



Kerry Smith
Registered Practical Nurse
Class of 1981



Peter Wintonick
Film Production
Class of 1974

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Two Algonquin College Alumni Receive Ontario's Highest Award

Toronto, ON., February 19, 2007 – Two graduates from Algonquin College in Ottawa have been honoured with 2006 Ontario Premier's Awards. Kerry Smith, Ophthalmology Nurse and Corneal-Retrieval Nurse at the Ottawa Hospital and a 1981 graduate of the Registered Practical Nurse program, has won in the Health Sciences category. Peter Wintonick, CEO of Necessary Illusions Productions Inc. and a 1974 graduate of the Film Production program, has won in the Creative Arts and Design category. This makes seven Premier's Awards for Algonquin College graduates in eight years.

The Premier's Awards are presented annually to Ontario College alumni who demonstrate career success related to their college experience and have made a significant contribution to their community. The awards were established in 1992 to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the college system. Every college is invited to submit candidates in six categories: Technology; Business; Health Sciences; Creative Arts and Design; Community Services; and Recent Graduate.

"We are proud to have Kerry Smith and Peter Wintonick as alumni of Algonquin College," says Algonquin College President Robert Gillett. "Their tireless community work and leadership in their respective fields are wonderful examples of the important role the College plays in preparing our graduates for the workforce of tomorrow."

Smith and Wintonick were recognized at the Premier's Award Gala, held at Toronto's Westin Harbour Castle on Monday, February 19, 2007.

After identifying the need for a more reliable cornea-retrieval protocol for Eastern Ontario, Kerry Smith enrolled in a cornea-retrieval training course and then single-handedly established what has become the most successful retrieval program in Canada.

"Algonquin College framed the path to my future and fuelled my passion for Nursing," says Smith. "They provided me with the skills and encouragement that stimulated a lifetime of interest in nursing care."

While working full-time as an ophthalmology nurse, Smith ran her fledgling Ottawa Cornea Retrieval Program for three years on a voluntary basis before securing funding. Smith also acts as the Ontario Regional Director for the Eyebank of Canada and is a member of the Kidney Foundation Donation Committee.

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Peter Wintonick is one of Canada's most accomplished documentarians. He made international waves in 1992 with the release of *Manufacturing Consent: Noam Chomsky and the Media*, which earned multiple awards and has been distributed worldwide. He received the Ecumenical Prize at the prestigious Berlin Film Festival for his 2000 release, *Cinema Verité: Defining the Moment*. Wintonick is a co-founder of the Documentary Organization of Canada and a frequent lecturer, workshop instructor and film festival jurist.

"Everything I know now, and every success I've ever achieved can be traced in a direct line back to the very practical and cinematically immersive experience I had at Algonquin College," says Wintonick. "When I went to school in the 70's, everyone wanted to be a filmmaker, so we went to the best film school we could find. Algonquin is as relevant now as it was then."

A pioneer in the exploration of the Internet as a medium for creative expression, he sits on the board of DigiMart, the international forum on digital cinema. In 2006, Wintonick was honoured with a Governor General's Award for Visual and Media Arts.

"Kerry and Peter are excellent role models, not simply for students studying in Algonquin's Nursing and Media programs, but for all College students and graduates," concludes Gillett.

About Algonquin College:

Algonquin College of Applied Arts and Technology is located in the Nation's Capital and the Ottawa Valley and is the third-largest college in Ontario. Algonquin is a leader in the integration of technology into learning. Algonquin College has a diverse population of nearly 16,000 full-time students and 35,000 part-time registrations in more than 140 programs and is committed to student success. For more information please visit www.algonquincollege.com.

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