



INNOVATIS



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Principal Award*

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for surgery** Page 2

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Murray Goldberg

Vancouver business entrepreneur **Murray Goldberg** had no idea his small experiment would blossom into an indispensable teaching and learning tool called **WebCT**, used by more than 10 million students around the world.

As a University of British Columbia computer science professor, he just wanted to make it easier for teachers to use the Internet's World Wide Web to help students learn.

"But faculty members didn't have the resources, the time, the skills and the money to build their own Web-based courses," he says. "So we built a tool that put those resources in everybody's hands."

Goldberg is the recipient of this year's coveted

Web-based tool earns \$100,000 EnCana Principal Award

\$100,000 EnCana Principal Award for his remarkable innovation that helped establish a worldwide e-learning (electronically assisted learning) community.

*More than 10
million students
around the world
in over 85
countries use the
e-learning tool
every day.*

He pioneered e-learning by building WebCT (World Wide Web Course Tools), software designed by a teacher, for teachers, that they could use to easily create and deliver Web-based courses.

To meet the growing demand for his product, Goldberg founded WebCT

Educational Technologies Corp. In 1999, WebCT merged with Universal Learning Technologies of Massachusetts. The company (www.webct.com) now has a total of more than 300 employees.

Courses created with WebCT contain searchable course notes and content, review material, a bulletin board for discussion, assessment tools such as quizzes, chat areas and more.

Goldberg left as Canadian president of WebCT in 2002 to found a new company, Silicon Chalk, which builds e-learning products for the classroom. He still loves teaching and tries to teach at least one course a year at UBC – with WebCT's help, of course!

*“It abolishes
the problem of
re-do surgery.”*

*– Dr. Garnette
Sutherland*



**CanWest Global
Communications Corp.**

*Proud sponsor of the
\$25,000 Manning
Award of Distinction*

Movable MRI revolutionizes surgery

Calgary neurosurgeon **Dr. Garnette Sutherland** and other physicians who operate inside people’s brains were confronting a serious challenge – how to ensure they “honoured their contract” with their patients by doing a successful surgery.

Dr. Sutherland has won the prestigious \$25,000 Manning Award of Distinction, sponsored by CanWest Global Communications Inc., for his innovation that is revolutionizing neurosurgery.

His **Intraoperative MR System** provides surgeons with exquisitely detailed, 3-D magnetic resonance (MR) images at any time during an operation. The surgeons can actually see if their surgery is successful – if they have completely removed a patient’s brain tumour, for example.

Until Dr. Sutherland developed the technology – in collaboration with



*Dr. Sutherland sits
beside his MR system.*

Dr. John Saunders, then with the National Research Council of Canada’s Institute for Biodiagnostics – surgeons had to rely on pre- and post-operative images to see if their surgery did the job or if the procedure would have to be redone.

“We now have pictures that show the exact way in which we’re operating,” says Dr. Sutherland, former chief of neurosurgery at the University of Calgary-Foothills Medical Centre. “It abol-

ishes the problem of re-do surgery.”

When the surgeon isn’t using the powerful MR machine in the operating room, it can be automatically moved via a ceiling track to another room where radiologists can use it for diagnosing patients.

Dr. Sutherland’s invention “truly raises the standard of medical practice,” says Dr. Roland Auer, Professor of Pathology, Laboratory Medicine and Clinical Neurosciences at the University of Calgary.

A commercial version is built and sold by Innovative Magnetic Resonance Imaging Systems Inc. (www.imris.com) of Winnipeg.

Dr. Sutherland and his colleagues have used the world’s first Intraoperative MR System, at the Seaman Family MR Research Centre in Calgary, to monitor surgery in more than 550 patients.

The **Ernest C. Manning Innovation Awards** program is named in honor of and began under the patronage of a great statesman. Ernest Manning, Alberta’s longest-serving premier, became a symbol of critical thinking and progressive analysis. His belief in recognizing the intelligence of the common person, and his strong ideals of honesty, integrity and sincerity, allowed him to retire undefeated after nearly half a century of public service. When he died at age 87 in 1996, accolades poured in for a man whose vision of the future helped shape the destiny of thousands. This program continues his legacy. It recognizes and rewards Canadians who aspire to “do good for the common good.” Since 1982, more than \$3 million has been awarded to Canada’s brightest innovators.



