

# YORK PEOPLE

"YOU COULDN'T GET ME TO READ THEN," says Joseph Frey (BA '78) referring to that day, in Grade 3, when he saw pictures of the explorers Radisson and Grosseilliers and was captivated by their story. He decided then and there to become a reader – and an explorer. He studied history and geography at York and became a science journalist, writing about his experiences volunteering for archaeological digs. He has since travelled to more than 60 countries on all seven continents, covering everything from imperial British history to polar expeditions to war.

In March, on a stage at the Waldorf-Astoria in New York before 1,200 guests, Frey received a Citation of Merit from the fabled Explorers Club, the worldwide organization started in 1904 that includes such members as former astronaut Buzz Aldrin and mountain climbers Sir Edmund Hilary and Tenzing Norgay. As Chair of the Canadian chapter, Frey was responsible for a major turnaround in the club's organization and membership in Canada. When he's not joining in a dig somewhere or diving à la Jacques Cousteau, another childhood hero, Frey is a lieutenant (Navy) in the Canadian Forces who works as a public relations officer stationed at Downsview Park, near York's Keele campus. ■

**Joseph Frey**  
Navy officer, explorer

## World Rover

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JEFF KIRK

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SUMMER 2006

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