



June 13, 2005
For Immediate Release

ORION Award recognizes Ontario's Internet and R&E pioneers

TORONTO - Some of Canada's most distinguished leaders in advanced networks will be recognized today for their work as Internet and research and education (R&E) network pioneers, as recipients of the very first ORION Award.

The new award is being presented at the annual Ontario Research and Education Summit, in Toronto.

"The technology we all take for granted has transformed the way we work, live, conduct research and generate new jobs and products and services," said ORION President/CEO Phil Baker. "It's important that we acknowledge the role and contribution these people have made in making this happen," he said.

Among the recipients is Dr. Ross H. Paul, President of the University of Windsor and founding Chair of the Ontario Regional Advanced Network of Ontario, which built and launched Ontario's new ORION network, one of the world's most powerful and advanced R&E networks.

Also recognized is Andrew K. Bjerring, President and CEO of CANARIE, Canada's Advanced Internet Development organization.

Other recipients include Robert Chambers and Eugene Siciunas of the University of Toronto; McMaster University's John Drake; the Government of Ontario's Corporate Chief Strategist Joan McCalla; retired advanced networking leader Warren C. Jackson; former executive director of ORION's predecessor ONet Networking, Roger Taylor; and Roger Watt, of the University of Waterloo.

The pioneering work of the people being recognized today has led the evolution of advanced networking in Ontario and the creation of the ORION network in 2003.

"The impact of their vision and dedication cannot be underestimated," said Dr. Stan Shapson, VP Research and Innovation, York University and chair of the ORANO Board of Directors.

"They helped bring the Internet to Ontario and to Canada and helped establish our province as a globally-leading jurisdiction in advanced networking," he said. "We are proud to be able to recognize achievements of these visionary people."

ABOUT ORION

ORION is owned and operated by the Optical Regional Advanced Network of Ontario, a not-for-profit corporation. Our partners include the Government of Ontario, CANARIE, and numerous private and public sector organizations and institutions.

ABOUT THE ORION AWARDS

The ORION Awards are being introduced this year. 2006 award criteria and nomination forms will be announced in the Fall.

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Full biographies of the ORION Award winners can be downloaded at:

www.orion.on.ca/news/2005winners.doc

Learn more about the history of advanced networking in Ontario at

www.orion.on.ca/news/researchnetworkbackground.doc

Download high resolution image of the ORION Award graphic at this location:

www.orion.on.ca/orionaward/orionawardlogos.html

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