

Winnipeg Free Press

Community Profile



Dr. Gordon Goldsborough of the Manitoba Historical Society presents the Manitoba Historical Society Centennial Organization Award to Manitoba Association of Optometrists President, Dr. Michelle Georgi.



Dr. David Oakley (left) is presented with an Honourary Life Membership Award by Dr. Rod Small. Dr. Oakley was also presented with a pin to honour over 50 years of optometric practice.



Dr. Greg Hessegood, Dr. Elisa Fiorentino, Dr. Gilles Lorteau, Dr. Tara King, Dr. David Cochrane, Dr. Kim Eichstien, Dr. Elizabeth Drew, Dr. Robert Kashin, Dr. Irene Mestito-Dao, Dr. Judy MacNeil, Dr. Joanne Bisson, Dr. Michael Nelson, Dr. Selena Friesen and Dr. Bruce Dorm were all presented with a pin to honour their 10 or more years of optometric practice.

Manitoba Association of Optometrists 100th Anniversary Gala

The Manitoba Association of Optometrists celebrated its 100th Anniversary with a Gala Dinner and Dance at the Fairmont Winnipeg on April 18, 2009. The Association was incorporated by an Act of the Manitoba Legislature on March 10, 1909, and optometrists have been providing quality eye care to Manitobans for the last 100 years. The Manitoba Historical Society recognized this milestone at the Gala with the presentation of a Centennial Organization Award in recognition of the Association's contribution to Manitoba's social, cultural and economic life over the past one hundred years.

Over 300 optometrists, optometric staff, ophthalmologists, and guests attended the Dinner and Dance. Also attending were Vic Pereira, Chair, CNIB MB-SK Division Board, and Clint Castle, a Member of the CNIB MB-SK Division Board. Other guests included Hugh McFadyen, Leader of the Progressive Conservative Party of Manitoba and MLA for Fort Whyte, and his wife Jennifer, as well as Sharon Blady, MLA for Kirkfield Park. The event was emceed by Olympian Sami Jo Small, whose family also includes three generations of Manitoba optometrists.

The 100th Anniversary Gala included successful fundraisers for CNIB and for Dog Guides Canada. The funds raised will assist CNIB in its services to visually impaired Manitobans, and will assist Dog Guides Canada in the placement of service dogs with Manitobans with visual impairments. Guide dogs and other service animals are now protected under The Service Animals Protection Act, a private members bill brought forward by Ms. Blady.

Honourary Life Memberships were presented to Dr. Roy Brown of Virden, Dr. Neil McCaughey of Winnipeg, Dr. Elwood (Woody) Spearman of Brandon, and Dr. David Oakley of Gimli, in recognition of their significant service to the practice of Optometry in Manitoba. Commemorative pins and certificates recognizing optometrists who have been in practice for 10, 20, 30, 40 50, and 60 years were also presented.



Dr. Lorne Ryall, Dr. Michelle Georgi, Dr. Dale Mulhall, Dr. Terry Falconer, Dr. Greg Boguski, Dr. Scott Mundie, Dr. Denis Champagne, Dr. Douglas Puttaert, Dr. Lorna Heuchert, Dr. Doug Holroyd, and Dr. Ross Moore were all presented with a pin to honour their 20 or more years of optometric practice.



Dr. Robert Lecker, Dr. Earl Lautenschlager, Dr. Gerard Murray, Dr. Marlene Reiss, Dr. Steven Mintz, Dr. Randy Ashcroft, Dr. Greg Perkins, and Dr. Arnie Anderson were all presented with a pin to honour their 30 years or more of optometric practice.



Dr. Len Koltun (centre), past-president of the CAO, appears with Dr. Don Porter, Dr. Rod Small, Dr. Keith McDonald, Dr. Woody Spearman, Dr. Bruce Rosner, Dr. Keith Letts, Dr. Roy Jiggins and Dr. John Friesen, who were all presented with a pin to honour their 40 or more years of optometric practice.



Janet Taylor, Clint Castle, CNIB, Dr. Michelle Georgi, President of the Manitoba Association of Optometrists, Vic Pereira, CNIB.



Dr. Roy Brown and Dr. Elwood (Woody) Spearman were both presented with Honourary Life Memberships. Dr. Brown also received a pin to honour over 60 years of optometric practice.



Canadian Association of Optometrists Past Presidents - Dr. Roy Brown (CAO President 1977-1979), Dr. Elwood (Woody) Spearman (CAO President 1969-1971), Dr. Len Koltun (CAO President 2007-2009), Dr. Bruce Rosner (CAO President 1985-1986) and Dr. Scott Mundie (CAO President 2002-2004)



Dr. Len Koltun, Past-President, Canadian Association of Optometrists, Dr. Denis Champagne, Hugh McFadyen, Jennifer McFadyen.



Organizing committee: Dr. Michelle Georgi, Dr. Irene Mestito-Dao, Dr. Steven Mintz, Lauren Goodridge, Executive Director, MAO, Dr. Luke Small, Sami Jo Small, Dr. Tara King.