The Canadian Association of Optometrists

Gallery of Presidents

On the following two pages, CAO is pleased to publish its just completed Gallery of Presidents.

Beginning under Dr. H.A. McClung in 1941, the idea of a national optometric Association was shaped slowly through four Presidents until CAO was enacted by an Act of Parliament which received Royal assent in 1948. The Association at the time was under the Presidency of Dr. E. Boyaner.

Assembling the portraits that make up the completed Gallery was also a lengthy process. Initially requested in late 1984, the photos came in one by one until the deadlines imposed by the 1985 Biennial Congress caused us to unveil an incomplete Gallery at the 19th Biennial Congress. Although only three Presidential photos were missing at that time, they proved to be the most difficult to locate. Through the next two years, the search continued sporadically, with not a few frustrations and dead ends along the way. Finally, with deadlines for our 20th Biennial Congress pressing, the last portrait — of Dr. D.A. Maguire — was obtained on loan from the Museum of Canadian Optometry through the courtesy and generosity of Dr. E.J. (Ted) Fisher, who threatened dire reprisals if the original publication in which the photo was printed were to be waylaid in the Waterloo to Ottawa round trip.

It was with a great deal of pleasure, therefore, that we were able to present the complete portfolio at the Saint John Congress.

Throughout the process, the comments accompanying the photos loaned to us made the process of gathering them less of an ordeal. “Reprints are beyond price”, advised Dr. Ivan McNabb and Dr. Harry Perrin noted that, “I look much better now than I did when this was taken.”

The original Gallery now has a home in the CAO office conference room. Copies were also sent to each of the past national Association Presidents and it is included here for the enjoyment and memories of all those optometrists who have contributed to the growth and development of the Canadian Association of Optometrists.