

# Canada Weekly

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## Universiade '83



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## Learned society marks one-hundredth anniversary

The Royal Society of Canada is celebrating its centennial this year and from May 30 to September 6 a number of events took place in honour of this special occasion.

The one-hundredth anniversary celebrations included: a commemorative ceremony in the Senate; the presentation of the Society's centenary medals; the induction of new Fellows to the Society; the presentation of individual awards of merit; a three-day symposium; the opening of a special exhibition at the National Library and the annual meeting of the Society.

The Society was founded largely through the efforts of Canada's fourth governor general, the Marquess of Lorne, who was governor general from 1878 to 1883; Sir William Dawson who was principal of McGill University and a naturalist; and Pierre Chauveau who was an educator and legislator. The first meeting was convened in the Senate Chamber on Parliament Hill on May 25, 1882 with the Marquess of Lorne welcoming the 80 Fellows of the Society and delivering the inaugural address.

The object of the Society is "to promote learning and research in the arts and sciences" and at the time of its inception, and for many years after, it was the only organization available to scientists and other scholars in Canada for scholarly discussion and publication. Currently the Society has a membership of more than 1 000 Fellows. It is divided into three Academies: Lettres et sciences humaines; Humanities and Social Sciences; and Science.

Society meetings have encouraged scholars of like interests to create their own specialized societies. The Royal Society has used its influence over the past 100 years to bring into existence and develop a number of institutions important to Canada's intellectual life. These include, the National Museum, the Public Archives of Canada, the Historic Sites and Monuments Board, the National



The Marquess of Lorne was governor general from 1878-1883 and was one of the founders of the Royal Society of Canada.

Gallery of Canada and the National Library of Canada.

### Ceremony in the Senate

In recognition of the historical importance of the Society, a commemorative ceremony took place in the Senate Chamber of the Parliament Buildings on May 30 with many prominent Canadian scholars and scientists as well as dignitaries from other countries taking part. During the ceremony the first centenary medal of the Society was presented to Governor General Edward Schreyer by the Society's President Marc-Adéland Tremblay.

The medal, struck to honour those who have contributed to the advancement of Society objectives in either the humanities, letters or sciences, was the work of master engraver Walter Ott and engraver Terry Smith of the Royal Canadian Mint.

The obverse side of the medal features the profiles of the three founders and the reverse side carries the modern coat of