

Dr. Barry Wellar appointed to the Order of Canada



“Barry Wellar is a trailblazer in the field of geographic information science (GIS). Professor emeritus at the University of Ottawa, he has been a strong advocate for the field’s recognition as a legitimate domain of scientific inquiry as well as a fundamental research tool. He pioneered the use of GIS applications in public-sector planning at all levels of government, particularly within the urban context. His leadership within the field, both in academia and industry, is extensive and lauded.”

<https://www.gq.ca/en/media/news/2019/governor-general-invest-40-recipients-order-canada>



Marnie Wellar (daughter), Barry Wellar with wife Marjorie, Flannery Bolger (granddaughter) and Keenan Wellar (son)

Order of Canada Investiture Ceremony Video | March 14, 2019



Click the image above or [CLICK HERE](#) to watch the video.

March 20, 2019

THE TEMISKAMING SPEAKER

Latchford native awarded Order of Canada



Former Latchford resident Barry Wellar received his Order of Canada March 14 in Ottawa from Governor General Julie Payette. (Photo courtesy Sgt. Johanie Maheu, Rideau Hall © OSGG, 2019)

OTTAWA (Staff/Special) – Barry Wellar, C.M., of Ottawa, formerly of Latchford, has been presented with the Order of Canada.

The presentation, which is one of the country's highest civil awards, was made in a ceremony Thursday, March 14.

Wellar has been cited as “a trailblazer in the field of geographic information science (GIS). Professor emeritus at the University of Ottawa, he has been a strong advocate for the field’s recognition as a legitimate domain of scientific inquiry as well as a fundamental research tool. He pioneered the use of GIS applications in public-sector planning at all levels of government, particularly within the urban context. His leadership within the field, both in academia and industry, is extensive and lauded.”

He is among 105 new recipients of the Order of Canada announced by Her Excellency the Right Honourable Julie Payette, Governor of Canada.

The Order of Canada is presented to those who have provided a high level of community and national service.

Barry Wellar's Order

By Gordon Brock | The Temiskaming Speaker, Wednesday, October 31, 2019, Page 4a

In June of this year, yours truly had prepared a little discourse to deliver at the Timiskaming District Secondary School (TDSS) graduation ceremonies. However, protocol dictated I had to hold on.

Now for the rest of the story.

In early 2010, when yours truly worked from the editor's desk of The Temiskaming Speaker, I received a phone call from a Dr. Barry Wellar, professor emeritus at the University of Ottawa. He had a request.

He explained that he was beginning an annual research scholarship to a TDSS graduate who would continue postsecondary education, and who was regarded by teachers as having



outstanding research potential. He was also offering bursaries, achievement scholarships, to any TDSS graduate who lived in Latchford.

He wondered, if it wasn't too much trouble, if I could, on his behalf, attend the TDSS June graduations and present the scholarship/bursaries to the student(s).

I was honoured and accepted immediately.

This began a tradition, which continues approaching a decade later, as the Wellar scholarship/bursaries.

I wasn't aware at the time, but have come to know, that Dr. Wellar grew up in Latchford, graduated in 1959 from Cobalt High School, was known as an elite softball player in that sport's heyday here, and then went on to become a graduate of Queen's (Geography and Economics) and Northwestern University (MS, PhD in Geography).

After decades of professional and educational accomplishments at the national and international level, Wellar is scheduled to receive the Order of Canada at Rideau Hall later this year.

To put this in perspective, according to research, only two other people in our area were Order of Canada recipients: Armstrong Township's Laurent Belanger in 1997 and, in 2008, Douglas Pollard of Highway Book Shop fame.

Now in his late 70s, Dr. Wellar is still an active recreational hockey player in Ottawa and, as readers of The Temiskaming Speaker know, a regular Speaker letter to the editor writer.

