

Speech by Alan Davis presented at the 25th anniversary party on
February 7, 2008

Introduction of Dr. Marc Garneau

Hello everyone and welcome! It's good to see you all here.

It is my absolute pleasure to introduce our Guest Speaker, Dr. Marc Garneau.

For most of us, Marc requires very little by way of introduction. He is to say the least, a pre-eminent Canadian.

Marc holds a degree in Engineering Physics from the Royal Military College of Canada, as well as a Doctorate in Electrical Engineering, from the Imperial College of Science and Technology in London, England.

He is probably best known as the first Canadian in space. He has taken part in three shuttle flights, and has logged almost 700 hours on space shuttle missions. He has also worked as a CAPCOM for a number of shuttle flights. The CAPCOM, if I understand it correctly is the guy on the receiving end of "Houston, we have a problem". He is a former President of the Canadian Space Agency.

Dr. Garneau is a companion of the order of Canada, (Canada's highest civilian honor). He also has two high schools named after him.

Marc is also Chancellor of Carleton University in Ottawa.

If I were to include all of his accomplishments, this would not be a cinq à sept, it would be more like a cinq à neuf. Suffice it to say that he is one very accomplished Canadian.

Looking ahead, Marc has been nominated as a liberal candidate in the federal riding of Westmount-Ville-Marie. Who knows which new frontiers lie before him. Stay tuned.

Please join me in welcoming Dr. Marc Garneau.

Thank you Marc for sharing your thoughts with us.

To show our appreciation for being our Guest Speaker, we asked Marc if we could make a contribution to a charity of his choice. Marc is, in fact, the National Patron of a charity called Hope Air. The charity helps Canadians in financial need, arrange flights to receive necessary medical treatment. Since its inception in 1986, Hope Air has provided over 50,000 flights to Canadians in need.

Marc, we have made a donation to Hope Air in your name.

There's a whole bunch of good people here this evening that I hope you'll get to meet.

I hope you get to meet Marc. He has to leave us at around 7 o'clock because he actually has to be in Ottawa later this evening. When you meet him, you'll find that aside from being a great Canadian, he's a really nice guy.

I hope you get to meet Diane, my life partner as well as my business partner. They say that behind every successful man, there is a woman. All I can say is that in my case, it's true.

I hope you get to meet our 4 children, and the other members of our family. They have played an important role in our lives over the last 25 years, and I'm very pleased that they're here to share this event with us.

I hope you get to meet my friends. Having started a new life in Canada in 1978, with no friends, I don't take friendships for granted. You'll notice that what they have in common, is a dry sense of humour.

I hope you get to meet our staff. This is one very talented and highly motivated group of people who share a passion for identifying the most talented people in the world, and convincing them to come to work for our Clients.

Speaking of which; I hope you get to meet our Clients. We are privileged to have assembled in this room a whole bunch of far-sighted individuals, who truly believe that hiring highly talented people, creates an enormous business advantage. Our Clients represent the talent champions, who have inspired me to develop the range of recruiting solutions that we provide today. I don't take you for granted either!

There are 2 Clients in particular who have travelled an awfully long way to attend this event, that I would like to mention by name.

The first is Dr. Michael Beckmann. Mike is Senior Director of Talent Acquisition at Freddie Mac Corporation in Washington DC. Dr. Beckmann (or Dr. Mike as we know him) is a recognized thoughtleader in the field of talent acquisition, and is extremely well regarded in this field. He was an early proponent of building an "external talent bench". I consider Mike to be one of the godfathers of Strategic Recruiting.

The second is Bruce Aikenhead who unfortunately could not attend this evening, as his flight was cancelled at the last minute. This is Canada after all, eh! I am going to speak about him anyway.

Bruce was our Client during the Canadian Astronaut Recruiting program. It was through him that I met Marc. He was planning to come out of retirement, all the way from Salmon Arm, British Columbia to be with us this evening.

I have a message for you Bruce from someone who would have liked to have been here but couldn't unfortunately make it. It reads as follows:

Dear Bruce – your career has helped to build an aerospace capability in Canada, that is the stuff of dreams. You have my undiminishing thanks for all you have done, right through from the Avro Arrow, to the Okanagan Science Centre. Every time I have spoken with you, it has been a delight, as you are a true gentleman, a skilled engineer and a highly respected Canadian - as well as just a truly nice guy. All the best from Houston Texas, Star City Russia, low Earth orbit, and beyond.

It is signed,

Colonel, Chris Hadfield, Astronaut

Recruiting astronauts has been one of the highlights of my career to date. Canada is known as a country rich in natural resources. The Canadian Astronaut Recruitment Program taught me that it is also a country rich in human resources. Meeting so many talented Canadians was both an enlightening and at the same time, a somewhat humbling experience.

To share this special celebration with you this evening, is for me, both an honour and a privilege. I consider myself to be a very lucky man.

Whoever you meet this evening, there's a good chance that you're going to get along. What we all share, is common values, and that is, in my view, the basis of every successful relationship.

So, for the rest of the evening, meet as many of these great people as you can, and get the most out of the time that you've spent with us.

Looking ahead, we're determined to stay at the leading edge of Talent Acquisition strategies. This year, you're going to be hearing a lot about our latest initiative; "Competitor Talent Mapping", real radical stuff.

Lastly, a big thank you to Irene, Michelynn, Laurie and Diane for all the work that they have put in to make this event a success.

I look forward to seeing you all at our 30th anniversary bash in 2013. At that stage, I will probably suggest a move to a different venue. By then, I'll be concerned that if we hold our event in a museum again, you might be tempted to leave me there as a permanent exhibit!

I am honoured that you all came. Thank you.