

Discovery Awards for Science & Innovation: Hall of Fame Recipients

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. Our award recipients put science achievement in the minds of the local community along while serving as role models for our youth who will be the scientists and innovators of the future.

Hall of Fame Recipients:

2024

- **Paul Amyotte**, Professor in the Faculty of Engineering at Dalhousie University, for his immeasurable impact on risk assessment, risk management, gas and dust explosions, and incident investigation.

2023

- **Ronald O’Dor** (posthumously), Executive Director of the Ocean Tracking Network and a Professor of Biology in the Dalhousie Faculty of Science, for his immeasurable impact on global marine research, inspiring future generations of researchers.

2022

- **Ken Lee**, Executive Director, Centre for Offshore Oil, Gas, and Energy Research, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (Halifax), for his impact in bettering the environment through his work in oceans and oil spill management.

2021

- **Noni MacDonald**, Professor in Pediatrics and former Dean of the Dalhousie Faculty of Medicine, for her extensive work in vaccines, including safety, hesitancy, demand, pain mitigation, education, and policy.

2020

- **Sandra Barr**, Professor Emerita in the Department of Earth and Environmental Science, Acadia University, for her authoritative work on the geological evolution of the northern Appalachian Mountain belt of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

2019

- **Sultan Darvesh**, a multidisciplinary clinician-scientist, Professor of Neurology and Medical Neuroscience at Dalhousie University and the Dalhousie Medical Research Foundation Irene MacDonald Sobey Chair in Curative Approaches to Alzheimer’s disease.
- **Alexander Howard (A.H.) Mackay** (posthumously) for his work as a distinguished educator, scientist, and humanist, serving as Nova Scotia’s superintendent of education for 36 years.

2018

- **Gerhard Stroink**, for his exceptional contributions to the Discovery Centre and the local science community as well as the international impact of his research in physics and biomedical engineering.
- **William David (Dave) Jamieson** (posthumously) for his influential career with the National Research Council and his exemplary 35 years of scientific service to the Canadian public.

2017

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

2016

- **Jeff Dahn**, Professor in the field of Physics & Atmospheric Science and Chemistry, 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), a McGill University graduate and the first president of the University of Alberta and first president & CEO of the National Research Laboratories.

2015

- **Axel Becke**, Physical Chemist, one of the most referenced researchers in the world (over 100,000 citations), 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** (posthumously), recognized worldwide as one of the greatest chemical biologists in the field of natural production of antibiotics, member of the Canadian Society of Microbiology and Professor Emeritus of Dalhousie University.
- **Charlotte Keen**, internationally renowned marine geophysicist and a research scientist at the Bedford Institute of Oceanography.

2013

- **George Geoffrey Meyerhof** (posthumously), Dean of the 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**, 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.
- **Roy Bishop**, Professor Emeritus and Honorary Research Associate of Physics at Acadia University.

2011

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

2010

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

2009

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

2008

- **Donald Crowdis**, Nova Scotia Museum 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, and 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.
- **Robert Ackman**, Canadian Institute of Fisheries Technology and Dalhousie University, Halifax.
- **Ransom Myers** (posthumously), Professor of Mathematics and Biology, Dalhousie University, Halifax.

2006

- **Nancy Lane**, Cell Biologist and Senior Research Associate, Zoology Department of Cambridge University, England.
- **Alexander Graham Bell** (posthumously), Leader of Honour, Baddeck.

2005

- **Erwin Zodrow**, Professor Emeritus, Department of Geology, Cape Breton University, Sydney.
- **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.
- **Mary Anne White**, Killam Professor, Materials Science and Chemistry and Physics, Dalhousie University, Halifax.

2002

- **Richard Goldbloom**, Professor of Pediatrics (Emeritus), Dalhousie University & the IWK Health Centre.
- **Kelvin Ogilvie**, Past President & Vice Chancellor, Acadia University.
- **Elinor Nicoll**, retired teacher, Halifax Regional School Board.