



Registered Nurses'
Foundation of Ontario

RNFOO

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2008



Registered Nurses'
Foundation of Ontario

You are invited to the
2008 Annual
Fundraising
GALA

*In recognition of the 2008
Award Winners & Donors*

Be sure to reserve your place

The Board of the Registered Nurses' Foundation of Ontario cordially invites you to attend



**"A Celebration of Success - Nurses Investing
in Nurses.... Nurses Celebrating Nursing"**



Wednesday May 7, 2008

5.30 pm Cocktails

6.30 pm Dinner

The Liberty Grand

Exhibition Place, Toronto

Table (10 seats) \$1750

Individual Tickets \$175

To purchase your tickets or donate prizes
or silent auction items please contact:

RNFOO Office: 416.426.7127

info@rnfoo.org



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Visit www.rnfoo.org

President's Message

2008 marks five years since Ontario experienced SARS. This created fear amongst the public in general and, specifically, for front line health care workers – not the least of which were nurses. Nurses working in all settings were impacted, from the community to emergency departments, intensive care units, other acute in-patient areas and long term care/rehabilitation facilities.

Yet, as often occurs in horrendous situations, people rise to the occasion and do good deeds. At this time, Molsons Canada and the Rolling Stones collaborated on a benefit concert. RNFOO was the grateful recipient of some of the funds raised

through the gifts of their resources and talents. In total, RNFOO received slightly more than \$400,000, and in turn has been able to provide fifty-six awards to infection control practitioners and others whose practice supports infection control practices.

During these same five years, this spirit of giving to support the education of nurses has added to RNFOO's overall offerings. Individual donors created nine new scholarships, and two special fundraising events in the Fall of 2006 and 2007 resulted in additional scholarships for nurses practicing in neurosciences nursing and in oncology nursing.

Steady progressive growth in both assets and scholarships has been the hallmark of RNFOO's last five years. The Board is looking forward to welcoming our friends and colleagues to our annual Gala on May 7, 2008 when forty scholarships worth \$75,000 will be awarded. We express our sincere thanks to all donors, and hope to see you on the 7th!

Regards,

Dorothy



On Tuesday, November 20, 2007, an event honouring Dr. Sheela Basur helped RNFOO raised over \$50,000 for Oncology Scholarships



Dr. Vasanth and Pari Basur with The Honourable George Smitherman, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care for Ontario with Dr. Sheela Basur

It's Tax Time!

Here are Some Tips to Make the Process Less Taxing

The deadline to file personal income tax return for 2007 is Wednesday April 30th.

Don't delay as there are late filing penalties.

- If you owe the government money, 5% on the outstanding balance will be charged plus an extra 1% per month for every month it's late.
- If taxes are not paid on time, compound daily interest is charged beginning May 1st at the prescribed rate of 8%. Ouch!

Tax slips, donation receipts and RRSP contribution slips, and summaries of investment fees paid arrive at various times. Have one file (or large envelope) to accumulate these important documents that you don't want to lose.

Remember that receipts and tax records must be retained for 6 years.

When completing your return, don't miss these tax relief measures available in 2007: go to <http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/whatsnew/items/taxinfo-e.html>

If you're owed money by the CRA, apart from the fact that you gave the government an interest-free loan, the fastest way to get the tax refund is to file electronically. It takes 8 business days to process the return vs. 4 to 6 weeks for a paper return.

If need to make a change in tax return after it's filed, complete form T1 – adjustment request or mail a signed letter providing all details. To learn more about taxes, the CRA offers a four module on-line course about basics, tax-filing process, roles & responsibilities, and completing a return. Check out their website at <http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/tax/individuals/topics/learn-tax/menu-e.html>

Don't forget that charities depend on the generous donations of their supporters. You can donate securities directly to the RNFOO and avoid incurring a taxable capital gain on their disposition. The value of your donation receipt is equal to the market value of the securities. It's a win-win! For example, many Canadians own shares of Bell Canada Enterprises (BCE); in fact it's the most widely held Canadian company. With the pending takeover of BCE by the Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan et al, many investors will face a sizeable capital gain if the shares are held outside of an RRSP in a taxable investment account. This is an opportune time to consider donating some of these shares to the RNFOO. Please contact the RNFOO soon to make timely arrangements.



