

**ALGONQUIN COLLEGE ALUMNUS
WINS COLLEGE'S FOURTH
PREMIER'S AWARD**

1385 Woodroffe Avenue
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Ottawa, ON, February 24, 2003: An Algonquin College alumnus Geoffrey Darby, President of Oxygen Media Inc., has been honoured with an Ontario Premier's Award. Darby is the fourth Algonquin alumnus in five years to win a Premier's Award.

The Premier's Awards - six in total - are presented annually to Ontario college alumni whose achievements have improved the quality of life for their communities and society. 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.

"There is no question that Algonquin College had an influence on my life," says Darby. "Winning this award is truly an honour, and it was Algonquin that started me on my career path in broadcasting."

Darby was presented with the Premier's Award in Creative Arts and Design by the Honourable Dianne Cunningham, Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities, at the 11th Annual Premier's Award Gala, held at Toronto's Westin Harbour Castle on Monday, February 24.

"We are proud to have Geoffrey Darby as an alumnus of Algonquin College," says Algonquin College President Robert Gillett. "His award-winning work in the television industry is a wonderful example of the calibre of graduates that Algonquin prepares for the workplace. We are proud to have him as a graduate."

Darby has written, produced and directed award winning and precedent-setting children's television programs. Not long after graduating from Algonquin College, Darby created and produced, for Ottawa's CJOH TV, the popular children's television show *You Can't Do That on Television*.

Prior to joining Oxygen Media Inc., Darby was Executive Vice President of CBS, and President of their cable operation *Eye on People*. He has also held positions at CBS's parent company, Viacom.

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As President of Production and Convergence for New York-based Oxygen Media Inc., Darby oversees the day-to-day operation of vast television and online operations that include Oxygen TV, Oxygen.com and Oprah Winfrey's Oprah.com.

Darby is an active member of his Glen Ridge, New Jersey community, where he is involved in the local library, athletic association, and educational foundation, with which he has helped build a working television studio for a local high school.

Darby remains actively involved with his alma mater, and returns to lecture in Algonquin College's Television Broadcasting Department.

"Geoffrey Darby is an excellent model, not simply for students studying in Algonquin's Television Broadcasting programs, but for all college students and graduates," says Sherry Thurig, President of Algonquin College's Alumni Association."

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