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PRESIDENT

Leading into the future

AS THE ROYAL CANADIAN Geographical Society (RCGS) marks its 75th anniversary this year, it is also marking another important milestone by appointing Gisèle Jacob as its first female president.

"My greatest challenge will be launching the Society into



DAVID BARBOUR

another 75 years," says Jacob, a former public servant who has been a Society governor since 1994.

Now retired, Jacob held senior-management positions at the Canadian Human Rights Commission and Environment Canada. She was also vice-president of public affairs for The Mining Association of Canada and was appointed chair of the Geographical Names Board of Canada in 1999. Her work at the Society includes a six-year stint as vice-president, along with positions on the awards, lectures and *géographica* committees, among others.

She says geography is of interest to Canadians who want to know what's happening both within and outside their borders, and she believes the work of the RCGS in explaining the country to its population is important.

"The Society has a vital role to play in promoting geographic education," says Jacob, "and in helping Canadians of all ages understand their place in the world."

J.K.

RESEARCH

Pine marten protector

ANALYZING DEAD and dying trees in Newfoundland's only remaining old-growth forest wouldn't be quite as engaging if it didn't have the potential to save the pine marten (RIGHT).

Lanna Campbell, a geography and environmental studies student at New Brunswick's Mount Allison University, is one of this year's recipients of The Royal Canadian Geographical Society's research grants. She studied forests in the Main River watershed, at the southern part of the northern peninsula, with the marten's welfare in mind.

The Newfoundland pine marten (*Martes americana atrata*), a small weasel-like mammal, is considered a threatened species on the island. Although some fall prey to trappers, habitat loss from forestry is primarily to blame for its decline.

Last summer, Campbell



ART WOLFE/PHOTO RESEARCHERS

analyzed cores from felled trees to determine their age and the time since their death. Martens survive in the area, feeding mostly on voles and mice, which tend to live in decaying trees.

"My research will tell us how long the structures on the forest floor have been there," says Campbell, a component of the pine marten habitat that is often overlooked but critical to their survival.

Although she collected core samples and wood slices, Campbell hopes her data will help the province develop a method of visual analysis for

estimating the age of a forest just by looking at its deadwood.

This kind of system, used in the Pacific Northwest of the United States, would be a first for Newfoundland — and potentially help save the Newfoundland pine marten.

J.K.

Don't forget

The deadline for RCGS studentships is January 31 and for regular grants is February 28. Find out more details about the RCGS grants program at: www.rcgs.org/grants/

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Celebrating 75

THE ROYAL Canadian Geographical Society (RCGS) and *Canadian Geographic* threw a 75th birthday party in Ottawa in November to honour some of the country's top researchers, with the help of Governor General Adrienne Clarkson (FAR RIGHT), who is patron of the Society.

"Mackenzie King once stated that while 'some countries have too much history, we have too much geography,'" said Clarkson. "Do you suppose this had anything to do with Charles

Camsell and his associates having just published the first *Canadian Geographical Journal*?"

Clarkson awarded the Massey Medal to urban

pioneer Edryd Shaw (right).

At a luncheon the following day, former RCGS president



geographer Larry Bourne (ABOVE, centre) and Gold Medals to biologist and documentary filmmaker Jean Lemire (left) and remote-sensing



BOTH: DAVID BARBOUR

Alex. T. Davidson and former RCGS governor Samuel Arseneault were also recognized with Camsell Awards for their outstanding contributions as volunteers with the Society.