



hitchBOT

CANADIAN HITCHBOT TO FIND PERMANENT HOME AT CANADA SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY MUSEUM

*Robot that travelled across Canada in 2014 to be enjoyed by
all as permanent exhibit*

TORONTO, December 15, 2015 --- hitchBOT, Canada's beloved hitchhiking robot will be hanging up its wellies and laying down roots at Ottawa's Science and Technology Museum. The museum announced today that the original hitchBOT will become part of the museum's permanent collection when it reopens in November 2017.

In the summer of 2014, the trivia-loving, wellington-wearing, tweeting robot from Port Credit Ontario hitched 19 rides and spent a total of 26 days exploring Canada before reaching its final destination of Victoria, British Columbia. A collaborative project designed by researchers at McMaster University and Ryerson University in 2013, the robot was created to explore whether robots could trust humans. Covered in keepsakes and signatures gathered from across Canada, the original hitchBOT looks forward to retirement among friends at Canada Science and Technology Museum.

"We are pleased that our first hitchBOT will be included in the permanent collection of the Science and Technology Museum, providing an ongoing opportunity for visitors to learn about and interact with the project," said hitchBOT co-creators Frauke Zeller and David Harris Smith.

"This is an exciting moment for all of us," said Tom Everett, curator of communications technology at the museum. "hitchBOT not only represents an interesting chapter in the history of human-machine interaction, but also tells a story of cross-country travel and community to which all Canadians can relate."

In 2015, a new hitchBOT was created by the team for an American adventure, which met an untimely end just two weeks into its trip.

Future plans for the hitchBOT project are still in the works. hitchBOT's friends and fans can expect to hear more from hitchBOT's family in Spring 2016.

Ryerson University is Canada's leader in innovative, career-oriented education and a university clearly on the move. With a mission to serve societal need, and a long-standing commitment to engaging its community, Ryerson offers more than 100 undergraduate and graduate programs. Distinctly urban, culturally diverse and inclusive, the university is home to more than 28,000 students, including 2,300 master's and PhD students, nearly 2,700 faculty and staff, and 140,000 alumni worldwide. Research at Ryerson is on a trajectory of success and growth: externally funded research has doubled in the past five years. The G. Raymond Chang School of Continuing Education is Canada's leading provider of university-based adult education. For more information, visit www.ryerson.ca

McMaster University, one of four Canadian universities listed among the Top 100 universities in the world, is renowned for its innovation in both learning and discovery. It has a student population of 23,000, and more than 160,000 alumni in 140 countries. McMaster's core research community is comprised of individuals from around the globe and is constantly rated very highly for its discoveries, quality of research enterprises, excellence of its research programs and the amount of funding it receives from the government. For more information, visit www.mcmaster.ca

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