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The First 125 Years 1868-1993

The Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario



Royal College of
Dental Surgeons of Ontario

Ensuring Continued Trust

NOTE

This publication is not intended to be an official history of the Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario, but rather a casual look back into our past to perhaps wonder at and celebrate our beginnings.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This commemorative issue was produced in 1993 under the guidance of a special editorial committee: Dr. Marvin Klotz, Dr. Kenneth Pownall, Dr. James W. Shosenberg, and Linda Strevens. Much of our research was taken from *The Rise of the Ontario Dental Association*, by Dr. James W. Shosenberg and the archives of the Faculty of Dentistry, University of Toronto. The committee also wishes to thank Dr. Anne Dale, museum curator, Susan Goddard, librarian, and the photographic department for their interest and helpful research.



**Royal College of
Dental Surgeons of Ontario**

Ensuring Continued Trust

The First 125 Years

The Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario 1868-1993

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The text of this publication originally appeared as a special issue of Dispatch magazine in 1993. It is reprinted in part.

A petition

On January 23, 1868, a bill was presented to the new Ontario Legislature to regulate the practice of dentistry in Ontario.

The bill was accompanied by a petition signed by 68 dentists, 38 physicians, one judge, the mayor of Toronto and one druggist.

The preamble to the bill reads:

WHEREAS it is expedient for the protection of the public that there should, by enactment, be established a certain standard of qualification required by each person practising the profession or calling of dentistry in this province.

WE, THEREFORE, pray that an Act be passed required that persons so practising shall be examined by a competent Board as to their qualifications to practise the said profession or calling.



The bill was passed on March 4, 1868. It incorporated the Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario.

Dr. Barnabus Day

Lacking a model in dentistry from which to make plans, men of remarkable creativity and foresight were required to envision and grasp the promise of the future.

Such a man was Dr. Barnabus Day, a dentist from Kingston. Day sent letters to as many dental practitioners in Ontario as he could locate, inviting them to a meeting at the Queen's Hotel in Toronto on January 3, 1867.

Nine people showed. But that was the start of the Ontario Dental Association (ODA), now the membership advocacy association of the dental profession.



Illustration: Francis Chua

On July 2, 1867, the second meeting of ODA took place in Cobourg. This time 33 men attended and a constitution and bylaws were proposed and approved.

At the meeting, Day, ODA's first president, said: "We are determined to frame a bill for the better and fuller realization of our views as professors of dentistry in Ontario, and which we hope would ultimately extend its benefits to the whole of the Dominion."



The rocky road to wisdom 1868-1925

A perspective on the development of dental education in Ontario

By Dr. Kenneth Pownall

On March 4, 1868, An Act Respecting Dentistry received Royal Assent in the Ontario Legislature. This was the first dental act to be adopted anywhere in the world. The Act created the Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario, with a Board of Directors elected by the members of the profession. This body was granted full powers of licensing and regulating dentistry in the province.

The new Act was not welcomed by all dentists. In fact, there was considerable opposition from certain dentists who could not qualify under the grandfather clause. The Act granted recognition without examination only to those dentists who had been constantly engaged for a period of five years in established office practice. This insistence on established office

■ 1869: The first school

In July of 1869 RCDSO opened its first dental school. It was located over the British American Insurance office at the northwest corner of Church and Court streets

in Toronto. Just down the street was the two-story fire hall of the First Engine Company of York, instituted in 1826. And at the end of the street stood the old Scottish kirk of St. Andrew's.

practice blocked the itinerant dentists who travelled from place to place from practising unless they successfully completed an examination.

Section 10 of the Act stated in part: "The Board shall have power and authority to establish and conduct a Dental College in Toronto, to appoint Professors, to fix and determine from time to time a curriculum of studies to be pursued by students and the examinations to be passed before receiving a certificate of licence to practise the profession of dentistry."

This section appears straightforward but it was to become a source of anger, conflict and greed that made the introduction of the formal education of dentists in Ontario unusual, to say the least.

Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario, Canada



Know all Men by these Presents, That Thomas Neelands—
 having complied with the requirements of the Board of Directors and
 Examiners of the Royal College of Dental Surgeons in having paid the
Examination fee provided by law, and having paid the
 Sum of Thirty — Dollars, we, the said Board, do grant him
 this **CERTIFICATE**, and confer upon him the Title of

LICENTIATE OF DENTAL SURGERY.

In Witness Whereof, We have subscribed our names, and have caused the Seal of the College
 to be affixed hereunto, at the City of Toronto, in the said Province of Ontario, this Twenty-third day
 of July — in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Eighty Eight

J. B. Wilmott
 Secretary

Wm. G. ...
 President

Henry ...
 Registrar

N. A. ...
Chas. ...
Geo. L. ...
J. ...

July 23, 1868: The first certificate is presented to Thomas Neelands.

In July 1875, the Ontario Dental Society met in Hamilton and adopted a strong resolution requesting RCDSO to establish a school of dentistry. This motion seems to have been the spark that was needed to ignite RCDSO into action, for later that month the Board of Directors decided to establish a dental school without delay.

Two teachers were considered sufficient and the Board appointed J.B. Wilmott and Luke Teskey to be the staff. The Board was very cautious because of the bad financial experience in the previous attempts to start a school.

The first course of four months was to begin on November 3, 1875. The two lecturers were to divide the stated subjects between them and the infirmary was to be opened for the free treatment of diseases of the teeth. The annual budget was set at \$150 for rent and \$250 for furnishings. The student fee was to be \$100. Eight applications were to be received before the course could commence.

The school opened with 11 students in attendance. The school became known as the Royal College of Dental Surgeons. (The dental school was called the Royal College of Dental Surgeons; the licensing body

was called the Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario.)

The Board put the responsibility for financial success on the shoulders of Willmott and Teskey. They proved to be successful both academically and administratively right from the start.

6 During the first session, 120 patients received free dental care. Patients came in much greater numbers than could be attended to by the students. Willmott and Teskey requested more space for the school.

In the next few years the academic course was extended, proper entrance standards were set, the number of students was increased, the staff was enlarged and larger premises were secured for the school. It remained the only dental school in Canada until 1892.

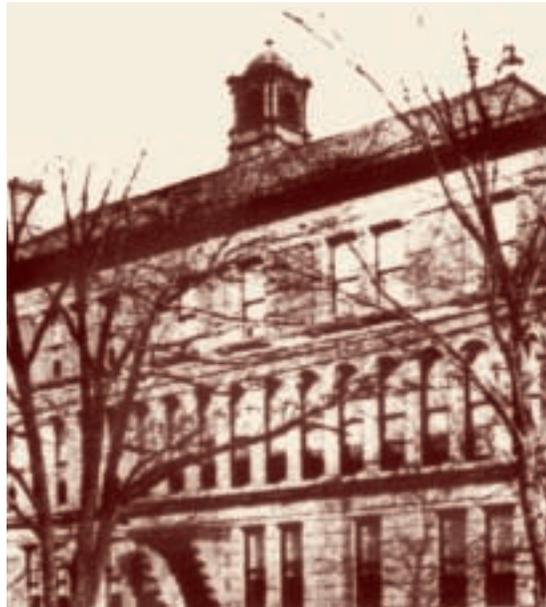
Doctorate degrees

Although the dental school had prospered since 1875, the profession was aware of all the advantages university training would offer to its students. Negotiations began towards affiliating the College school with the University of Toronto. Amendments to the Dental Act in 1887 authorized the College to make the arrangements and the next year the university senate agreed to the affiliation under which the university undertook to teach part of the course and grant the doctorate degree.

