 2006 **Enerscan Engineering**, Halifax
- 2005 **Advanced Glazings**, Sydney
- 2003 **MedMira Laboratories Inc.**, Halifax

Professional of Distinction

- 2017 **Jason Clyburne**, Ph.D., Professor of Chemistry, Dalhousie University, Canada Research Chair (Tier II) in Environmental Studies and Materials
- 2016 **James Robar**, Ph.D., Director, Dalhousie Medical Physics, Dalhousie University, Halifax
- 2015 **Orlando Hung**, Ph.D., MD, Professor, Dept of Anesthesia Surgery and Pharmacology, Dalhousie University, Halifax
- 2014 **Sherry Stewart**, Ph.D., Professor, Dept.'s of Psychiatry, Psychology and Neuroscience, Dalhousie University, Halifax
- 2013 **Noni MacDonald**, MD, & Michael Graven, MD, Professors, Department of Pediatrics, Dalhousie University as well as in the IWK Health Centre, Halifax
- 2012 **Ron O'Dor**, Ph.D., Professor of Biology, Dalhousie University, Halifax
- 2011 **Dr. Kenneth Lee**, Ph.D., Executive Director, Centre for Offshore Oil, Gas, and Energy Research, Halifax
- 2010 **Dr. Patrick Lee**, Ph.D., Professor in the Departments of Pathology and Microbiology & Immunology, Dalhousie University, Halifax
- 2009 **Dr. Susan Bryson**, Ph.D., Professor of Pediatrics, Dalhousie University, and Chair of the IWK Autism Research Centre, Halifax
- 2008 **Dr. Jeffery Dahn**, Ph.D., Professor of Physics and Chemistry, Dalhousie University, Halifax
- 2007 **Dr. Micheal Quilliam**, Ph.D., Principal Research Officer, NRC Institute for Marine Biosciences, Halifax
- 2006 **Dr. Donald Weaver**, MD., Ph.D., FRCPC, Canada Research Chair, Professor of Medicine and Chemistry, School of Biomedical Engineering, Dalhousie University, Halifax

- 2005 **Dr. Jock Murray**, O.C., M.D., Dean of Dalhousie Medical School, Director of Dalhousie Multiple Sclerosis Research Unit, Chief of Medicine at Camp Hill Hospital, Head of the Neurology at Camp Hill Hospital and Royal College Program Director, Halifax
- 2003 **Dr. Ivar Mendez**, Professor of Surgery (Division of Neurosurgery, Dalhousie), Chair of the Brain Repair Centre, Director of Research of the Dept. of Surgery, Director of the Neural Transplantation Laboratory, Halifax
- 2002 **Dr. W. Ford Doolittle**, Ph.D., Professor, Dept. of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Dalhousie University, Halifax

Emerging Professional of Distinction

- 2017 **Ghada Koleilat**, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Dalhousie University, Halifax
- 2016 **Alec Falkenham**, Ph.D. Candidate, Dalhousie University, Halifax
- 2015 **Nick Nickerson**, Ph.D., Chief Scientist, Eosense, Dartmouth
- 2014 **Robin Urquhart**, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Dept. of Surgery, Dalhousie University, Halifax
- 2013 **Christa Brosseau**, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Department of Chemistry, Saint Mary's University, Halifax
- 2012 **Dr. Simon Sherry**, Ph.D., Clinical Psychologist and Associate Professor, Department of Psychology, Dalhousie University, Halifax
- 2011 **Dr. Jill Chorney**, Ph.D., Centre for Pediatric Pain Research, IWK Health Centre & Dalhousie University, Halifax
- 2010 **Dr. Christopher Barden**, Ph.D. Chief Operating Officer, DeNovaMed, Halifax
- 2009 **Dr. Marie-Claude Gregoire**, MD, MSc, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, Dalhousie University, and Staff Physician of the IWK Pediatric Palliative Care Service, Halifax
- 2008 **Dr. Ryan C.N. Darcy**, Assistant Professor of Diagnostic Radiology and an Adjunct Professor at the Neuroscience Institute, Dalhousie University, Halifax
- 2007 **Dr. Christine Chambers**, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Psychology, Dalhousie University and the Dept. of Pediatrics at the IWK Health Centre, Halifax
- 2006 **Dr. David Risk**, Ph.D., Professor, Environmental Sciences Research Centre, St. Francis Xavier University, Antigonish
- 2005 **Dr. Jason Gu**, Ph.D., Faculty of Computer Science, Dalhousie University, Halifax
- 2003 **Nicole Collison**, Defence Scientist, Defence R&D Canada-Atlantic, Halifax
- 2002 **Doug MacLaren**, PhD Student, Dept. of Chemistry, Dalhousie University, Halifax

Youth Award

- 2017 **Janani Venkat** (Antibacterial Effects of Microemulsified Oils & Chitosan Nanoparticles) Bedford Academy, Bedford, NS
- 2017 **Sophie Fraser** (Common Sensors: Impact Sensors for Helmets), King's-Edgehill School, Annapolis Valley, Windsor

- 2016 **Maria Duynisveld** (Eggs-aminging the Connection Between Foraging Behaviour and Egg Characteristics), Pugwash District High School, Pugwash
- 2015 **Rachel Brouwer** (Can We Improve the Quality of Water in Developing and Third World Countries?), Bedford Academy, Bedford
- 2014 **Robert MacDonald** (Tornado Outbreaks: Finding Mechanical and Thermodynamic Relationships), J.L. Ilsley High School, Halifax
- 2013 **Harishitaa Prithviraj** (Divided We Fade, United We Cure!!!), Bible Hill Junior High School, Bible Hill
- 2012 **Ellen Song** (Aroma Precursor Treatments), Horton High School, Wolfville
- 2011 **Brandon Fillmore** (Lateral Balance System), Bible Hill Junior High
- 2011 **Megan Smith and Charlotte Donaldson** (Spinal Board), Hants East Rural High School
- 2010 **Chantal Surette** (L'Appareil Orque", l'Ecole Secondaire de Clare, Meteghan
- 2009 **Todd Mercer** (The Mow Pod), Cape Breton University & Riverview High School, Sydney
- 2008 **Todd Mercer & Mike MacIsaac** (The Amazing Alter Leg), Riverview High School, Sydney
- 2007 **Oliver Hatheway and Darren Rodenhizer**, (The Economizer Engine), Park View Education Centre, Halifax
- 2006 **Abeer Hasan**, (The Biodegradable Cup), Bedford South School, Halifax