



Registered Nurses'  
Foundation of Ontario

# RNFOO NEWSLETTER

FALL 2008

## Bev Simpson, Honourary Life Member

Honourary Life Membership is given to honour an individual who has made a significant contribution to the Foundation's work over a period of time. Bev Simpson was presented with this award at the Annual RNFOO Gala in May 2008, in recognition of her tireless commitment to RNFOO in multiple roles.

Bev's extensive involvement and leadership provided a strong anchor for the Foundation as it has grown and flourished following its 1997 rejuvenation. Bev joined the Foundation Board in 1998 and quickly assumed leadership of our first major fundraiser – the 1999 Gala at the Granite Club. There the presence of the renewed Foundation was created and strengthened the Nursing Community within the Greater Toronto Area. Bev then did a repeat performance by leading the 2000 Gala. Ten years later she remains an avid supporter of the Gala and promotes its growth beyond the GTA.

Bev was instrumental in leading and establishing strong strategic planning processes early on in the rejuvenation of the Foundation. She ensured that realistic goals were established, outcomes monitored and infrastructure such as

administrative resources were in place to support the needs of the Board Members. Essential documentation processes (i.e. strategic plans, annual reports, awards and scholarship records, donor recognition mechanisms)



were established and expanded. All these processes increased the stability of the organization, therefore enabling the planning to be operationalized efficiently and effectively.

Bev assumed the President's role from 2000-2002 when she continued to develop and strengthen the infrastructure, ensure coordination of the evolving projects and expand the linkages with external agencies. All the time she attended to opportunities for growth and

development of RNFOO. In 2002, the 30th Anniversary of the Foundation, Bev influenced the granting of the first Honourary Life Membership to Laura Barr.

Bev not only enacted the role of the Foundation's Past President from 2002-2004, but she also graciously assumed the role of Chair of Nominations until 2006 when the Past Presidency position remained vacant. She looked to her own extensive network and that of others to ensure a full complement of the Board. Her recruitment of Board members was always very purposeful, reaching out to prospective Board Members based on the skills required to move the Foundation ahead.

Inherent in all of Bev's work is her caring and supportive approach to people. She gives great value to people's skills and abilities, and is often found encouraging, coaching and mentoring current and future leaders. She is a sophisticated nursing leader herself and one who always exemplifies nurses helping nurses, nurses investing in nurses and nurses celebrating nurses.

Bev is a well deserving recipient of an RNFOO Honourary Life Membership.



Investing in nursing for over 35 years

# President's Message

RNFOO's Annual General Meeting took place on October 29, 2008 and at that meeting we received annual reports from the Chairs of our various Committees. Collectively these represent the work of the Foundation over 2007-2008 and highlights from these reports within the context of RNFOO's mission, follow. Specifically:

## **To raise funds and steward sound investments:**

- The 11th Annual RNFOO Gala, our signature fundraising event, was held in May 2008. This evening affords the opportunity for us to showcase the important work of RNFOO and the current year's Awards and Scholarships winners. Again this year it was a very successful event: over 500 participants recognized the accomplishments of the award winners and networked with their friends and colleagues. A huge thank you to Sue Munro, Gala Committee Chair, and her tireless cadre of volunteers as well as to all Gala donors and sponsors, for their support and commitment to this very special event.
- A Fall Fundraising Event held in November 2007 was planned to raise funds for the Dr. Sheela Basrur Scholarship for Oncology Nurses. This, too, was a very successful event that will enable RNFOO to advance oncology nurses' education. The generous support of donors will enable awarding of the scholarship for many years. Our sincere gratitude is extended to Janice Waddell and Esther Green, co-chairs of the Event Planning Committee, and all those Board members and volunteers who worked with them.
- A new addition to our awards and scholarships offerings this year was

the Mary Harkin Brunning Scholarship. The funds donated by her former employer, the Sisters of Service, are sufficient for RNFOO to offer this as an annual scholarship. A wonderful tribute to Mary's work with the Sisters.

- Also, the generosity of individual donors was evident throughout the year. These funds, the previously mentioned initiatives and our investment income enabled growth in our net assets. Indeed, even though RNFOO disbursed slightly more than \$107,000 to award recipients and paid down all expenses, we were still able to realize an increase in net assets. Thanks go to RNFOO's dedicated Treasurer, Ron Foreman, for managing our resources so well.

## **To provide awards and scholarships to Registered Nurses and Nursing students:**

- A very robust Awards and Scholarships Committee chaired by Linda Cooper reviewed 122 online applications and identified 38 nurses or nursing students for scholarships. The Infection Control Program Committee chaired by Tom Willis recognized 28 health care professionals under its three programs. Adjudication of both of these awards and scholarships programs was conducted by expert panels of reviewers.
- Our very unique program to assist internationally educated nurses to become registered in Ontario is funded by the RBC Foundation. Four cycles of fund applications were awarded to 14 internationally educated nurses who are currently studying in Ontario. The program was managed by Christine

Copplestone and Ann Frances Allen, co-chairs of the Internationally Educated Nurses Fund Committee.

