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MEDIA RELEASE

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2009 IODE WAR MEMORIAL DOCTORAL SCHOLARSHIP

PhD Scholarship Awarded to University of Manitoba Alexis Lauren Knispel

IODE Canada has awarded an IODE War Memorial Doctoral Scholarship to candidate Alexis Lauren Knispel. IODE initiated this award in 1918 to commemorate Canadians who sacrificed their lives for peace and freedom. Initially, bursaries were granted to children of men and women who lost their lives or were permanently disabled while fighting for Canada. Today, applicants are judged on academic achievement and potential. They must be Canadian citizens and in at least their second year of a doctoral program at a Canadian or Commonwealth University. Scholarships are valued at \$15,000.

Born in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Alexis Lauren Knispel received a BSc Honours 2003, MSc Honours (Ecology and English) University of Manitoba 2005 and is now studying for a PhD in Environmental Science and Agriculture at the same university, internationally recognized for agricultural research. Her research focuses on the impacts of genetically modified (GM) crops and the examination of herbicide tolerant (HT) crop plants e.g. canola, and to provide insight into the risks of transgene escape, and options aimed at their containment.

Alexis has received several Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) Awards at the Undergrad, Masters level and PhD study; Alfred Rea Tucker Scholarship, Graduate Students Association (GSA) Award for Innovation, Stewardship and Excellence; a Manitoba Graduate Scholarship and a "Round Table" for Sustainable Development.

Alexis has garnered international and national interest by the publication of her research in the respected journal "Weed Science", and this research was presented at the "Third Conference on the Coexistence of GM and non GM Agricultural Food Chains in Seville Spain in 2007". She has many other non-refereed contributions to her credit as well.

A committed volunteer, she has become a central figure in the Harvest Moon Society, a non-profit rural community organized in Manitoba, as an education coordinator working to promote sustainable agriculture and native culture. She recently travelled to Bolivia with a delegation to examine the impact of increasing cultivation of GM soy on their indigenous and rural communities. Predictions of her referees, all agree that Alexis will become a leading scientist in applied ecology and risk assessment.

IODE Canada is proud to Support Ms. Knispel's dedication to academic excellence with the awarding of a 2009 IODE War Memorial Scholarship.

Founded in 1900, IODE Canada is a national women's charitable organization dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for deserving individuals, through education support, community service and citizenship programs.

For a list of past winners or for more information about War Memorial Scholarships, please contact Marie Locke, War Memorial Convenor at 416-487-4416 or visit www.iode.ca.

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