Even after the affiliation with the university took place, the RCDSO Board of Directors closely supervised the school. The need for additional space was a constant problem. This necessitated the College changing location.

In 1896, a large dental school was built on College Street on land occupied by the Toronto Hospital. It was thought that it would last for years. In less than 10 years the hospital needed to expand, so in 1907, the profession rose to the emergency and purchased property at the corner of College and Huron streets. A much larger school was erected and equipped in the most modern style without any financial assistance from outside the profession.

In 1907 a questionnaire was sent to all Ontario dentists calling for a vote on seeking establishment of the school as a faculty of the University of Toronto. Ninety-five per cent of the ballots returned were favourable. The university did not raise any substantial academic objections but stated it was impossible for financial reasons. The question arose again in 1924.



■ **1896:** The new super Dental School at 93 College Street, just west of Children's Hospital.

It should be remembered that the College was owned by Ontario dentists and operated by them through the RCDSO Board of Directors as trustees. There was considerable pride of ownership. A ballot was submitted to the membership about the prospect of becoming a faculty. Of the 870 dentists who voted, 858 voted in favour. Under the agreement, the building, fittings and equipment – valued at just under half a million dollars – became the property of the university.

The Faculty of Dentistry of the University of Toronto was established in 1925 and the dental college called the Royal College of Dental Surgeons passed into history.

Information for this article was obtained from several sources but mainly from: A History of Dentistry in Canada by D.W. Gullett and A Legal History of Health Professions in Ontario by Elizabeth MacNab.



J. B. WILLMOTT,
SURGEON DENTIST,
MILTON.

Having opened an Office in Main Street, nearly opposite
"New Era" Office, I take this mode of informing those who
require the services of a Dentist, that I am prepared to perform
operations belonging to my profession in such a manner as to
secure satisfaction.

By the steady insertion of a proper Plug by a skilled Dentist
loose teeth may be restored to health, and preserved through
their possessing a fair amount of substance.

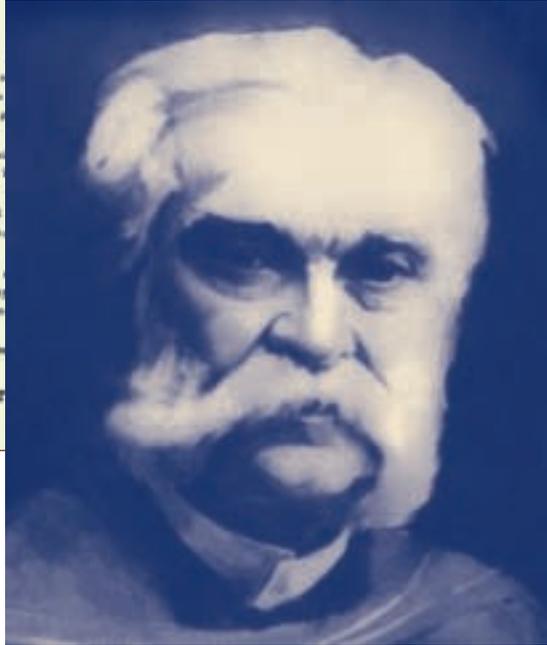
ARTIFICIAL TEETH inserted on Volvulined Solder, and
Gold or Silver Plates, so as naturally to be detached from the
gums. Teeth extracted with the least possible pain.

I will visit DUNDAS, on the Wednesday and Thursday,
DANVILLE, on Friday and Saturday following the first Monday
each Month, and WATSONVILLE, on Friday following the first
Monday in each Month.

Residence in Dundas — ELGIN HOUSE; Oakville — CANADIAN
HOTEL; WATSONVILLE — ASTORIAN'S HOTEL.

J. B. WILLMOTT

Novem. 24th, 1866.



In 1867 Willmott was one of the first dentists to join the Ontario Dental Association. Soon afterwards he signed a petition asking the Ontario Legislature to pass the Act Respecting Dentistry. A year later he registered as a dentist, receiving licence number 42. His colleagues quickly noticed Willmott's political acumen. At an open meeting of licentiates, his colleagues elected him to the RCDSO Board of Directors. Within a month he became Secretary, succeeding John O'Donnell.

Despite the demands of an active practice, a full community life and the responsibilities of secretary of RCDSO, in 1870 Willmott enrolled in the Philadelphia Dental College. While away he received and dispersed RCDSO correspondence from a Hamilton post box. He graduated at the head of the class. In 1871 he returned to Canada and moved to Toronto.

When the RCDSO Board decided to open a new dental school, Willmott's commitment to education and his administrative skills made him the overwhelming choice to oversee its operation. On November 3, 1875, he opened Canada's first permanent dental school. It was located over a cabinet shop at 46 Church Street in Toronto.

Willmott worked hard to raise the school's educational standards. At his urging the Board extended the academic course, raised matriculation standards and increased the number of students. So successful were his efforts that in 1888 the University of Toronto agreed that graduates would receive the degree of Doctor of Dental Surgery if they passed an examination set by the university. The first examinations took place in March 1889. Twenty-five students passed the examinations and received doctorate degrees, the first such degrees conferred outside the United States.

Over the next 40 years, Willmott extended his leadership in dental education. He served as dean of the dental school and secretary of the College continuously until the day of his death in 1915. He is rightfully regarded as the father of dental education in Canada.

— Dr. James W. Shosenberg

James Branston Willmott

RCDSO Secretary 1870-1915

In the dental museum at the Faculty of Dentistry of the University of Toronto is a bust of an imposing man dressed in academic robes. The man is James Branston Willmott. For 45 years he shaped the practice of dentistry in Ontario.

James Branston Willmott was born in June 1837 in Halton, Ontario, of English parents who had immigrated to Canada. In 1858 he entered dentistry, apprenticing with W. Case Adams of Toronto. A year later, he opened a practice at Milton, where he quickly became active in community affairs.

Willmott served on Milton town council for three years, two of those as chair of the finance committee. In 1863 he became a justice of the peace. He found time to become an active member of the Mechanics Institute, a voluntary association of people seeking improvement through education.

■
1889: Dental students bundled up against the Toronto winter pose for a class picture outside the Louisa Street Dental College. The fellow on the extreme right is getting in some extracting practice – every class has its comedians. The College continued to operate in this location until 1896.





McLaren Chair

This chair was manufactured in Toronto around 1880. It was able to tilt backward and forward and had an adjustable head rest. The best part was the price: It cost all of \$30.



