



The entrance to the new expansion at the UW School. Architectural subtleties are worth noting — the operculum at the top and the acuity letters on the entrance wall.



CAO's past presidents, left to right; Dr. Doug Cote, Dr. Margaret Hansen-Desgroselliers, Dr. Len Koltun (current CAO President), Dr. Rolland DesGroselliers, Dr. Dorrie Morrow.

OAO AGM and Gala

April 1 – 4 2009, Toronto, ON

The OAO is in the midst of some exciting and historic times. Besides the 100th anniversary celebrations, they are anxiously awaiting enabling TPA regulations (especially since the positive HPRAC recommendations in Jan 2009); the official opening of the addition to the School at UW; preparing a future strategic plan and celebrating increases to their OHIP reimbursement schedule. Their AGM highlighted reports from the School; Dr. Paul Chris on a new diabetes project; Dr. Derek McDonald on NPEC, as well as member feedback on some future priority questions (which was very efficiently and confidentially determined though remote voting recording devices). Ontario has been focusing on their ACE Strategy (Advocacy, Community and Education) with much success and is clearly looking towards

forging a stronger future for optometry in Ontario. The CAO council was invited to the awards luncheon where Dr. Jake Sivak, Dr. Derek MacDonald and Dr. Chris Nichol were recognized for outstanding contributions to the profession in Ontario. The UW School of Optometry also hosted a reception Thursday evening where Dr. Thom Freddo presented an update on the expansion.

The CE Symposium was timely and featured many quality speakers at breakfasts and throughout the weekend presenting on IOLs, AMD, marketing, new contact lens technologies; and our own CAO Past President Dr. Alphonse Carew who spoke on practice management. The Info-Mart was huge and CAO's booth (provided n/c – thank you OAO) looked excellent, featuring a very large vase with some super gigantic oranges. (Good work Doug)

Ontario is the first province to celebrate this year the 100th anniversary of the passing of their

optometry Act. The scene was the Sheraton Centre, downtown Toronto and the venue was first class. A spectacular '100th' ice sculpture graced the entrance to the elegantly decorated ballroom. Master of ceremonies, Dr. Joe Chan, welcomed everyone, provided a brief history of the OAO and introduced the guest speaker, the Ontario Minister of Health. The Minister spoke very highly of Ontario optometrists' contributions to the eye health care of its citizens. He was also optimistic that the TPA regulations, including glaucoma management, would be passed soon. The evening continued with a delicious meal (entrée of roast (Alberta) beef) and live band to round out the evening. The entire event was thoughtfully and tastefully presented. Congratulations to the OAO and the organizing committee for arranging this wonderful weekend!!

MAO AGM and Gala

April 17 – 19, 2009, Winnipeg, MB

The MAO went all out to provide a busy weekend of CE, association meetings, trade show and a wonderful memorable 100th Anniversary celebration!! The CE featured informative lectures on glaucoma (very timely since this may be one of the next treatment modalities in ON and hopefully MB!), SH lenses, gonioscopy, anterior segment conditions as well as an update on the UW school expansion. Football legend Milt Stiegel was the celebrity guest at one of the trade show booths and, being the gentleman that he is, graciously provided autographs – including for us Rider fans! There was great excitement and anticipation as many door prizes were given away at both the trade show and Gala. Conveniently, several of the lecturers from the UW School were also members of the Lost Faculties band which rocked the house at the Gala on Saturday night!!

Turnout at the AGM was high and discussion was lengthy in providing direction to both, the Manitoba Health (for fee payment schedules) and TPA negotiating committees. Members also received an update on their pending omnibus RHPA legislation (Regulated Health Profession's Act), which will hopefully be passed soon. The Congress Committee presented a draft PowerPoint presentation promoting the 2011 Congress in Winnipeg. I informed them that their presentation would be taking place at the President's Ball. The hospitality room was very lively and continued well



Past CAO Presidents from Manitoba, left to right; Dr. Roy Brown, Woody Spearman, Len Koltun (current President – not from Manitoba), Bruce Rozner, Scott Mundle.

into the wee hours, talking about optometry (of course!) and celebrating Dr. Michelle Georgi's election as the new MAO President.

The Gala delivered an excellent program featuring a brief history of the association supplemented with a continuously running slide show of classic memories in the background. The dance floor was crowded, with many guests, including the President of the COS, Dr. Lorne Bellan (we have since exchanged emails, including photos). The evening featured the presentation of many plaques and speeches. I was pleased and felt very honoured to be asked to participate in some of the presentations, particularly recognizing honorary

life members, Dr Roy Brown, Dr. Woody Spearman and Dr. Oakley (Dr. Neil McCaughey was unable to attend). I also enjoyed reminiscing with these gentlemen and many others about optometry's history in Manitoba including the fact that the MAO has provided CAO with five National Presidents.

It is with great pride that I extend sincere congratulations to the MAO for your outstanding contribution to the profession and tribute to your history. Well done!

*Respectfully reported,
Dr. Len Koltun, President CAO,
April 2009*