- Our Marketing and Communications Committee led by Georgiana Beal worked diligently to communicate RNFOO's presence and message, in person and on the RNFOO website. A revision to the RNFOO brochure "Nurses Investing in Nurses" was also completed this year.

A special thank you to Shirley Avery, Past President, who networked with many colleagues to ensure a full complement of talented Board members with diverse backgrounds. I would also like to recognize other Board members who participated on one or more committees: Rosanna Di Nunzio, June Duesburry-Porter, Janet Rush, Jodie Boltuc, and as well as those members who have also participated in different activities and have now completed their terms: Shirley Avery, Ron Foreman, Lynne Purvis, Tiziana Rivera, Sharifa Sumar and Pam Hubley. It has been my pleasure to work with such a committed group and I thank them for their support.

The Annual General Meeting also marks the end of my term as President, and I thank all Board members, volunteers, donors and sponsors for their commitment to RNFOO, and welcome Janice Waddell and Linda Cooper to the roles of President and Vice President respectively.

Best regards,

*Dorothy*



# RBC Foundation Paves the Way for IENs

In May 2007, the Royal Bank of Canada Foundation generously responded to RNFOO's request for funding for Internationally Educated Nurses (IENs). This donation was designated to support IENs as they continued their education to become Registered Nurses in Ontario.

RNFOO offered the award initially in September 2007 followed by offerings in January, June and September of 2008. To date, fourteen awards of \$500-\$1000 each have been granted to IENs pursuing the educational

requirements needed to establish their nursing careers in Ontario. The recipients' professional interests encompass a variety of clinical areas and locations of practice.

After consultation with RBC Foundation, RNFOO is excited to announce that they will be offering awards of up to \$1,500 for the January 2009 term. Please inform anyone you know who could be a potential applicant. The RNFOO website has all the details.

The RBC Foundation, as evidenced by this award and other activities, clearly recognizes the crucial role of nursing in health care and is very supportive of the nursing community both provincially and nationally. RNFOO will continue to work with the RBC Foundation in achieving their mutual goals related to nursing education.



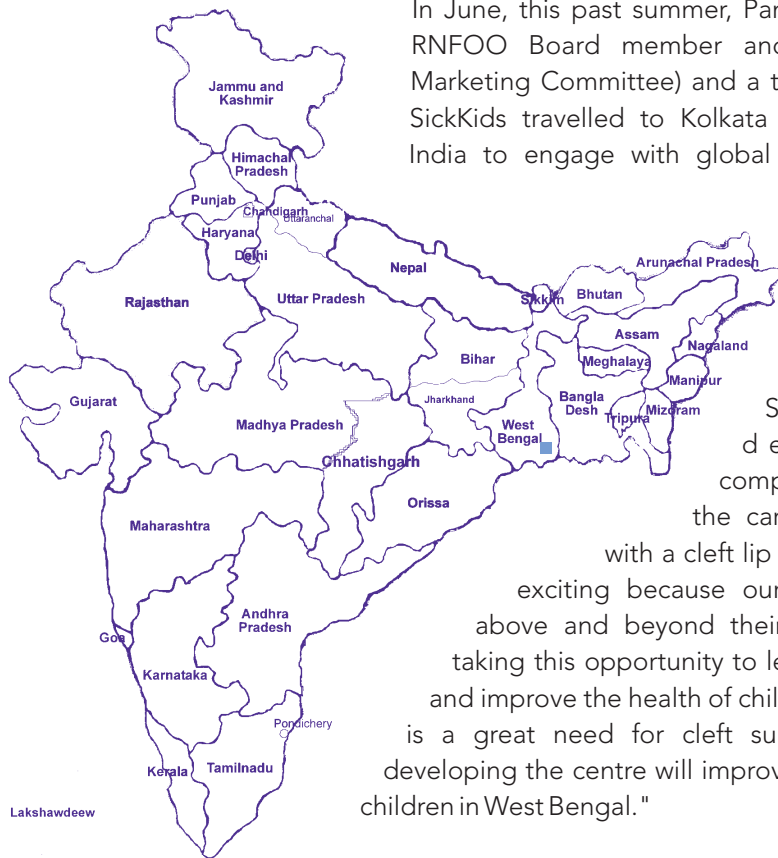
2008 Award Winners		GALA 2008 Raffle Prize Winners		
<b>RNFOO Recipients</b>	Kim Rogers	Frances Flint	Linda Cooper	Jessica Cheralier
Harmony Szolga	Wendy Laframboise	Debra Flachner	Janice Henty	Joan Henry
Linda Nguyen	Karen Fleming	Pamela Pogue	Dennise Forde	Wendy Gifford
Camille Lalonde	Coralee McLaren	Maureen Cava	Linda Cooper	Jennifer Price
Kathryn Walker	Jennifer Yoon	Janice Dusek	Gloria Bacci	Debra Barnes
Nada Sidani	Jo Watson	Kevin McCarty	Susan McIntyre	Pam Meyer
Kristel Guthrie	Lori Ives-Baine	Maureen Cava	Maya Guha	Lorie Shekter-Wolfson
Sheila O'Keefe-McCarthy	Leinic Chung-Lee	Stephanie de Young	Kim Rogers	Susan VanDe Velde-Coke
Pedro Andrade			Pam Meyer	Laurie Clune
Alexandra Jurczak	<b>RNAO Interest Groups</b>	Sylvia Brachvogel	Ramie Veerappan	Elizabeth McCay
Alexandra Harris	Kimberley Allen	Debra Churchill	Sandra Mairs	Barb Bickle
Nancy Purdy	Karen McQueen	Leinic Chung-Lee	Maureen Cava	Helen Edwards
JoAnn Toomath	Chantelle Black	Shari Moura	Judith Shamian	Kate Hardie
Shan Mohammed	Anne Moulton	Linda Cooper	Kim Rogers	Sue McLeod
Sarah Reaburn	Era Mae Ferron	Mohini Pershad	Nicole Di Paolo	Stephanie de Young
Mary Ann Murray	Jason McCready	Pamela Pogue	Victoria Reid De Jong	Karen Johansen
Angela Horn	Farah Khan	Joan Henry	Nia Davies	
Allison Kern	Kamini Kalia	Rose Raigman	Pamela Pogue	
Rosemarie Rombough	Wendy Laframboise	Elsabeth Jensen	Medelyn Buenavista	
Kamini Kalia		Michelle Cooper	Leinic Chung-Lee	
Shuhua Zhao		Kim Vuksan	Michael Rotstein	
		Susan Saunders	Mohini Pershad	
		Mary Agnes Beduz		

