

NURSING NOTES

Jubilee medals for RNs

To mark the 60th anniversary of Queen Elizabeth II's accession to the throne, Canada's Governor General David Johnston is handing out 60,000 Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medals for outstanding service to fellow citizens, individual communities and the country. The Canadian Nurses Association (CNA) was approached to solicit nominations for 30 medals, including five for Ontario nurses. RNAO collected the Ontario nominations, and the board of directors voted on the five winners. Theresa Agnew, Leah Jamnicki, Patrice Lindsay, Josephine Santos and Ruth Walden will receive their medals alongside 25 other Canadian nurses on March 5 in Ottawa. In addition to these nurses, several other RNAO members were chosen to receive medals thanks to nominations from other sources. Among the recipients: RNAO CEO Doris Grinspun; past-president Mary Ferguson-Paré; board member Paul-André Gauthier; former Parish Nurse Interest Group chair Mary Lynch; Kingston RN Debra Lefebvre; and Toronto NP Colina Yim. For a full list of Ontario nurses nominated by CNA and RNAO, and links to commonly asked questions about the nomination process, visit www.RNAO.ca/diamondjubilee



Carolyn Acker and
Canada's Governor
General David
Johnston

Giving kids a future through education earns RN Order of Canada

Carolyn Acker, a native of Thorold (near Niagara Falls), and founder of *Pathways to Education*, has been recognized with an Order of Canada for her work with children. *Pathways* began in Toronto's Regent Park. It was created to break the cycle of poverty, and to offer children hope through education. Its success keeping kids in school in Toronto led to expansion to 11 other marginalized communities across Canada. Giving children opportunity through education, and watching them embrace it, "What more can you ask for?" Acker says. In November, she was in Ottawa, "alongside other Canadians who have contributed so much to create a better country...I was so honoured."

Nurses in Southampton access fund for educational opportunities

In the three years since its creation, the *Carolyn Frances Mack Nursing Education Fund* has helped 20 Southampton nurses pursue educational opportunities they may not have otherwise pursued. Seven received support in 2012, accessing funding from \$50,000 worth of donations from the community in honour of a nurse who left a legacy at Southampton Hospital. Carolyn Mack, a team leader in the medical and surgical units, as well as clinical supervisor at the hospital, passed away four years ago. The fund was

created by the Saugeen Memorial Hospital Foundation to accept memorial donations in her name. It is available to nurses interested in educational pursuits in palliative care, cardiac care, clinical technology and leadership. For inquiries or donations, visit www.smhfoundation.ca or call 519-797-3230 ext. 3230. For information about educational funding for nurses through the provincial government's *Nursing Education Initiative* (NEI), refer to page 22 in this issue of *Registered Nurse Journal*.

CPHC gets 2012 Donner Canadian Foundation Awards for Excellence

Late last year, Ruth Kitson, RN and executive director for Community and Primary Health Care (CPHC), accepted two *Donner Canadian Foundation Awards for Excellence*. CPHC was one of 554 non-profit social service agencies from across Canada to apply for the awards. RN

Foundation Awards from the provincial government, recognizing excellence in the delivery of social services. CPHC, which provides comprehensive primary care through 11 sites across Lanark, Leeds and Grenville, was one of seven agencies recognized by Ontario's Lieutenant Governor David Onley as the best run in the country, sharing \$60,000 in prize money. The organization met for a special presentation with Onley in November, carrying away the award for the highest performing agency overall, and \$20,000. As well, it received a \$5,000 reward for excellence in the *Services for Seniors* category.

In memoriam

RNAO EXTENDS ITS DEEPEST CONDOLENCES TO FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF

Sandy Brioux,
President of RNAO's Telepractice Nursing Interest Group. Described as "a fantastic human being and health professional," Sandy passed away Jan. 4, 2013.

Sandi Cox,
a leader who helped Holland Bloorview Kids Rehab become an RNAO Best Practice Spotlight Organization. Sandi passed away peacefully at home on Nov. 28, 2012.

Do you have nursing news to share? Email us at editor@RNAO.ca