This summer we met in person for only the third time, but we have enjoyed regular correspondence via email and/or the telephone. That weekend of our lunch he was the keynote speaker at a reunion of Cobalt High graduates and he mentioned he was going to be interviewed that weekend by esteemed local journalist John R. Hunt. How's that for an iconic Temiskaming moment? The most accomplished media person in Temiskaming in the 20th century sitting down with one of this area's most distinguished expats.

Now, back to yours truly's undelivered June discourse.

"For these past few years the Wellar Scholarship presentation has been a regular part of the Timiskaming District School graduation ceremonies. Dr. Barry Wellar is currently the President of the Information Research Board Inc. based in Ottawa. He is also a member of this school's prestigious Wall of Fame. An event happened this month which all the graduates, parents, family members, teachers and faculty should be made aware of: Barry Wellar was named to the Order of Canada. Being named to the Order of Canada is one of the highest honours a citizen in this country can achieve. If you look at the list of those chosen to receive an Order of Canada, it's a Who's Who of the major figures that made up and, in some cases, still contribute to, the fabric of this country. This honour to Dr. Wellar reflects well on the institution of Timiskaming District Secondary School. To the students who are graduating you stand on the



shoulders of those who came before you. Dr. Wellar's achievement is another example of that."

(Gordon Brock was the editor of The Temiskaming Speaker from 1985-2017)

Thanks and thanks (Editorial)

By Steven Larocque | The Temiskaming Speaker, March 27, 2019

The Speaker ran a photo and story last week on the investiture of Barry Wellar into the Order of Canada.

I'd asked the former Latchford resident, and veteran letter writer to The Speaker, for some comments by email on this great Canadian honour.

But newspapers are still deadline driven and Dr. Wellar's comments didn't arrive from Nepean in time to be included with the story.

The reply from the professor emeritus from the University of Ottawa is, certainly, worth sharing with readers:

Q: What does it mean to you to receive this honour?

A: It is a much-appreciated recognition. The Order of Canada honour means that my achievements in the field of geographic information science are seen by the Governor General's Advisory Council to be important to Canada. The Council's regard for my achievements is very gratifying at a personal level, and it also means a great deal to family, friends, and colleagues who have supported me.

At a professional level, the significance of the Order of Canada award is that it brings substantive credibility to the field of geographic information science, which in turn means my "trailblazing work" as it is called in the citation may be a catalyst for further development and advancement of the field for the benefit of Canada.

As a scientist, it means a great deal to have made contributions that others can use, and to become part of the Order of Canada tradition of serving Canada to the best of one's abilities.

Q: Did you ever think growing up in Latchford that this would be something you would, or could, achieve?

A: The core objectives of science are to add to knowledge, and add to ways and means of continuing to add to knowledge, and that kind of language was not often heard growing up in Latchford.

Truth be told, by the time I finished Cobalt High School and headed off to Queen's University, I was thinking more about adventure than heavy intellectual lifting. No getting around it, I was a



somewhat casual student, and would rather be playing fastball, hockey, football, track and field, and pool, lots of pool.

However, not for a second am I selling short the people in my home town, nor those in Cobalt, Temagami, New Liskeard, V-Town, Elliott Lake and other points north and south, east and west along Highways 11, 17, 65, 66 and 108 with whom I interacted during my formative years.

It was due to experiences with them, and exposure to the forests, water, rocks, blueberries, clear skies, cold mornings, rinks, ball fields, blackflies, sawmills, and mines of Northern Ontario, that I gained a strong grounding in life skills, values, and attitudes. This real-world grounding was invaluable when it came to staying the course in challenging situations without muss or fuss or excuse-making.

And, I wish to acknowledge, my training as a geographer began very early because when I was a boy, the entire town of Latchford was a playground. Pretty neat.

Emeritus Professor Barry Wellar is appointed to the Order of Canada

University of Ottawa | Posted on Monday, July 23, 2018

The Faculty of Arts would like to congratulate Professor Emeritus Barry Wellar on his exceptional achievement in being inducted into the Order of Canada.