*Awards & Scholarships*

**Applications coming soon.  
See website for details**

**On December 3 RNFOO is moving  
to 1 Concorde Gate, Suite 109  
(Wynford & DVP)**

## Board Member working in India by Pam Hubley



In June, this past summer, Pam Hubley, (a former RNFOO Board member and member of the Marketing Committee) and a team of nurses from SickKids travelled to Kolkata (formerly Calcutta), India to engage with global health partners to

improve access to care for children with cleft lip and palate. SickKids, in partnership with Operation Smile India, is

developing a comprehensive centre for the care of children born with a cleft lip and/or palate.

"It's exciting because our nurses are going above and beyond their regular work and taking this opportunity to lead systems change and improve the health of children in India. There is a great need for cleft surgery in India and developing the centre will improve access to care for children in West Bengal."

The purpose of the first trip to India was to begin to develop relationships and collaborations as well as to conduct an initial needs assessment looking for ways to build a sustainable health delivery model for this population in Kolkata. The partnership is moving ahead on the idea of capacity building.

"We are not going in to do the care or take over a system, but rather to work side by side with the leaders in health care and the valued community partners to develop a care delivery model that improves access to children's services specifically for this congenital anomaly," says Pam.

The team is planning a return trip this November to begin the first in a series of Train the Trainer Education Modules. Future aspirations for collaboration include interprofessional education exchanges, ongoing interaction via video conferencing and enhanced service delivery by nurses and community field workers to support families to manage the daily feeding and nutritional routines required before and after surgery, provide surgical nursing care, assess for potential hearing, speech and dental needs making referrals as necessary, and demystifying traditional beliefs about facial difference.

Pam thinks global health initiatives provide incredible opportunities for nurses to reaffirm their commitment to nursing. "One of the truly exciting elements of this work is the potential for multiple partnerships and the opportunity to create energy among people and groups that enables systems to change. As a pediatric nurse working with children and families around the globe, improving access to care and engaging with our nursing colleague who desire to be the best they can be, is very rewarding."



Registered Nurses'  
Foundation of Ontario

### Board Members 2008-2009

Janice Waddell - President

Linda Cooper - Vice-President

Dorothy Ferguson - Past President

Stephen Stewart - Treasurer

Ann Frances Allen

Georgiana Beal

Jodie Boltuc

Maureen Cava

Christina Copplestone

Rosanna Di Nunzio

June Duesbury-Porter

Carol Eifert

Carol Fine

Kathleen MacMillan

Martha Murray

Janet Rush

Tom Willis

#### Volunteer, Gala Chair

Sue Munro

#### Ex-Officio

Lesley Bell

Anne Coghlan

Doris Grinspun

#### Honourary Life Members

Laura Barr

Susanne Williams

Kathleen Arpin

Kathleen MacMillan

Beverly Moir

Dorothy Wylie

Beverly Simpson

#### RNFOO Administrator

Brian Craig

Tel:416 426 7127

Fax:416 426 7280

Email:info@rnfoo.org

Website:www.rnfoo.org

1 Concorde Gate., Suite 109  
Toronto, ON M3C 3N6