Bev Moir is a Senior Investment Executive and financial planner with The Moir Team at ScotiaMcLeod, Toronto. ScotiaMcLeod is a division of Scotia Capital Inc., a member of the Scotiabank Group. Member Canadian Investor Protection Fund (CIPF). Visit her website at www.bevmoir.com. This article is for information purposes only. The opinions stated are not necessarily those of Scotia Capital or The Bank of Nova Scotia.

SickKids Nurses are improving patient care supported through a passion for life long learning and RNFOO Scholarships!

Janet Yamada is a Nursing Research Associate at SickKids and was the recipient of a 2007 RNFOO Scholarship to support her PhD studies at the Lawrence S. Bloomberg Faculty of Nursing at the University of Toronto. Janet's thesis will focus on changing health professional pain practices in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit using a novel knowledge translation intervention. The scholarship is helping Janet achieve her dream of becoming a Clinician Scientist with the goal of advancing nursing knowledge and practice.

Marie Fulcher is a nurse who has worked in perioperative nursing for many years. The RNFOO

scholarship has supported Marie's passion to learn how to make systems improvements to the quality of patient care. Not only has the financial support been a practical help, but Marie points out that the highlight of the RNFOO award for her was the feelings of recognition and honour by her peers she experience that counted most. This stimulates Marie to do her best and want to succeed in her schooling and continue to improve patient care.

Lori Ives Baine is a nurse working in the specialized area of neonatal nursing, she is currently completing her 4th year of a 5 year part-time studies program doing her Master of Nursing and Collaborative Bioethics

program at the University of Toronto. Receiving the RNFOO Scholarship has helped Lori immensely and she is very grateful. Lori has a passion to improve her knowledge and skills in the area of ethics and caregiving with families who experience end of life care in the neonatal population. The scholarship has enabled to put her energy into her studies, learning and sharing knowledge at conference and developing research in this highly specialized area. "What an opportunity it is, to return to school, enhance my knowledge and improve my abilities in my work with many families. Thank you RNFOO!" Lori says.

"Greetings from Eastern Ontario" by James Chu

It has been an exciting and busy year so far. I am so glad to be a new volunteer member with the board in hopes to expand the awareness of Registered Nurses' Foundation of Ontario (RNFOO) in the Eastern Ontario Region. I believe highly in the mission, beliefs and values of RNFOO and wish to share them with my colleagues and associates in the Eastern Ontario Region. Since coming on to the position, I have been able to meet with representatives from the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario (CHEO) and the Ottawa Hospital, and have distributed pamphlets at the University of Ottawa. I hope to connect with representatives from other hospitals in the hopes of increasing awareness amongst managers and staff. Through the collaboration with RNFOO Past President Shirley Avery and the assistance of the RNFOO head office I hope to accomplish a goal of creating a fundraising event in Ottawa in the near future.



I have also been in contact with two past RNFOO student award recipients. First, **Danielle Simandl**, 2007 donnerwheeler Nursing Career Scholarship award recipient, who stated, "The financial assistance allowed me to pursue an international nursing exchange in India; an experience that I would not have otherwise had the opportunity to afford. I gained very rich experiences through that exchange. I have also developed a deep admiration for the incredibly comprehensive approach to primary

health care that exists throughout India. I hope to one day become a Nurse Practitioner in Primary Health Care and my international experiences will certainly serve to inform my future practice." Ms. Simandl is currently working at The Ottawa Hospital (General Campus) on a general medicine unit.



Joy Noel-Weiss, recipient of 2007 Childbirth Nursing Interest Group (CHNIG) Scholarship, stated "The CNIG scholarship has helped to pay for my expenses while being PhD graduate student. It has also been a rewarding experience, as I feel that I am recognized by my peers." Ms. Noel-Weiss expresses she has been able to contribute back to the nursing profession and CNIG by submitting an article for the CNIG newsletter. Ms. Noel-Weiss is a second year PhD Graduate Student at the University of Ottawa where she is focusing on her research on demographic and iatrogenic effects of neonatal weight loss while in hospital.

The two testimonials illustrate how RNFOO scholarships and awards have enable individuals to further educate and access opportunities to enhance their professional career pathway. I would be more than delighted to have people contact me to assist in expanding the awareness of RNFOO in the Eastern Ontario Region. My email is jchu@cheo.on.ca.



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