

Dr. Marc Garneau

Having been involved in space one way or another for most of my life, I feel it is a great honour and privilege to be able to introduce Dr. Marc Garneau today. Young people of all ages have dreamed of the opportunity to fly into space as astronauts. Only a small number of Canadians have done so - Marc was the first.

Born in Quebec City in 1949 where he received his early education, he went on to the Royal Military College in Kingston graduating with a degree in Engineering Physics in 1970. He then attended the Imperial College of Science and Technology in London, and was awarded a doctorate in electrical engineering in 1973.

He served in the Canadian Navy as a weapon systems engineer, retiring ultimately with the rank of Captain in 1989. Marc is one of six Canadian astronauts selected in December 1983, and was seconded from the Navy to the Astronaut Program shortly thereafter.

He became the first Canadian astronaut to fly as a payload specialist on STS-41G in October, 1984. I was there at the Cape and stood with his family and colleagues as we saw him blast off and soar into space - my how I envied him !

In 1992, he was selected for NASA astronaut training and working at the Johnson Space Centre in Houston, he became a NASA mission specialist. He is a veteran of three space flights -

STS-41G in 1984, STS-77 in 1996 and STS-97 in 2000. Marc has logged 677 hours in space. He was appointed President of the Canadian Space Agency in November, 2001.

Among his many honours and awards, he was appointed an Officer of the Order of Canada in 1984, and has been awarded honorary doctorates in six Canadian universities: Laval, Ottawa, Lethbridge, Technical University of Nova Scotia, RMC and the College Militaire in Saint-Jean, Quebec.

We all have every right to be proud of this exceptional Canadian. I present to you Dr. Marc Garneau.