



John McKay, Times Colonist
Not even a little rain could dampen the spirits of Royal Roads graduates at convocation ceremonies Thursday

New graduates leave with call to fashion a meaningful legacy

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A procession of umbrella-toting graduates trooped from the Royal Roads University complex Thursday to a rain-whipped marquee tent, where they received an array of degrees, diplomas and certificates to mark the first day of the school's two-day spring convocation.

Students have stated a preference for having the graduation event on the Colwood campus, but since Royal Roads does not have a large enough indoor area, the tent was the only option.

The university is conferring 735 degrees this spring, 729 of them at the master's level. In a special presentation on Thursday, the Chancellor's Community Recognition Award went to Leadership Victoria, a leadership-training program that is a first for Canada.

Lt.-Gen. Scott Clements (ret'd), a military and business leader who attended Royal Roads when it was a military college, receives an honorary doctorate today from university president Richard Skinner.

Thursday's convocation address was given by Royal Roads professor Ann Dale, who recently became one of just five Canadians to receive a Trudeau Fellows Prize for 2004. The award from the Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation is worth \$150,000 over three years, along with \$25,000 per year for travel and research expenses.

Dale, who teaches sustainable development theory, governance and decision-making, is using the Trudeau award for her ongoing research on public-policy issues.

"I think diversity will be one of the most important issues facing Canadian society in this century," Dale told the convocation assembly.

Aspects of diversity can be vital to the survival of single-resource communities, which she has studied in her research, Dale said.

"Part of my research involves looking at single-resource communities and what characteristics allow one place to successfully transcend an economic collapse, while in other cases the community dies.

"The key may lie in diversity, how open the community is to outside ideas and how diverse their access is to different kinds of capital, especially intellectual capital."

Dale ended her address by extolling the importance of creating a legacy.

"We may not all be leaders, but as individuals we can all make a difference," she said. "We all have an opportunity to leave a legacy by the way we walk on the planet, and leaving our children and our grandchildren a better world than we were privileged to walk in."

Illustration:

• Color Photo: John McKay, Times Colonist / Not even a little rain could dampen the spirits of Royal Roads graduates at convocation ceremonies Thursday.

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