

## Acceptance Speech by Martin E. Alexander

Wright Award Presented at the Wildland Fire Canada 2016 Conference  
October 26, 2016, Kelowna, British Columbia

It is indeed a very great honor to accept this award and being included in the list of previous recipients (i.e., Charlie Van Wagner in 2012 and Brian Stocks in 2014) makes it doubly so. There are many folks deserving of this award, including several in the room this evening and some who have since passed on such as John Muraro.

While I never had the opportunity of personally meeting James G. Wright, I did have the pleasure of getting to know his protégé Herbert W. Beall starting in 1976 as a newly minted fire research officer with the Canadian Forest Service. Through this relationship, which continued up until Herb's passing in 2001, I got to acquire a sense of Jim Wright as a man and his philosophy regarding forest fire research.

I have many individuals to thank for making this award possible.

First and foremost is my wife Heather (of 41 years) who kept the home fires burning raising four children while I was away in the field or out of town on other business. Her support over the years has made this all possible.

I'd like to thank the several graduates of the Wildland Fire Behaviour Specialist Course from across the country that nominated me for this award and also of course the award selection committee.

Time does not permit me to acknowledge all the many fire research colleagues who in one way or another contributed to this award but I would especially like to thank **Brian Stocks** and the late **Dennis Dube** who have been long-standing mentors. Others from the Canadian Forest Service fire research group include **Bruce Lawson, Charlie Van Wagner, Rob McAlpine, Bill de Groot, Kelvin Hirsch, Steve Taylor, Mike Wotton, Tim Lynham, Brad Hawkes, Mike Weber, Murray Maffey, John Mason, Gary Hartley, Jack Bell, George Dalrymple,** and **Miguel Cruz** with CSIRO Australia.

Finally, I'd like to thank several members of the operational fire management community in Canada for their support, namely **Rick Lanoville** and **Kris Johnson** (Northwest Territories), **Terry Van Nest, Dennis Quintilio** and **Rob Thorburn** (Alberta), **Al Beaver** (Yukon Territory), **Dana Hicks** and **Judi Beck** (British Columbia), and **Bill Droog** (Ontario).

I'm deeply humbled to receive the Wright Award.

Thank you.