



Ronald Wolf
Writer

We Canadians are a lofty lot. Just when the world pegs us as either world producers of maple syrup, fishermen, hockey players or hunters we go and invent five pin bowling, the light bulb (first patented) or the ever-popular zipper.

There was one invention that not only helped millions of people worldwide but also saved the lives of millions worldwide. Artificial insulin was invented at University of Toronto by a trio of medical professionals that changed the world forever.

We now honour Dr. Frederick Banting (1891-1941), a native of Alliston, Ont. (the first Canadian to win the Nobel Prize) and John James Richard Macleod (1876-1935). Also, Dr. Charles Herbert Best, (1899-1978) who worked as Banting's assistant.

Banting and Macleod jointly shared the honour of receiving the Nobel Prize in the category of Medicine on this day in 1923.

One of the most interesting facts of this

It's Our History, Our Country

Fredrick Banting and His Unsung Heros

November 14, 1923

breakthrough discovery is that the two men shared the least amount given by the prize in its history. The \$114, 935 (valued at \$2 859 853 in 2007) was jointly shared between the two.

It's great to hear Canadians are making huge breakthroughs and discoveries in all aspects of humanity but what is insulin anyway?

The pancreatic hormone insulin is a hormone produced in the pancreas. Insulin enables cells to absorb glucose (natural body sugar) in order to turn it into energy.

When the body cannot produce or produce too little of this chemical the person must take artificial insulin.

Insulin can be taken by needle or by a pump which is attached to the person and given much needed insulin to the person when needed and without the need of needles.

A handful of people in Canada saved the lives of millions of people and those of millions to come.

Remember, it's our history, our country.

Fast Facts:

- John James Richard Macleod was born on September 6, 1876 at Cluny, near Dunkeld, Perthshire, Scotland In 1918.
- Every year since 1901 the Nobel Prize

has been awarded for achievements in physics, chemistry, physiology or medicine, literature and for peace. The Nobel Prize is an international award administered by the Nobel Foundation in Stockholm, Sweden.

- Banting was named the greatest Canadian according to the Canadian Broadcasting Company (CBC).

- Charles Best was born in West Pembroke, Washington County, Maine, Alfred Nobel (1833-1896) The Nobel Prizes bequeathed by the Swedish industrialist and inventor. The family name of Nobel is a decent of Olof Rudbeck best known as a technical genius in Sweden in the 17th century. Nobel was fluent in several languages, and wrote poetry and drama. Nobel was also very interested in social and peace-related issues, and held views that were considered radical during his time.

- For more information on this historic event visit the links below.

http://www.cbc.ca/greatest/top_ten/nominee/banting-frederick-know.html

http://nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/peace/articles/lundestad-review/index.html

http://nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/amounts.html

http://nobelprize.org/alfred_nobel/