Monday's Special

New Monday evening, at 10 o'clock, 15 only sets of teeth, were from \$10 to \$15, your choice of day - of these, for only..... **\$3.00**

C. A. RISK, DENTIST,
 1400 and Richmond St.,
 West of Main.

**TEETH
 WITHOUT PLATES**

OF CROWN and BRIDGE WORK

Is our specialty. Satisfaction always assured.

CROWN DENTAL PARLORS - H. A. GALLOWAY, L.D.S.

Yonge and Queen Sts. Office Hours - 8.30 a.m. to 6 p.m., 7.30 p.m. to 9 p.m.

First woman graduates

The first woman dentist in Canada was Dr. Caroline Louise Josephine Wells, who graduated from the Royal College of Dental Surgeons in 1893.

Her husband, John, had been the gold medalist of his year when he graduated from the College in 1882. However, he became ill and Caroline Wells sent her three children to relatives and decided to pursue the dental profession herself.

At the time, women were having a hard time getting into medical schools. But Dr. Luke Teskey, a member of the staff of the RCDS, helped Wells with her studies. Encouraged by her friends, Wells later took the examination at Trinity College and received her doctorate in 1899. Wells practised for 36 years on Spadina Avenue in Toronto.

She became interested in providing dental services to Ontario mental hospitals. At that time inmates were either allowed to suffer or extractions were done by a medical doctor. Wells was ultimately responsible for treatment being given to mental patients in Toronto, Mimico, Hamilton, Orillia and at the Mercer Reformatory.

Ten years before her retirement, Wells stopped working in private practice and devoted herself to the work she had begun in these institutions. She died in 1939 at the age of 83.

One of her sons, Mr. Justice Dalton Wells, became the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Ontario.



Detail from a portrait by Dr. W.G.L. Spaulding

Dr. Jacob Neelands anaesthetic pioneer

Jacob Neelands began practice in Lindsay, Ontario, in 1861 and was still practising at the age of 90 in 1928. For many years he was known as Ontario's Grand Old Man of Dentistry. Over the years he had many indentured students and all spoke of him as a dentist in glowing terms.

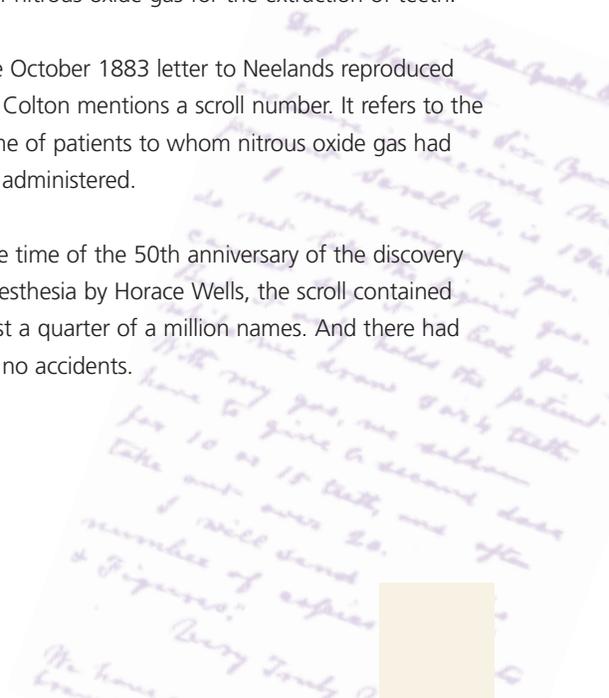
One of his claims to fame is that he is often credited as being the first person in Canada to use nitrous oxide as a general anaesthetic. The evidence is hard to pin down, but certainly he was first in his own area. Neelands manufactured his own gas and the equipment to administer it.

Neelands had spent some time in New York with Gardiner Colton, who, although he was not a dentist,

established the Colton Dental Association in 1863, and who claimed to be one of the originators of the use of nitrous oxide gas for the extraction of teeth.

In the October 1883 letter to Neelands reproduced here, Colton mentions a scroll number. It refers to the volume of patients to whom nitrous oxide gas had been administered.

At the time of the 50th anniversary of the discovery of anesthesia by Horace Wells, the scroll contained almost a quarter of a million names. And there had been no accidents.



The Marshall family

The year is 1886 and Dr. Jack Allison Marshall is standing in his new operating room with patient and dental assistant (below). Marshall had just purchased the Belleville, Ontario, practice of Dr. Benson Gilbert, one of Ontario's first dental graduates. And so began 95 years of continuous family service.

J.A. Marshall came from a family of dentists; two brothers and a nephew who also practised in Ontario. Marshall's son, O.A. Marshall, joined his father's practice in 1901. O.A. Marshall had three

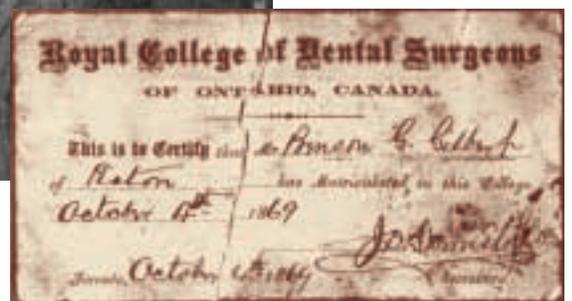
sons who became a physician, a pharmacist and, of course, a dentist.

That son, J.A. Marshall, graduated in 1929. In 1934 he and his father formed a partnership in Belleville, which operated until the father died in 1957.

Jack Marshall continued to serve the people of the Bay of Quinte area until he retired in 1981, ending a family dynasty that lasted almost 100 years.



■ **1869:** On October 4, Benson Gilbert became one of the first students to be matriculated from the Royal College, his certificate (below) signed by John O'Donnell. Almost 20 years later, Benson Gilbert would sell his Belleville practice to J. A. Marshall.



Dr. William Hamilton

Dr. William R. Hamilton (right) graduated from the University of Toronto in 1890 and set up a dental practice in Chesley, Ontario, where he worked for two years. On the right of the picture is a tank of nitrous oxide that was mixed every day before beginning the day's treatments. In 1903 Hamilton moved

to Stratford to join Dr. Yemen – an early itinerant dentist whose Archer chair is in the dental museum at the University of Toronto. Hamilton died the following year from typhoid fever. He was just 37.





■ **Care for children**
 Dr. John Adams pursued a passion to care for children's teeth all his life. Here he is examining a child with a dental abscess. When his free clinic was shut down by the City of Toronto in 1899, he continued his fight for the idea of a public health program.

The father of public health dentistry in Canada

When John Adams arrived in Toronto in 1870, he joined his brother, W. Case Adams, for a four-year indenturship. A deeply religious man, John Adams spent much of his spare time and money working with the poor – particularly with children.

After some time in practice in Toronto's Yorkville district, he moved to Elm Street, where he opened a free clinic called Christ's Mission Hall and Dental Institute.

