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Sgt Johanie Maheu

Bert Washmund receives his Order of Canada medal from Governor General of Canada Julie Payette.

## Miltonian receives Order of Canada

**STEVE LEBLANC**  
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A longtime Miltonian who made a global impact in the mining and metallurgical industry has joined the Order of Canada fraternity.

Bert Washmund — who helped take Hatch Ltd. from a small company to a worldwide leader in the field — received his medal alongside 47 other recipients at Ottawa's Rideau Hall Wednesday, Jan. 24.

"It's a very humbling experience," he told the Champion.

"I didn't know too many of the other recipients, but you realize that you're just one frog in a large pond."

Raised on a farm near Bancroft and beginning his education in a one-room public school, Washmund would earn his bachelor's and master's degrees in chemical engineering at Queen's University before obtaining his PhD from the University of Toronto in 1966.

He'd then join Hatch Ltd. and — under the tute-

lage of founder and fellow Order of Canada recipient Gerry Hatch — quickly began building a reputation as an innovator and problem-solver.

Wasmund's proudest accomplishment was the design of cooling systems used for the protection of the walls of smelting furnaces, which put Hatch Ltd. in demand with companies the world over.

Numerous metal operations across Canada have Wasmund to thank for improvements in their productivity, cost effectiveness and energy efficiency.

Of course the newly-appointed Order of Canada recipient is quick to point out that the success enjoyed over his 51-year career was truly a team effort.

"Gerry Hatch was a great mentor.

"I had good mentors, good fellow workers and good protégés. It worked

out well." Giving back to the educational institutions that set him on a path of success, Wasmund has served on the advisory board for Queen's University applied science and U of T's department of chemical engineering.

Furthermore, he's provided support to research initiatives and helped create scholarships for students at both universities.

Among the other prestigious awards he's received are the Ontario Professional Engineers' Gold Medal in 2012 and induction into the Canadian Mining Hall of Fame in 2011.

His inclusion into the Order of Canada comes in a 2018 class with comedic icon Mike Myers and standouts in the fields of medicine, law, literacy, music and sports — among others.

"It (award) feels good. I'm honoured by it."

*'It's a very humbling experience.'*

**- Dr. Bert Washmund on Order of Canada**