

Edith Dick gets star on the Milton Walk of Fame

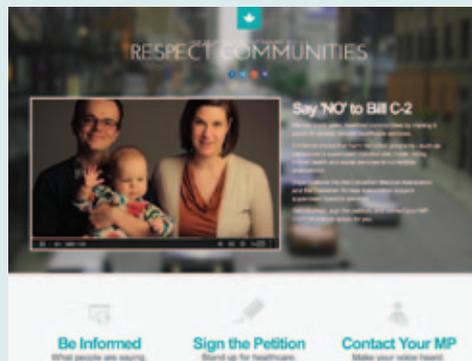
The Milton Historical Society and the Town of Milton honoured five new inductees into its *Walk of Fame* in February, and well-known former RNAO nurse leader Edith Rainsford Dick was one of them. The historical society described Dick as a “nursing pioneer,” and credited her with developing psychiatric nursing provincially and nursing standards nationally. Her efforts, the society adds, led to nursing becoming a self-regulating profession. In 1965, RNAO awarded Dick an *Honorary Life Membership* (now *Lifetime Achievement Award*) for improving nursing education and always keeping the personal welfare of students and graduate RNs top-of-mind. During the Second World War, Dick served as a major of two Canadian hospitals in England and France, for which she was awarded the Royal Red Cross First Class Award at Buckingham Palace in 1948. She passed away in 1978, but her legacy lives on through this induction.

U of T students want automatic membership

Nursing students at the University of Toronto (U of T) voted on a referendum in March to include RNAO student associate fees as part of their Nursing Undergraduate Society fees. An overwhelming 72 per cent voted in favour, and the change will be formalized at the end of April. “Students see the benefits of membership...which allows them to keep informed,” says Rachelle Bergeron, of the Nursing Undergraduate Society. “RNAO allows students to see advocacy work in action, which brings to life concepts that are learned in class.” If the change is finalized this spring, first-year students arriving in September will receive a letter from Bergeron, highlighting the many advantages of membership. There are six other Ontario institutions offering membership through tuition/ancillary fees, including St. Clair College, Humber College/University of New Brunswick, Queen’s University, Trent University, Durham College/University of Ontario Institute of Technology, and CARE Centre for Internationally Educated Nurses.

Safer consumption sites the focus of advocacy by U of Ottawa nursing students

It started as a student project, but has blossomed into something much more for a group of six



University of Ottawa nursing students hoping to raise awareness of Bill C-2, *Respect for Communities Act*. The students’ concerns stem from the fact that, if passed, the federal legislation will make it difficult for communities to meet a long list of requirements to offer safe injection services. Under the proposed legislation, whenever a drug injection site is proposed, Canada’s minister of health would seek input directly from members

of the community, as well as law enforcement, public health officials, community groups, municipal leaders and others. “The benefits of safer consumption sites are well documented,” says Elise Skinner, one of the students behind a video

funded by the Canadian Association of Nurses in AIDS Care. The video began circulating on social media March 10. At print time, it had received more than 2,800 views. “Nurses need to take a leading role in speaking out against legislation that only serves to further marginalize an already vulnerable population,” Skinner says. RNAO is among the organizations noted in the video for its support for safe injection services. To see the video, visit www.respectcommunities.ca

Nurses participate in summit on aging

RNAO member and president of the Canadian Gerontological Nursing

Association (CGNA), Lynn McCleary, was one of many nurses in attendance at the *Better Aging: Ontario Education Summit* in February. The event, hosted by the Council of Ontario Universities and Ministry of Health, was an opportunity for educators to share strategies for improving education of health professionals when it comes to seniors’ care. Nurses recognize the importance of preparing tomorrow’s nurses for an anticipated influx of baby boomers who have unique care needs. However, McCleary says that although educators are working on enhancing their courses and curriculum, and want to do more to cultivate nurses’ knowledge of elder care, there are not always enough gerontological nursing experts among faculty. Some educators don’t know what the required competencies are for nursing older adults, she adds. To find out more, visit www.CGNA.net and search “publications” for its standards of practice. **RN**



In 1965, Edith Rainsford Dick (left) was featured on the pages of the then *RNAO News Bulletin* for her Honorary Life Membership.

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