By the mid-1890s Adams had operated his clinic for two decades. He was convinced that the correct approach to oral disease was to treat it before extraction became necessary. His plan was to launch a province-wide program to inspect school children's teeth, detect decayed teeth and then restore them.

It was a popular idea neither with Adam's peers nor with the politicians of the day. The provincial government kept passing the buck, unwilling to act on the public health issue.

Since the opening of his health clinic Adams had paid no taxes – he had an understanding with the City of Toronto to treat the institute as a charitable operation.

However, in 1899 the city suddenly seized the building and its contents for back taxes (totalling \$200) and, despite the fact local newspapers took up Adams' cause, the clinic closed.

Not a man to give up easily, Adams continued to push all levels of government with his ideas.

In 1890 he wrote in the *Dominion Dental Journal*:

Having seen the wretched condition of children's teeth... I feel it would be a crime in me if I did not do all in my power to remedy this evil. Those who have read the Toronto papers know some of the difficulties I have had, which has finally reached the climax by the city sending their bailiff. However, by doing so they have kindly relieved me from all further care for their poor children.

Now my mission field is no longer confined to one small city, as I had supposed it was to be, but it is enlarged, so that it takes in suffering childhood, rich or poor, the world wide over.

My mission work is also changed. Instead of standing over poor, frightened children, wrenching out permanent teeth that might have been saved if I could have reached the children in time, I am now calling the attention of parents and the public to the serious condition of children's teeth and asking them to organize dental hospital boards to co-operate with dentists in the cities and towns in making hospital provision for

the poor, and in petitioning the legislature for an amendment to the school law, giving school boards, where the citizens desire it, power to require school children to have their teeth examined.

In the years that followed, Adams and his Ontario Dental Society colleagues would continue to press the government to act in the interest of the public's oral health.

John Adams died in 1922.

“The people of the twentieth century will find themselves face to face with one of the most serious calamities that has befallen the human race since the days of Noah. I refer to the sad change that has taken place in the condition of children's permanent teeth.”

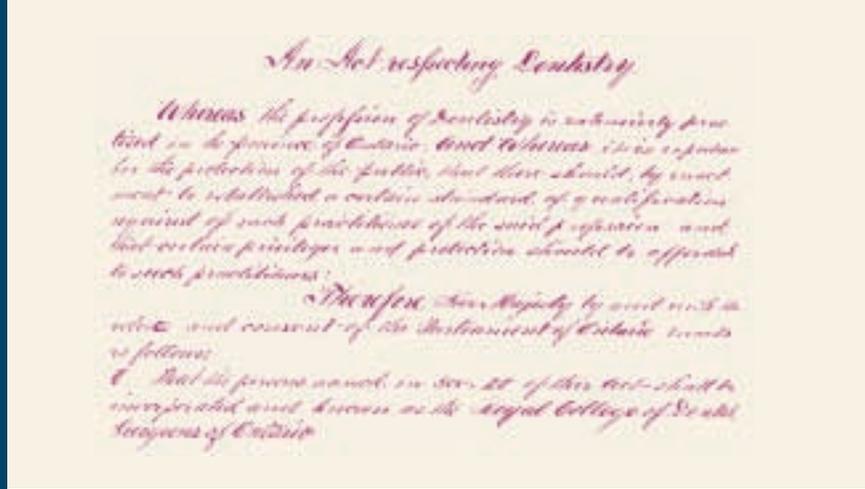
– Dr. John Adams



■ **Free clinic:**

Christ's Mission Hall and Dental Institute was at 55 Elm Street, one block from Yonge Street in Toronto. Dr. John Adams opened a clinic to give free dental treatment to the poor of Toronto.

An Act Respecting Dentistry—1868



■ This is a copy of the original document sent to the printer before the first reading in the 1868 Ontario Legislature. Courtesy Archives of Ontario

First reading January 30, 1868. Second reading February 11, 1868. Third reading March 3, 1868.

Whereas the profession of Dentistry is extensively practised in the Province of Ontario, and whereas it is expedient for the protection of the public, that there should by enactment be established a certain standard of qualification required of each practitioner of the said profession, and that certain privileges and protection should be afforded to such practitioners: Therefore her Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, enacts as follows:

1. The persons named in Section two of this Act shall be incorporated and known as the Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario.
2. Until other persons be elected as hereinafter provided, Barnabus W. Day, of the City of Kingston, M.D.; Curtis Strong Chittenden, of the City of Hamilton; Henry Tunstall Wood, of the Town of Picton; John O'Donnell, of the Town of Peterborough; Joseph Stuart Scott, of the City of Toronto, M.D.; Franklin Gooderich Callender, of the Town of Cobourg; George Van Nest Relyea, of the Town of Belleville; Antoine Denmark Lalonde, of the Town of Brockville; Charles Kahn, of the Town of Stratford; James Bogart Meacham, of the Town of Brantford; George L. Elliott, of the City of Toronto; and John Leggo, of the City of Ottawa, shall be trustees, and a Board of Examiners, of whom five shall be a quorum, to examine and grant

certificates to licence to practice Dental Surgery in this Province.

3. The Board of Directors to be elected, as hereinafter mentioned, shall consist of twelve members, who will hold office for two years; any member may at any time resign by letter directed to the Secretary, and in the event of such resignation, or a vacancy occurring by death or otherwise, the remaining members of the Board shall elect some fit and proper person from among the licentiates to supply such vacancy.
4. The first election shall take place on the first Tuesday in June, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-eight, at such place in the City of Toronto, as shall be fixed by law of the Provisional board; and the Secretary of such Board shall act as returning Officer at said election, and the persons qualified to vote at such election shall be the Licentiates of said Provisional Board; admitted without examination, before said election and the Provisional Board shall issue certificates to such person upon their compliance with the requisites of said section, and it shall be the duty of the Secretary to Publish in the Ontario Gazette, for two weeks after said election, the names of persons who have been elected members of the Board.
5. The said newly elected Board as well as all Boards to be hereinafter elected shall hold their first meeting on the third Tuesday in July next

after the said elections in the City of Toronto, at such place as may be fixed by the Board.

6. Every subsequent election shall be held on the Tuesday in June, in every second year, after the first election and the persons qualified at the said election shall be those Licentiates who have obtained their certificates as provided in the twelfth section of this Act.
7. The said Board shall, at their first meeting after their election, elect from among themselves a President, Treasurer, Secretary and Registrar and such other officers as may be necessary to the working of this Act and the rules and regulations of said Board; and the said Board shall from time to time, in the event of the President being absent, from any cause whatever, elect from among their number, a person to preside at their meetings, who shall have the same powers, and exercise the same functions, as the President.
8. There shall be allowed and paid to each of the members of said Board such fees for attendance (in no case to exceed five dollars per day and such reasonable travelling expenses) as shall from time to time be allowed by said Board.
9. All moneys forming part of the funds of the said Board shall be paid to the Treasurer, and shall be applied to the carrying of this Act into execution.

