

SNO-FOO AWARD



TO ERR IS HUMAN, TO FORGET IT WOULD BE DIVINE.

SNO-FOO 2023 – Peter Toose

The 2023 SNO-FOO award is presented to Peter Toose, scientist at Environment and Climate Change Canada.

It was pure coincidence that during his presentation, Miles Ecclestone mentioned that, compared to the early days of using drones in the field, they were now very easy and efficient to collect imagery and snow data. After a full winter campaign in Powassan, Ontario, Canada, calibrating and planning flight lines, Peter Toose had shown his great skills as a drone pilot collecting aerial photography for structure from motion method and LiDAR data for snow depth retrievals. Did I mention that this was an agricultural field with not too many obstacles? After all the science flights were completed, Peter decided to do some quick flights to collect some visual footage to document the field campaign. That's where he neglected to account for the height of the only small patch of trees in the field... The drone crashed. I would thus say that the drones are as efficient as their operator, Miles!

Many people have crashed drones in the field in way easier conditions than what Peter has flown. This alone would not be enough to get awarded the SNO-FOO award. On top of crashing the drone, Peter documented his last flight with much detail and posted it on the campaign's Slack channel for every participant in the campaign to witness. It's one thing to crash a drone but it's another to publicize it! Let it be a lesson to all young (and not so young) snow scientists out there: Be careful what you publish on the web, it might earn you the infamous SNO-FOO award!

Presented by Benoit Montpetit

Past Recipients

The Eastern Snow Conference annually bestows upon a distinguished snow scientist who, in striving for excellence in snow research, contributes to an event of notable humor the highly coveted Sno-Foo Award.

Year	Winner	Affiliation
2023	Peter Toose	Environment and Climate Change Canada
2019	Alexandre Roy	Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières
2018	Alexandre Langlois	Université de Sherbrooke
2017	Michael Durand	The Ohio State University
2016	Roger De Roo	University of Michigan
2015	Kevin Côté	Université de Sherbrooke
2014	Dorothy Hall	NASA GSFC
2013	Benoit Montpetit	Université de Sherbrooke
2012	Don Pierson	NYC DEP
2011	Ken Rancourt	Mt. Washington Observatory
2010	Kyung-Kuk (Kevin) Kang	University of Waterloo
2009	Rob Hellström	Bridgewater State University
2008	Steven Fassnacht	Colorado State University
2007	The Group of 9 ¹	
2006	Andrew Klein	Texas A&M University
2005	Claude Duguay	University of Alaska-Fairbanks
2004	Chris Derksen	Meteorological Service of Canada
2003	Miles Ecclestone	Trent University
2002	Danny Marks	U.S.D.A.
2001	Brenda Toth	University of Saskatchewan
2000	Mauri Pelto	Nichols College
1999	Ross Brown	Meteorological Service of Canada
1998	Mary Albert	CRREL
1997	Jean Stein	Université de Laval
1996	Colin Taylor	Trent University
1995	Mike Demuth	NHRI
1994	Bert Davis	CRREL
1993	John Pomeroy	NHRI
1992	Tom Niziol	National Weather Service
1991	Terry Prowse	NHRI
1990	Kersi Davar	University of New Brunswick
1989	Gerry Jones	INRS-EAU
1988	Robert Sykes	SUNY
1987	John Metcalfe	Meteorological Service of Canada
1986	Peter Adams	Trent University
1985	Don Wiesnet	National Weather Service
1984	Barry Goodison	Meteorological Service of Canada

¹ Jimmy MacDonald (University of Saskatchewan), Bill Floyd (University of British Columbia), Chris DeBeer (University of Saskatchewan), Wendell Koning (Government of Alberta), Jaime Hood (University of Calgary), Dankia Muir (University of Calgary), John Jackson (University of Calgary), Sarah Forte (University of Calgary), Masaki Hayashi (University of Calgary)