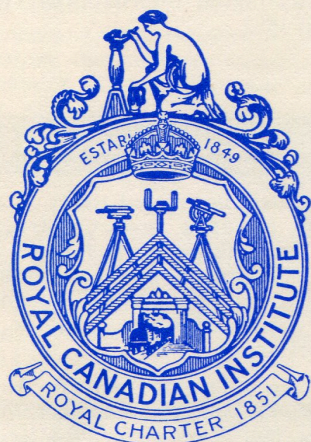


# THE ROYAL CANADIAN INSTITUTE



AMBASSADORS OF SCIENCE



## THE ROYAL CANADIAN INSTITUTE

The Royal Canadian Institute, Canada's oldest scientific society, has steadfastly honoured the terms of its charter by advancing the progress and understanding of science since 1849. Founded during the pale infancy of modern science, the Institute has recorded achievements distinguished in their contributions to science and unique in service to the Canadian public and nation.

## WHERE TIME BEGAN

The Royal Canadian Institute was the first scientific body to advance Sandford Fleming's plan of standard time and the establishment of an observatory at Greenwich as the prime meridian for reckoning time. A charter member of the Institute, Sir Sandford first presented his concept to the body in 1878. Vigorously sponsored by the Institute, the idea of standard time was adopted at the Washington International Time Conference of 1883.

## STIMULUS FOR RESEARCH

Though widely acclaimed today as a key to tomorrow, scientific research struggled unassisted and unknown short years ago. The Institute is rightfully proud of the measures it initiated to interest the Canadian and Ontario governments in scientific and industrial research.

As early as 1914, the Institute had established its Bureau of Scientific and Industrial Research. This Bureau played a key part in helping create the federal government's Honorary Advisory Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, in 1916. The Advisory Council, in turn, was the forefather of today's National Research Council. The Bureau was also instrumental in the activities leading to the development of the National Research Council Laboratories in Ottawa in 1927, and the founding of the Ontario Research Foundation in Toronto in 1928.

## FROM COUNTRY LANES TO HIGHWAY 401

Recognizing the inadequacy of the few roads found in the late 1800's, the Canadian Institute actively campaigned for the improvement and extension of Ontario roadways. These endeavours resulted in the foundation of Ontario Good Roads Association in 1894.

## THE WEATHER REPORT

Instrumental in obtaining the Ontario Government's support of the Meteorological and Magnetic Observatory in 1853, the Canadian Institute performed a vital service to advancement of meteorology in Canada. This Observatory was the immediate forerunner of Meteorological Service of Canada.

## FROM ALGONQUIN TO AUDUBON

The Institute has always maintained a deep interest in the natural sciences and in our land and wildlife.

Long concerned with the vital importance of conservation, the Institute strongly supported Alexander Kirkwood's idea of setting aside an area in the Ottawa-Huron district as a national park. The Act which created Algonquin park in 1893 incorporated the complete design which the Institute proposed and championed over several years. This continuing interest in nature and its resources encouraged the Institute, in 1946, to join with the Toronto Field Naturalists' Club in co-sponsoring the Audubon Screen Tours in Toronto. The programme is both lively and informative.

## STUDIES AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Concern with our nation's accelerating need for trained scientists led the Institute to draw up a wide range of programmes designed to sharpen and further the scientific interests of Canadian youth.

The Institute sponsors an annual High School Essay Contest, encouraging participation by the award of cash prizes. Graduate scholarships are each year awarded to outstanding university students in Canada.



Most recently the Institute has embarked upon a ground-breaking Summer Science Programme for Canadian high school students. The first of its kind in Canada, this programme affords top-ranking science students the invaluable opportunity of a broad spectrum of scientific studies under the guidance of many of the nation's most qualified scientists.

As science becomes a more integral part of our daily lives, the Royal Canadian Institute thus works to define its national and individual meaning and importance, while simultaneously actively contributing to the progress of science itself.

### **SPOKESMEN FOR SCIENCE**

Science has progressed so rapidly during recent years that, without expert teaching and explanation, it has become increasingly difficult for even the most interested observers to comprehend the revolutionary changes in scientific thought, concept and meaning.

As modern science attains a more determining influence on the course of man's activities, it is imperative that no schism develop between scientific thought and society-at-large. The Royal Canadian Institute has always recognized the promotion and interpretation of scientific research and advances to be one of its most fundamental public services.

The Institute offers a series of 19 public lectures conducted by eminent scientists from throughout the world. The esteem in which this programme is held is clearly reflected in the attendance: an average of 21,500 people participate every year. Many are secondary school students.

Public attention is further focused on scientific progress through co-operating with leading scientific societies in sponsoring joint meetings. Additionally, the Institute helps transmit important scientific news by publishing the results of scientific studies and distributing them to scientific organizations throughout the world.

### **THE ROYAL CANADIAN INSTITUTE**

191 College Street, Toronto 2-B  
Telephone: WALnut 2-2804