10. The Board shall have power and authority to establish and conduct a Dental College in Toronto, to appoint Professors, to fix and determine from time to time a curriculum of studies to be pursued by students and determine the period for which every student shall be articulated and employed under some duly licensed practitioner, and the examination necessary to be passed before said Board, and the fees to be paid into the hands of the Treasurer of the said Board, before receiving certificate of license to practice the profession of dentistry.

11. The said Board may hold two sittings in every year for the purpose of examining students, granting certificates of license, and doing such other business as may properly come before them, such sittings to commence on the third Tuesday in July and January, in each and every year, which may be continued by adjournment from day to day, until business before the said Board be finished, but no session shall exceed one week, said sitting to be held in the City of Toronto.

12. All persons being British subjects by birth or naturalization, who have been constantly engaged for any period less than five years in established office practice next preceding the passing of this Act in the practice of the profession of dentistry, shall be entitled to a certificate of Licentiate of Dental Surgery, upon their furnishing to the said Board satisfactory proof of their having been so engaged, and upon passing the required examination, and upon payment of such fees as may be authorized and fixed by the said Board, for the payment of which the Treasurer's receipt shall be sufficient evidence, and all persons being British subjects by birth or naturalization, who have been constantly engaged for five years and upwards in established office practice, next preceding the passing of this Act, in the practice of the profession of dentistry, shall upon such proof as aforesaid, and upon the payment of the fees as aforesaid, be entitled to such certificate without passing any examination.

13. The said Board shall at its first meeting, and from time to time thereafter, make such rules, regulations and bylaws as may be necessary for the proper and better guidance, government and regulation of Board and

College, and said profession of Dentistry, as to fees and otherwise, and the carrying out of this Act; which said rules, regulations and bylaws shall be published for two consecutive weeks in the Ontario Gazette; any or all such rules, regulations and bylaws shall be liable to be cancelled and annulled by an order of the Lieutenant-Governor of this Province.

14. Every person desirous of being examined by the said Board, touching his qualifications for the practice of the profession of Dentistry, shall at least one month before the sitting of said Board, pay into the hands of the Treasurer the required fees, and inclose and deliver to the Secretary the Treasurer's receipt for the same, together with satisfactory evidence of his apprenticeship, integrity and good morals; and it shall be the duty of the Board to hold a sitting for the purpose hereinbefore mentioned on the third Tuesdays of January and July, whichever shall first happen next ensuring the said payment and delivery.

15. If the Board be satisfied by the examination that the person is duly qualified to practice the profession of Dentistry, and be satisfied that he is a person of integrity and good moral character, they shall grant him a certificate for license and the title of Licentiate in Dental Surgery, which certificate and title shall entitle him to all the rights and privileges of this Act until such time as the Board shall be satisfied that he has been guilty of acts detrimental to the interests of the profession, when he shall forfeit his certificate, and it shall be cancelled; forfeiture may, however, be waived, and the said certificate of and all rights and privileges thereunder, fully revived by said Board, in such manner and upon such terms and conditions as to said Board may be expedient.

16. Every certificate of license shall be sealed with the Corporation Seal and signed by the President and Secretary of said Board; production of such certificate of license shall be prima facie evidence in courts of law and upon all proceedings of whatever kind, of its execution and contents.

17. The Secretary of said Board shall, on or before the 15th day of January in each and every year, inclose to the Provincial secretary, a

certified list of the names of all persons to whom certificates have been granted during the then next preceding year.

18. If any person, after the period of twelve months after the passing of this Act, not holding valid and unforfeited certificate of license practises the said profession of Dentistry for hire, gain or hope of reward, or wilfully and falsely pretends to hold a certificate of license under this Act, or takes or uses any name, title, addition or description implying that he is duly authorized to practise the said profession of Dentistry, falsely uses any title representing that he is a graduate of any Dental College, either in Great Britain or other countries, he shall be liable to summary conviction, before any two or more Justices of the Peace, for every such offence, and shall, on such conviction, be liable to a fine not exceeding twenty dollars, which said penalty, in default of payment, shall be enforced by distress and sale of the offender's goods and chattels; and it is further provided that no such person shall recover in any court of law for any work done or materials provided by him in the ordinary and customary work of a Dentist.

19. Nothing in this Act shall interfere with the privileges conferred upon Physicians and Surgeons by the various acts relating to practice of Medicine and Surgery in this Province.

Reference: Canada Journal of Dental Science, Volume 1. 1869. An Act Respecting Dentistry Pages 23 to 26.

Secretaries and Registrars

by Dr. James W. Shosenberg



John O'Donnell Secretary 1868-1870

The Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario would not exist but for the resourcefulness and determination of a handful of early dental practitioners. Foremost among these was John O'Donnell of Peterborough.

Little is known of O'Donnell's background. He was almost certainly of Irish immigrant stock. Some time before 1867, he settled in Peterborough and opened a dental practice. His professional card in the local paper was remarkably restrained for the time. In an era when extravagant claims of dental qualifications were common, he referred to himself simply as J. O'Donnell, DS (Dental Surgeon).

His rise in organized dentistry began when he attended the first meeting of the Ontario Dental Association in Toronto on January 3, 1867. O'Donnell was elected corresponding secretary, becoming one of the first officers of the new association. He discharged his post with such diligence and efficiency that a year later he became president.

As president, O'Donnell led ODA when the association successfully lobbied the Ontario Legislature

into passing the Act Respecting Dentistry in March 1869. For his efforts he was appointed one of the 12 founding directors of the new Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario. At the first meeting his colleagues elected him secretary of RCDSO.

In July 1869 the Board decided to open a dental school, the Royal College of Dental Surgeons, and the Board looked to O'Donnell for help.

O'Donnell agreed to become professor of Mechanical Dentistry. (His opposite number was Dr. Francis Callender of Cobourg, who became professor of Operative Dentistry.) The school was located over the British American Life Insurance, at the northwest corner of Church and Court streets in Toronto. Unfortunately, its success was short-lived.

At the end of the first session, the Royal College of Dental Surgeons had a huge deficit. The RCDSO Board was forced to close the school, selling the furniture and equipment to liquidate the debt. Disappointed, O'Donnell withdrew from organized dentistry and concentrated his talents on his Peterborough practice.

Despite the failure of the school, John O'Donnell achieved a great deal. His efforts helped to put dentistry in Ontario on sound legal footing. The Act Respecting Dentistry was the first dental act in the world. It not only gave the dental profession in Ontario the right to govern itself, but would set a pattern for legislation in every other Canadian province.

John O'Donnell was followed as secretary by J.B. Willmott, who served from 1870 to 1915. J.B. Willmott's biography is on page 7.



Walter Earl Willmott

Secretary 1915-1940

Walter Willmott (1866-1951) was a familiar sight in Ontario dental organizations for more than 50 years. Like his father, James Branston Willmott, dentistry was his consuming interest.

Willmott graduated from the Royal College of Dental Surgeons in 1888, and immediately joined the staff. For the rest of his career he would be intimately associated with the school. But this was to be a small portion of his commitment to dentistry.

