

# Celebrating EXCELLENCE!



ORDER OF CANADA NEWSLETTER

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This year marks an important anniversary for the Order of Canada. Awarded for the first time in 1967, it has since become the centrepiece of our country's system of honours.

We are proud to celebrate 40 years of outstanding achievements and excellence in all sectors of society.

To mark the anniversary, we are launching this newsletter, which is meant to strengthen the relationships between members of the Order and to keep you up to date on the latest developments in this large, extended family of ours.

You personify the motto *Desiderantes meliorem patriam* and, through your actions, you demonstrate that there is no limit to what we can accomplish. Just imagine what we could accomplish if we all worked together!

I invite you to extend our family by helping us recognize other individuals who could be sources of inspiration, as you are.

We are counting on the strength of your commitment and the wealth of your thoughts to move forward.

Her Excellency the Right Honourable  
Michaëlle Jean, C.C., C.M.M., C.O.M., C.D.  
Governor General of Canada



Photo: Sgt. Eric Jolin © Rideau Hall

## ORDER OF CANADA INVESTITURE CEREMONY

February 9, 2007, at Rideau Hall



Photo: MCpl Issa Pare © Rideau Hall

**Front row (left to right):** Julius A. Isaac, O.C.; Norman Horrocks, O.C.; Denise Verreault, C.M., C.Q.; D. Gregory Powell, O.C.; William (Bill) Comrie, O.C.; Susan Butler, C.M.; Her Excellency the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, C.C., C.M.M., C.O.M., C.D.; His Excellency Jean-Daniel Lafond, C.C.; John (Jack) Pelech, C.M.; Janet Davidson, O.C.; The Honourable Jean-Robert Gauthier, C.M.; Lalita Malhotra, C.M., S.O.M.; H. Douglas Barber, O.C.

**Second row:** Linda Haynes, C.M.; David Dolphin, O.C.; John A. Rae, C.M.; Stanley H. Zlotkin, C.M.; Charles Baillie, O.C.; Michele Landsberg, O.C.; David P. Silcox, C.M.; Major-General (Retired) Lewis W. MacKenzie, C.M., O.Ont., M.S.C., C.D.; James Deverell Horsman, C.M., A.O.E.; Anne Fanning, C.M.; Gerald K. Barr, C.M.; Fiona Reid, C.M.; George D.B. Butterfield, O.C.

**Third row:** Edward Burtynsky, O.C.; Brian A. Canfield, O.B.C., C.M.; Harvey V. Thommasen, C.M., O.B.C.; Denis Stairs, O.C.; Pierre Daloze, C.M.; Bernard Finkelstein, C.M.; Claude Gosselin, C.M.; B. Brett Finlay, O.C.; Reginald W. Bibby, O.C.; Roy A. Miki, C.M.; Walter Ostrom, C.M.

**Absent:** Serge Godin, C.M., and C. David Naylor, O.C.

## RANEE LEE RAISES HER VOICE AGAINST RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

Ranee Lee, C.M., became a Member of the Order of Canada in 2005. On March 21, 2007, the celebrated jazz singer took part in the Governor General's Students' Forum: From the Abolition of the Slave Trade to the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, at Rideau Hall. The forum commemorated the *Abolition of the Slave Trade Act*, passed in British Parliament in 1807. (Canada was still a collection of British colonies at that time.) The forum's purpose was also to raise awareness of the importance of eliminating racism and promoting human rights in Canadian society today. Mrs. Lee participated in the discussion and gave a moving performance of "Strange Fruit," a Billie Holiday song about the lynching of Blacks in the American South. "It's a very powerful tune," says Mrs. Lee, who has recorded the song, but hasn't performed it often. She says that performing the song at the forum was important to her because it could raise awareness of racial discrimination. "Any time I can lend my voice for this cause, I'm 110% for it."



## COMING SOON: 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary exhibit

On June 7, 2007, the Governor General will participate in the official opening of the exhibit "The Order of Canada: They Desire a Better Country." The exhibit will be held at Library and Archives Canada in Ottawa to mark the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Order and will be open to the public for approximately one year.

## Also celebrating 40 years of excellence!

An accomplished graphic artist, Bruce Beatty, C.M., is the creative force behind most of the symbolic representations that make up our Canadian system of honours, beginning with the beautiful snowflake design of the Order of Canada. As of February 2007, Mr. Beatty has assisted the Chancellery with 98 Order of Canada ceremonies, attending all but one since the creation of the Order. Mr. Beatty became a Member of the Order in 1990.



[www.citizenvoices.gg.ca](http://www.citizenvoices.gg.ca)  
BREAKING DOWN SOLITUDES

## Join the dialogue online

On September 27, 2006, Her Excellency the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean launched Citizen Voices, a dynamic new website that allows Canadians to communicate with her directly and with one another. Her Excellency posts messages on the website on a regular basis. She writes about the Canadians she meets and the activities taking place at Rideau Hall, as well as her thoughts on real-life problems that Canadians face. Canadians can respond and ask questions through blogs, chats and forums. The interactive website has also featured guest blogs from Order of Canada members. Most recently, David Suzuki contributed to the site by writing a blog post on the environment: "Let's put the eco back in economics." We encourage members to visit the site and share their ideas and experiences with Canadians.

Visit [www.citizenvoices.gg.ca](http://www.citizenvoices.gg.ca) to add your voice to the dialogue.

## Did you know that...

- Since the creation of the Canadian system of honours, 5,268 people have been invested into the Order of Canada.
- There are currently 3,100 living members of the Order of Canada.
- Every year, a maximum of 136 Members are appointed to the Order, along with 64 Officers. The total number of Companions is limited at any time to 165.

## News from the Chancellery of Honours

As part of our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations, we are pleased to launch this newsletter. It will be sent to you three to four times a year following each investiture ceremony. This anniversary provides an opportunity to build on 40 years of excellence and work toward the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2017! Our objective is to celebrate great Canadians, to tell their stories, to encourage nominations and to increase recognition of the Order of Canada snowflake insignia. We are looking forward to working with you, as well as with partners and groups from across the country, to spread the word. We welcome your comments and support. Look for more information in our next newsletter in June.

Secretary to the Governor General and Herald Chancellor: Sheila-Marie Cook  
Deputy Secretary and Deputy Herald Chancellor: Emmanuelle Sajous  
Director of Honours: Gabrielle Lappa



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