



Dearest George, ladies and gentlemen,

Thank you for inviting me to speak this evening.

On behalf of the Canadian Society of Landscape Architects, I would like to congratulate you, George, on this momentous award: the Governor General's Medal in Landscape Architecture, the highest honour and professional recognition a landscape architect can receive.

Ladies and gentlemen, the Governor General's Medal in Landscape Architecture has only been awarded twice, and George follows in illustrious footsteps – those of Cornelia Hahn Oberlander. He is now part of an extremely exclusive club!

Becoming a member of this club requires a commitment to design excellence, seeing potential where others cannot, building the foundations of great landscape architecture work and most importantly, contributing selflessly to the community. Being here tonight at the Evergreen Brickworks is a testament to George's community building skills.

Now, before he received this award, I did not know George personally. Professionally, of course, his reputation preceeded him. As the Executive Director of the CSLA, I would be remiss if I didn't know of George's work.

He is known throughout the profession as only a handful of landscape architects practicing in Canada today who are equipped with the skills to lead solutions for many of the most complicated issues and important projects facing the profession today.

He is known as a consummate professional who prides himself on excellence in his work – demonstrated by his numerous awards of excellence in landscape architecture.

He is also known as the master planner of landscape architects – whose work is guiding urban redevelopment.

It has been my absolute delight to have the opportunity to get to know George better throughout all of the medal ceremonies and celebrations.

He is a force of nature, AND he's nice.

George, you have made a lasting contribution to the creation of livable, healthy communities through the application of landscape architecture. You have shown us that you genuinely care about the people for whom you have designed these spaces.

What greater model could there be for the Governor General's Medal in Landscape Architecture than someone who creates new neighbourhoods and urban districts that challenge our existing standards for sustainability, place making, and public engagement.

The CSLA is the voice of the profession in Canada. Tonight, that voice sings the praises and shouts its congratulations to George Dark.

Thank you.