During his professional career, Willmott served as treasurer of the Dentists' Legal Protective Association and president of the American Institute of Pedagogics and the Toronto Dental Society. He was also a founder of the Canadian Oral Prophylactic Association – an organization founded by dentists to provide effective dentifrices to the public. He pioneered the use of dental radiography and, for the rest of his life, paid the price in the form of two raw radiation burns on his thumbs.

In 1915 Walter Willmott succeeded his father as Registrar-Secretary-Treasurer of the RCDSO Board, a post he would occupy for the next 27 years. He had a tremendous capacity for detail, a trait that greatly aided the work of the Board, and his colleagues held him in great esteem.

Throughout his career, Willmott was guided by the same deep and abiding religious faith as his father. He was an ardent churchman – a member and elder of Metropolitan United Church. For many years he served as a member of the Sunday School and Epworth League Board of Methodist Church. Despite his busy schedule, he became president of the Laymen's Association Toronto Conference of the United Church and an assistant secretary of the general conference. He was elected to the first General Council of the United Church.

Willmott's compassion and understanding were legendary. Senior dental students informed freshies, "If you are ever in trouble in this school, Walter Willmott is the one to turn to." It was advice many students found to be true.

At the time of his death in 1951, Willmott was an honorary member of the Ontario Dental Association, the Academy of Dentistry and the Toronto East Dental Society.



W. W. Sisson



A. A. Stewart



F. H. Hall



T. M. Hill



T. M. Lakin



T. M. Miller



E. L. Gammell



F. E. Bingham



A. F. Hall



E. A. Goble



E. M. G. Miller



F. M. G. Miller



E. M. G. Miller



W. M. Gammell



F. E. Bingham



E. J. Johnson



F. A. Goble



A. Gammell



F. E. Goble



F. E. Goble



E. E. Gammell



E. M. Goble



E. A. Goble



W. M. Goble



A. Goble



F. M. Goble



F. M. Goble



F. M. Goble



E. M. Goble



E. M. Goble



W. M. Goble



F. M. Goble



E. M. Goble



W. M. Goble



F. M. Goble



E. M. Goble



E. M. Goble



W. M. Goble



F. M. Goble



F. M. Goble



F. M. Goble



F. M. Goble

ROYAL COLLEGE
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Graduating



DENTAL SURGEONS
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Class 1904



Donald Werden Gullett

Secretary-Registrar-Treasurer 1940-1956

Don Gullett was born at Wellmans in Hasting County in 1898. He received his early education at Syracuse, New York, and Picton Collegiate Institute. At the age of 19 he joined the 73rd Battery of Field Artillery and was sent overseas. Later, he transferred to a battalion working with a new weapon called the tank.

In 1919 he returned to Canada and entered the Royal College of Dental Surgeons. Gullett graduated in 1923 in the famous “whiz-bang” class, which was named after the sound of shellfire made by the German 77-millimetre gun of the Great War. After graduation he practised dentistry at Picton and soon took an active interest in community affairs. In the next few years he served as chair of the school board, president of the Picton Kiwanis Club, treasurer of the United Church, and member of the library board and the hospital board.

In 1936 the dentists of Gullett’s district elected him to the Board of the Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario, and on May 1, 1940, he became secretary of the Board. Two years later he became the registrar of the College and in 1945, treasurer. His administrative ability and capacity for hard work accelerated the progress of RCDSO. But this was just the beginning of his impact on his profession.

Gullett was convinced dentistry could contribute to the health of the nation only by total commitment to health research, education and treatment. During the next two decades he pursued this goal through an involvement in organized dentistry. He served as secretary of the Canadian Dental Association, president of the American College of Dentists, member of the council of the Fédération Dentaire Internationale, special adviser in dentistry to the World Health Organization, and as a member of The Commission on the Survey of Dentistry in the United States. Somehow he found time to pursue a literary career as well.

During his career Gullett published more than 50 papers, the first in the year of his graduation. After his retirement he used his skill to write a book, *A History of Dentistry in Canada*, the definitive work on dentistry in this country.

His contribution to the dental profession was widely recognized. His honours are an encyclopedic list of awards for professional achievement. From the government of Canada, Gullett received the Coronation Medal, the Centennial Medal, and the Medal of Science of the Order of Canada. He received honorary degrees from Dalhousie University, Université de Montréal, Temple University and the University of Western Ontario. He was awarded honorary memberships in the American, Australian, British, and Canadian dental associations and the Académie Nationale de Chirurgie Dentaire de France. Many provincial dental associations, including the Ontario Dental Association, honoured him in this way as well.

For his literary achievements, Gullett received the William J. Gies Award from the American College of Dentists, the Distinguished Service Award from the American Association of Dental Editors, and the Elmer S. Best Award from the Pierre Fauchard Society.

Gullett was blessed with a keen social sensitivity, and an awareness of the profession’s responsibility. His dedication benefited not only our College, but the profession and our country.



Wesley J. Dunn

Registrar-Secretary-Treasurer 1956-1965

Wes Dunn is a person who likes to start things. It is a good thing that he does, for in his professional career he has started a great number of them.

He was a founding member of the Canadian Society of Dentistry for Children and was the society's first secretary. He helped start Dental Service Plans Incorporated, a dental post-payment plan. He was one of the first people – and the very first dentist – appointed to the Ontario Council on Health. The council was an advisory body to the Minister of Health. It, in turn, started Ontario's district health councils.

Wesley John Dunn was born in Toronto in 1924. He entered Victoria College at the University of Toronto in 1942, and a year later enrolled in the Faculty of Dentistry. He graduated in dentistry in 1947, and for the next nine years practised general dentistry.

He uses the word "serendipitous" to describe how he became registrar of RCDSO. Shortly after Dunn's graduation, Dr. Perc Lowery asked him to become assistant editor and business manager of The Journal of the Ontario Dental Association. The editor, Dr. Lee Honey, had moved from Toronto to Welland, and the association thought someone located in Toronto should be available to help him. Dunn left the position after a few years but the experience gave him a leg up for his next appointment.

Soon afterwards he was asked to become interim editor of Oral Health, until the editorial board could find someone to fill the position permanently. But after a short time, the editorial board was so pleased with Dunn's work that he ended up with the job.

In 1953 the editor of The Journal of the Canadian Dental Association retired and Wes took on that job, too. To this day he is the only dentist in Canadian history to hold an editorial position with no less than three of Canada's four major dental journals.

At the time Dr. Don Gullet was serving both as registrar of RCDSO and secretary of the Canadian Dental Association. By 1955 the dual responsibility became too onerous for even Gullett to handle. The RCDSO Board asked him to become assistant registrar-secretary-treasurer of RCDSO. In 1956 Dunn became the fifth registrar of the College.

