Fifty years of The Award

The Duke of Edinburgh’s Award was launched in 1964 by the Duke of Edinburgh. Since its inception in Canada in 1963, the Award has always been open to any Canadian aged 14 to 24. The programme has 5 levels, Bronze, Silver, and Gold, which all participants in self-directed activity in community service, skills development, physical recreation, and an adventurous journey.

In 1984 one of the first Award Ceremonies was held, with £36,000 from The Duke of Edinburgh’s Award, which was presented to the first 7500 participants. The very first Gold Ceremony was held in Ottawa in 1986, at which HRH The Prince Philip presented 18 participants with their Gold Awards. While the first Award pilot groups were launched in Nova Scotia, Ontario, British Columbia in the 1980s, and the early 1980s, the Award was open to participants in Quebec, Manitoba, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Newfoundland,

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An evening to remember

Royals, dignitaries attend Toronto Gala to celebrate the Award’s 50 years in Canada

Lieutenant Governor of Ontario the Hon. David Onley with Ruth Ann Onley

Award Achievers and Masters of Ceremonies Kiwayne Jones and Erin Maitland

Gala Sponsor

Evening Sponsors

Reception Sponsor
The Duke of Edinburgh's Award

A joint venture published by the Globe And Mail

National benefactor of the Award Jim Kinnear (l) with The Hon. Hilary Weston and The Earl of Wessex.

Morningstar River provided a traditional First nations blessing.

National President of the Award and TD Bank Senior Vice President Jim Kershaw.

CFB Governor & Keg CEO David Aisenstat and Guest Anastasia Tofan.

The pipes & drums of the Toronto Scottish Regiment.

Table Purchasers Wine & Beer Sponsors Print Sponsor Media Sponsor Power Sponsor.
A Message from the National Benefactor

T his has been a highly success- ful year for participants in The Duke of Edinburgh’s Award in Canada, with more than 40,000 active participants. Two special outdoor events were held this summer for participants at all levels of The Award, bringing together young Canadians from across the country in the spirit of leadership and adventure. In celebration of The Award’s 50th Anniversary in Canada, it teamed with Parks Canada and the Canadian Wildlife Federation to offer Expedition 50, a once-in-a-lifetime experience at the Fakahatchee Stewardship Education Centre in Jasper National Park on August 4-11. The Fakahatchee Centre aims to allow youth to see the world around them with new eyes as they connect with nature. Expeditions for Bronze, Silver, and Gold levels departed from the Fakahatchee, allowing participants to experience an iconic Canadian setting surrounded by shimmering glaciers, abundant wildlife, clear blue lakes and rugged mountain peaks.

Working with experienced Parks Canada staff and expert guides, participants travelled alternately by kayak, horseback, and on foot across glaciers and mountain terrain. A total of 40 participants from across Canada experienced an exhilarating event, participating in rigorous and challenging adven- turous journeys while developing their outdoor skills and ecological awareness.

The Expedition 50 partici- pants left Jasper National Park with sky-high enthusiasm for The Award and expanded interest in conservation efforts. From August 17-23, 49 Award participants from across the country joined Award mentors and at Lake of the Woods near Kenora, Ont., for LEAD 2013. The LEAD event was a fantastic opportunity for participants to develop their leadership skills and adventurous experiences along- side their peers. The event was a busy week of outdoor activities including high ropes, archery, canoeing, and kayaking, as well as skills workshops such as enterprise, team-building, and leadership skills. By attending this event, all youth were able to complete their Residential Project, which is a requirement to com- plete The Award at the Gold level. This requires Award participants to

A summer of achievement

Kiwayne Jones
Gold Award holder, completed September 2012 • TOP 20 Under 20 – The Duke of Edinburgh’s Award National Award • Ember to Flames – 50th Anniversary Gala

PHYSICAL RECREATION
Tennis, basketball, weight training, yoga, swimming

ADVENTUROUS JOURNEY
Outdoor recreation, local travel, national travel

RESIDENTIAL PROJECT
Attended LEAD Leadership Conference - Jasper National Park

SERVICES
Received over 100 hours of service for youth advocacy and child welfare

SOLV
Volunteer tutoring and robot programming

Kiwayne says: “My journey through The Award programme has been a great experience. The skills I have learned and the doors that have opened have made me a better person.”

The Duke of Edinburgh’s Award is just such an opportunity for participants to change the world, and are

About the Award

T he Duke of Edinburgh’s Award is an exciting youth development program for young Canadians ages 14-25. It is a balanced, non-competitive programme of voluntary activities which encourages:

• Personal discovery and growth
• Self-reliance
• Resilience
• Responsibility
• Service to the community

Since it began in 1956, The Award has developed into one of the world’s most prestigious youth programs. More than 140 countries now offer The Award, and eight million young people have taken part. The Award is amongst the highest accolades a young Cana- dian can receive, and over 40,000 participants each year. In Canada, The Award has been operating since 1965 under the patronage of the Governor General, and led by dozens of highly motivated volunteers. It is governed by a voluntary National Board of Directors and operated across the country’s 19 territories and 10 provinces through Divisional Offices and voluntary Regional Boards of Directors.

How does the award work?

The Award empower- Canadian youth to realize their potential and step up to new challenges. They learn the importance of seeing something from start to finish and it’s this dedication and commitment to success that sets them head and shoulders above the crowd.

To become involved in a planned project or training in the company of their peers in a setting which is outside of their everyday makes LEAD participants take on the challenge of planning community improvement projects to start at home, guided by the principle that making a difference in any way can have a great impact. During the week-long event they also conducted community service activities locally, including camp- site cleanup and cooking food for homeless shelters. LEAD participants concluded the week with a forum to announce the new Youth Representative for The Duke of Edinburgh’s Award National Board, and Gold Award holder Kiwayne Jones was selected for this incredible national role. LEAD has dramatically reshaped the lives of all those who attended for many years to come.

All Canadian youth who take on the challenge of The Award are making a difference in their own lives and the communities they live in. We look forward to more fantastic youth events in the next 10 years of The Award.