Recognized for his extensive contributions to the development and advancement of the field of geographic information systems in Canada, Barry Wellar has been inducted into the Order of Canada, one of our country's highest civilian honours. Barry Wellar is amongst 105 new appointments to the Order of Canada, announced earlier this week by Her Excellency the Right Honourable Julie Payette, Governor General of Canada. The Order recognizes outstanding achievement, dedication to the community and service to the nation.



Barry Wellar is a Professor Emeritus in the Department of Geography, Environment and Geometrics at the University of Ottawa and will be invited to accept his insignia at a ceremony to be held at a later date.

<https://arts.uottawa.ca/en/news/emeritus-professor-barry-wellar-appointed-order-canada>



Barry Wellar, C.M., GISP Announced as Closing Speaker for URISA's GIS Leadership Academy in Toronto

By Wendy Nelson | Published Friday, July 5, 2019

URISA is pleased to announce that **Barry Wellar, C.M., GISP** will provide the closing remarks at the GIS Leadership Academy (GLA) in Toronto (August 19-23, 2019).

On March 14, 2019, former URISA President (1978) and Professor Emeritus at the University of Ottawa, Barry Wellar was inducted into the Order of Canada by Her Excellency the Right Honourable Julie Payette, Governor General of Canada at Rideau Hall in Ottawa. Governor General Payette remarked:

"Barry Wellar is a trailblazer in the field of geographic information science (GIS). Professor emeritus at the University of Ottawa, he has been a strong advocate for the field's recognition as a legitimate domain of scientific inquiry as well as a fundamental research tool. He pioneered the use of GIS applications in public-sector planning at all levels of government, particularly within the urban context. His leadership within the field, both in academia and industry, is extensive and lauded."

In 2011, Barry was inducted into the **URISA GIS Hall of Fame**. His contributions as a leader in the field are abundant and we are honored to have his participation at the GIS Leadership Academy in August.

The URISA GIS Leadership Academy has enjoyed steady and enthusiastic participation since it was first presented in 2007. Since then, more than 800 GIS professionals have attended the specialized five-day GIS leadership and management training program that focuses on:

- GIS leadership and management techniques
- GIS Strategic planning
- Successful team development
- Organizational capacity building and sustainability strategies (ROI, innovative funding ideas)
- Program investment and justification
- Change management
- Situation assessment and organizational performance evaluation
- Ethics and professional challenges
- Problem solving

The Academy is taught by GIS leaders (all are GISPs and accomplished in the field). Each GLA includes numerous interactive exercises, team-building tools, and opportunities to delve into topics in a way you cannot do at a large conference. Attendance is limited in size to encourage such interaction with each event capped at about 50 participants.

For more information, including registration and a detailed agenda, click [here](#).

<https://www.urisa.org/news/2019/07/05/press-release/barry-wellar-c.m.-gisp-announced-as-closing-speaker-for-urisa-s-gis-leadership-academy-in-toronto/>

<https://www.bespatialontario.ca/News/7765938>



GIS Pioneer Barry Wellar inducted into the Order of Canada

By Greg Babinski | March 22, 2019

My friend, colleague, and former URISA President Barry Wellar was inducted on March 14, 2019 into the Order of Canada by Her Excellency the Right Honourable Julie Payette, Governor General of Canada at Rideau Hall in Ottawa.

Governor General Payette said of Barry:

Barry Wellar is a trailblazer in the field of geographic information science (GIS). Professor emeritus at the University of Ottawa, he has been a strong advocate for the field's recognition as a legitimate domain of scientific inquiry as well as a fundamental research tool. He pioneered the use of GIS applications in public-sector planning at all levels of government, particularly within the urban context. His leadership within the field, both in academia and industry, is extensive and lauded.

In 2011 Barry was inducted into the URISA GIS Hall of Fame, where you can read more about his extensive contributions to the field of GIS.

Woops, that's *Barry Wellar, C.M.*

<https://gisandyou.org/2019/03/22/gis-pioneer-barry-wellar-inducted-into-the-order-of-canada/>