The controversy of the day was RCDSO's involvement with the Canadian Dental Association. RCDSO was the corporate member of CDA. RCDSO gave the national association a grant based on the number of licensed dentists in Ontario. Although dentists could choose not to become members of CDA, there was no financial advantage in doing so. The fee for their licence was not reduced and the grant was paid on their behalf anyway. Dunn had a major role in resolving the problem. In 1967, RCDSO transferred CDA corporate membership to the Ontario Dental Association, and from this time forward, any grant from RCDSO was in aid of specific programs, such as accreditation.

Dunn was instrumental in starting the dental welfare plan as well. The Ontario Government wanted RCDSO to administer a plan modelled after one operated by the Alberta Dental Association. The province of Ontario offered a monthly grant of 12 cents for each eligible person. Dunn calculated the program would cost 71 cents per eligible person. Thanks to Dunn, the Ontario government settled for 70 cents, and the program went ahead.

In October 1964, then premier John Robarts held a press conference to announce, among other new

programs, that the government would build Ontario's second dental school at the University of Western Ontario in London. At the conference were Dunn and G. Edward Hall, president of UWO. Dunn and Hall had worked together to bring the plans for the new school to fruition, but Hall had a surprise for Dunn. At the end of the press conference, he shook Dunn's hand and said: "Well, that's the first step; now we have to get on to the next. How committed are you to your present employer?" To Dunn's astonishment, UWO had selected him to be the founding dean of the new dental school. RCDSO had not seen the last of him, however.

As dean, Dunn became a member of the RCDSO Board. His previous experience with the Royal College was immediately useful to both organizations. With his guidance, an academic register was set up so foreign-trained dentists could teach full-time in Ontario dental schools without leaping the hurdle of an Ontario licensing examination. Moreover, in his dual roles he was ideally placed to explain the responsibilities of RCDSO and ODA to the profession, and made a point of doing so.

Dunn has never been intimidated by legal language or lawyers. He has a very extensive knowledge of health law and the legislative process, and was immensely valuable to the College when the government was drafting the Health Disciplines Act, 1974, and, then the Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991.

In 1990 Dunn achieved yet another first when he became president of the Royal College, the first person to serve both as registrar and president.

In recognition of his success in "starting things," Dunn's grateful colleagues have lavished awards on him. Among them are honorary fellowships in the Royal College of Dentists of Canada, the Academy of Dentistry International and the International College of Dentists, and honorary memberships in the Ontario Dental Association and the Canadian Dental Association. Truly, the tapestry of organized dentistry is richly interwoven with the threads of his contributions.



1909 – A new Dental College rises

The success of the education program at the Dental College and the ever-increasing demand on the facilities forced RCDSO to build a brand new college at 240 College Street in Toronto. It was later renumbered 230. By 1919, with the First World War over and with thousands of service-men returning to civilian life, the number of applications for dental school skyrocketed. There were 375 applications for 80 places. An addition to the school was the only way out. The government was asked to help with the \$150,000 cost, but turned down the request. Finally, with hundreds of soldiers demanding admission, the government agreed to a \$100,000 grant to build the addition. Those soldier-students became the graduation class of 1923, and were known as the "whiz-bang" class, after the German 77-millimetre gun. In 1925 the RCDSO Board offered the school to the University of Toronto, and the Faculty of Dentistry was created.





Kenneth Franklyn Pownall

Registrar 1965-1990

Ken Pownall's interest in the public good was developed when operating a mobile children's dental clinic for the Red Cross in Newfoundland outposts in 1951. "I very early learned the importance of dentistry," he observed later. "The experience made you compassionate for people who, through no fault of their own, don't have the luxuries we do."

Kenneth F. Pownall was born on August 3, 1924, in Mimico, and attended elementary and high school there, graduating in 1943. Immediately after graduation, he entered the Canadian army, in which he served for the next three years. In 1946, Pownall entered the University of Toronto Dental Faculty. Immediately before his graduation in 1951, one of his teachers, Dr. Sandy MacGregor, approached him to join the Newfoundland project that changed his life.

In July 1952, Pownall returned to Ontario and began a private practice in Mimico. However, he was soon drawn into organized dentistry. That same year he was asked to serve on the Public Health Committee of the Ontario Dental Association.

In 1953 he joined the part-time staff of the Toronto Hospital for Sick Children, where he performed volunteer work for the next decade. He was an active member of the West Toronto Dental Society, serving as an executive member and in 1958 as president. The next year he became a councillor to the Academy of

Dentistry of Toronto. In 1961 he became chair of the ODA Public Health Committee, which made him an ex officio member of the association's Board of Governors. He became a clinical demonstrator in paedodontics at the Faculty of Dentistry of the University of Toronto in 1962.

On February 1, 1965, he capped his career by becoming the sixth registrar of the Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario. (His official title was chief administrative officer.) The work was demanding. It required commitment, flexibility and a sense of humour – abilities Pownall possesses in full.

The second week that Pownall was in the job, the provincial government announced the province was setting up a community college system to teach dental hygiene and dental technology. The inexperienced registrar needed a full morning to write a response from the College. He quickly adjusted to his new responsibilities, however.

The fallout from the 1968 Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia brought 16 dentists to Ontario, and to Pownall his greatest challenge. The College decided to help the dentists by setting a special examination for them. They all failed. In a whirlwind of planning, Pownall, with provincial government support, developed a special course to upgrade their skills. A 10-month course at the University of Western Ontario in London was arranged. Twelve of the 16 Czech dentists passed the course and set up practices in Ontario. The resolution brought international recognition to the College and to Pownall. Despite a lifetime of remarkable achievements, he still feels this was his greatest contribution.

Pownall was a leader in getting forensic dentistry organized in Canada. He and a colleague, Dr. Jim Purves, began by taking a course on identifying bodies in mass disasters. Then, immediately before the 1970 Canadian Dental Association convention, they wrote to Canadian dentists inviting them to meet during the convention. The result was the Canadian Society of Forensic Odontology, later to become the Odontology Section of the Canadian Society of Forensic Science.

In the mid-1960s RCDSO and ODA hired the Woods Gordon consulting company to disentangle the responsibilities of the two organizations. The smooth implementation of the consultant's recommendations required a huge amount of administration. Much of the work fell on the shoulders of just one person – Dr. Ken Pownall. From 1966 to 1972, he performed the roles of chief executive officer of both organizations, an astonishing administrative feat. It is typical of Pownall's high ethical standards that, although courted by ODA, he remained with RCDSO because he felt he owed his loyalty to the College.

Pownall's flexibility has stood him in good stead through the decades of changes. One such change came when the Health Disciplines Act of 1975 added public representatives to the RCDSO Council. The

College's concerns proved to be unfounded. "The public representatives learn a lot after they've been on committees for a short time," he reported later, "and they give creditability to the Council. Citizens aren't as intimidated to appear before the Complaints Committee when they know there is a public representative there as well as dentists."

Pownall's skills were much in demand after he retired from RCDSO in 1990. Within a year he was asked to become president of the Canadian College of Naturopathic Medicine.

In his years as registrar of the Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario, Ken Pownall left an indelible mark on dentistry and through his kindness on the lives of everyone he has met.