“It’s a big problem and it can happen to the average family with a backyard pool.”

– Bob Lyons



*Proud sponsor
of the
\$10,000 Manning
Innovation Award.*

Alarm protects toddlers from drowning mishaps

As a parent with a keen interest in accident prevention, **Bob Lyons** knows that a child can drown in the time it takes to answer a phone.

“It’s a big problem and it can happen to the average family with a backyard pool,” he says.

Lyons, president of Terrapin Communications Inc. of Ottawa, Ont., has won a \$10,000 Manning Innovation Award, sponsored by Noranda Inc., for his **Safety Turtle** innovation.

The personal wireless alarm system is designed to protect young children, seniors, disabled persons and even pets from drowning or serious injury in backyard swimming pools, lakes and other water hazards.

Safety Turtle for toddlers includes a locking wristband, designed in

the shape of a colourful turtle that is worn on the child’s wrist. The wristband instantly detects immersion in water and sends a radio signal to a base station in the home, sounding a loud alarm.

“Safety Turtle is the only alarm that works in a shared pool setting,” Lyons says. “And wherever the child goes, Safety Turtle follows.”

Each year, among children ages 4 and under, there are about 400 residential swimming pool drownings and 3,000 near-drownings in Canada and the U.S., according to public health figures.

The best protection is the constant supervision by the parent or adult, Lyons says. Homeowners should also secure their swimming pool, ideally with a four-sided fence.

Ottawa grandparents



Bob Lyons’ device has caught Oprah’s attention.

Jack and Dorothy Hobbs use Safety Turtle at their lakeside cottage, as a backup to keeping an eye on their three young grandchildren. “It has given us security and peace of mind. We know it works and will work if needed,” Jack says.

Terrapin (www.safety-turtle.com) now sells about 20,000 Safety Turtle units per year in North America, Europe, South Africa, Australia and Latin America. It has been featured three times on the Oprah Winfrey TV show and has been displayed as one of Canada’s brightest innovations at the Canadian Science and Technology Museum in Ottawa.



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Tiny shock absorbers level wobbly tables

Creative designer and entrepreneur Ian MacDonald was waiting for a flight to Vancouver, relaxing in the airport lounge when a wobbly table spilled his drink over his pants.

“So a few minutes later, here I am on the plane and I’m wet where I don’t really want to be wet,” MacDonald says. During his flight, he sketched the concept that would end wobbly restaurant tables.

TABLE SHOX are fully automatic, self-adjusting hydraulic gliders or shock absorbers that simply replace a table’s existing manual gliders or “table feet.” MacDonald and business partner Evian Macmillan, both with FundaMetal Designs Inc. (www.tableshox.com) of Port Coquitlam, B.C., have won a \$10,000 Manning Innovation Award for their elegant and inexpensive remedy to this age-old problem.



Ian MacDonald, top, and Evian Macmillan devised an elegant solution.

Wobbly tables are considered an even bigger complaint in restaurants than the food. People do their level best to fix the problem. They jam everything from matchbooks to sugar packets under one or more table legs.

But once patented TABLE SHOX are in-

stalled, the table’s weight compresses all of the tiny shock absorbers on the table legs except where a leg is sitting on a lower part of the floor. The shock absorbers expand to fill in this gap and – voila! – no more grabbing for your glass of wine.

“TABLE SHOX totally eliminate the headache of a wobbly table,” Macmillan says.

Scott Jaeger, who operates The Pear Tree restaurant in Burnaby, B.C., says: “We love it. No matter where you put the tables or how you move the tables, they’ll always be level and straight.”

TABLE SHOX are now in use across the entire spectrum of restaurants. FundaMetal Designs is currently shipping about 15,000 to 20,000 four-legged tables to distributors and manufacturers in Canada, the U.S., Mexico, Puerto Rico, Australia, New Zealand and Fiji.

No more sugar packets stuffed under one or more table legs in restaurants, thanks to TABLE SHOX.

The \$10,000 Manning Innovation Award won by Ian MacDonald and Evian Macmillan is sponsored anonymously.



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