

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT
to the
2014 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
of the
CANADIAN ACADEMY OF THE HISTORY OF PHARMACY

It hardly seems like a year has passed since our last meeting in Charlottetown, but here we are again looking back at even more pharmacy history.

An ever growing number of pharmacists are grasping the opportunity to enhance their role and increase their scope of practice. We have gone virtually full circle from the days when Louis Hebert would compound a preparation from the botanicals available to him, and advise a patient of the best manner to treat the ailment. Pharmacists of today are now able to assess patients and prescribe treatments under specific circumstances for a particular list of ailments. And this is very likely only the beginning of this evolution.

We are welcoming a new profession to the practice of pharmacy, that being the pharmacy technician. And their role can only be enhanced with the further evolution of the role of the pharmacist. But we cannot forget that legislation does not generally change at a rate favourable to the evolutionary adjustments in the practice of any profession.

It always seems that there is a special and historical event to celebrate during our meeting. This year we celebrate two milestones in pharmacy history. The University of Saskatchewan College of Pharmacy and Nutrition is hosting centennial events having admitted its first pharmacy class in January 1914. And the Pharmacy Examining Board of Canada is celebrating its 50th Anniversary with its founder C.Ph.A. after being established through an Act of Parliament on December 21, 1963.

I must report that our website has not been functioning at an optimum level this past year, as the host/provider went out of business. We should anticipate this situation to be resolved forthwith. I anticipate that the new website will be as pleasing to the eye and as simple to navigate as the previous. I am still hoping to see a comprehensive listing of pharmacy museums on the site at some time in the future as a service to our members.

As a voluntary organization, our membership numbers remain relatively strong, but can always be better. It should be an ongoing priority to attract a more youthful following in order to maintain our strength in the future. Unfortunately it is increasingly difficult for many organizations to attract these individuals. It may be possible to dovetail into electronic newsletters in the various jurisdictions in order to advertise our existence and solicit new members.

In Charlottetown, we were pleased to hear two historical presentations. One was by Mr. Fred Martin regarding the history of pharmacy in Prince Edward Island, and another from Dr. John Crellin was a preview of his book "Newfoundland Drugstores - A History". We received a copy of this book during the year as a member benefit.

Once again I must acknowledge the efforts of our Secretary-Treasurer for his ongoing efforts on behalf of the Academy. Thank you John! The membership appreciates your untiring dedication. You wear so many hats yet still find the time to maintain the vitality of this organization. The agenda for this meeting again promises to be enlightening.

It has been an honour to once again serve as your President. I enjoy the relationship I have with this organization and I look forward to serving the Academy in any manner necessary going forward.

The present is the living sum total of the entire past. The challenge of history is to recover the past and introduce it to the present.

And by the way, in just two days from now, tomorrow will be yesterday, and today will be history.

Respectfully submitted,

W. Gary Cavanagh