Roger Langrick Ellis

Registrar 1990-1996

If fate had been more discriminating, Roger Ellis might be a pharmacist or a radio announcer rather than a dentist.

He was born on April 30, 1932, in the town of Almonte in the Ottawa Valley. In his final year at Renfrew high school, he was undecided on a career. He had narrowed his choices to three: pharmacy, dentistry, or radio announcing. He decided to let fate

choose. He would apply to all three professions and enter the one fate selected. However, fate threw the decision right back to him. He was accepted in all three.

After carefully weighing the pros and cons of each choice – a trait that would become his hallmark – he made his decision.

In 1951 Ellis entered the Faculty of Dentistry at the University of Toronto. At the time, Dr. Roy Ellis was dean of the faculty, and Ellis recounts that everyone believed he was the dean's son. "I didn't have to pay for my own coffee for nearly two years," he says with a laugh.

He excelled at dentistry. In 1956, he graduated *magna cum laude*, and won several academic prizes as well. He moved to Preston (now Cambridge) and for the next decade practised general dentistry. By 1966, however, Ellis was ready for a chance in career. He made the decision to take some time away from dentistry to consider his future. He travelled to Europe, where he spent the following year.

On his return Ellis entered post-graduate studies in dental public health at the University of Toronto. He continued to excel in academic studies, winning the

Donald T. Fraser Medal as the outstanding graduate of the School of Hygiene, class of 1968, Faculty of Medicine. Soon, his talent was recognized by the Faculty of Dentistry.

In 1969 he was asked to become assistant professor of community dentistry. Despite a heavy academic workload, he continued with his studies, and in 1970 received a Master of Science degree in health administration.

Ellis rose rapidly through the academic ranks. Within a few years he was promoted to associate professor at the University of Toronto. In 1979, he moved to the University of Alberta, where he became chair of the Department of Dental Health Care. In 1988 he decided to shift his career again. He left the university and returned to Ontario to accept the position of deputy registrar of RCDSO. When Dr. Kenneth Pownall retired in 1990, the RCDSO Council selected Ellis to be registrar.

Every registrar of the Royal College of Dental Surgeons brings his own style to the College. Ellis believes strongly in a balanced approach. "It is important to be accessible to everyone... and it is important to be fair to everyone."

What does he feel are his accomplishments? "In the future, though, I believe that I will be able to look back on two accomplishments. The first will be the move of RCDSO from its cramped offices in a converted home at 230 St. George Street to a modern office building at 6 Crescent Road. Operating a professional college is big business. At 6 Crescent Road, we have both space for expansion and for the computer technology that is essential for running an efficient organization. I believe my second accomplishment," he continues, "will be seeing to fruition the Regulated Health Professions Act, the culmination of over a decade of work by the College."

■ **1915:** The first military dental clinic in the British Empire is operated at Toronto's Canadian National Exhibition grounds. Many soldiers, who would otherwise have been turned down as unfit to serve, were accepted into the armed forces after treatment at the clinic. The loss or decay of 10 teeth was enough to disqualify a volunteer.



Dr. Harry Jolley reminisces

By James Macgowan

Ask Dr. Harry Jolley about differences between dentistry today and the dentistry of the 1930s, and you get a typically Jolley response.

“About \$500 a week, I guess.”

Jolley, who claims to be 82 years old – “give or take a few years; don’t take, please” – began practising dentistry in Toronto after graduating from the University of Toronto’s Faculty of Dentistry in 1930. He served as president of the Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario from 1969 to 1971, and retired from dentistry in 1990.

And Jolley has many fond memories of the profession to which he dedicated most of his life, a profession he actually entered by default. As he explains it, he preferred medicine but was afraid to go into it, lest he should have to start cutting up cadavers. The joke was on him, though – because that’s exactly what he had to do in his second year of dental school. Still, that didn’t bother him nearly as much as the time in first year when he had to cut up frogs.

“Of course,” he says, “you had to kill the frogs, and that seemed to me a little cold-blooded.”

Almost as cold-blooded as the wages Toronto dentists earned when Jolley began practising – a paltry \$25 a week, although by the standards of the Depression, it must have seemed enough.

Linked to this difference in income, he points out, is the staggering cost of starting a practice today.

It could be painful

“The first equipment that I bought was \$1,500, and I had three years to pay it off, which I couldn’t,” he says, adding that in those days dentists used to buy their equipment second-hand from supply houses, something unheard of today.



Of course, in his day there wasn’t the technology available to dentists today.

“We didn’t do as much freezing back then,” he recalls. “It was remarkable that people could put up with it. It could be very, very painful. Of course, patients used to sit there waiting for the pain to come, and if a patient fainted, usually it wasn’t because of the anaesthetic, it was the apprehension. They were scared stiff, so they’d faint. Every dentist had to keep ammonia in his medical chest (to revive a patient).”

Then there was this other method, shown to Jolley while he worked as an undergraduate in another dentist’s office. “You take a little tablet and a little porcelain dish; add distilled water, heat it up until the tablet dissolved, draw it up into a syringe and inject it into the patient. Nine times out of 10 the patient would faint – either because the solution wasn’t correct or because it was overheated.

“Also,” he continues, “the needles we used, we reused; we used them over and over again. (This was before the advent of disposable needles.) And to make sure that when we used the hot water sterilizer the depositions from the water wouldn’t form in the needle, we used to stick a wire in the needle.”

However, not everyone did this. Jolley says his colonel in the Dental Corps during the Second World War – Jolley was a captain, then was promoted to major – didn't believe in sterilizing needles. He would just clean the needle with the wire and not use any solution, thinking that water deposits were worse than any germs you could pick up from a used needle.

"And he was a graduate in dentistry, too!" says Jolley incredulously. "He was nuts, that's why they made him a colonel in the Dental Corps," he added with a grin.

By today's standards, hygiene wasn't the only field of dentistry given the short shrift in his day, Jolley says: "Compared to what came later, there were two areas that were not given enough attention – children's dentistry and geriatrics.

"We had a short course in children's dentistry but it was sort of thrown in – they realized we were supposed to

be dealing with human beings from birth to death, that we were supposed to be a health profession – so they threw this in but it wasn't very comprehensive."

Superficial training

And as for geriatrics, the training was just as superficial. A great deal of Jolley's training as a student was in dentures, prompting him to recall an article he had read suggesting dentists at that time tolerated fillings and focused on dentures because that was where the money was.

"The attitude was take them (teeth) out and replace them with false ones," he says. "That was sort of the attitude – I won't say it was the teaching, but it was the attitude."

This fact is literally drawn out in a cartoon that appeared in a magazine called *L'Eclipse* in 1873 – nearly 60 years before Jolley started to practise – showing a



very happy dentist brandishing a tooth about the size of an orange. The caption reads: "Pull! Don't Cure!" "Dentists still did a lot of fillings," he says, "a lot more fillings than dentures, but people then didn't find the idea of wearing dentures as repugnant as they do today."

The drawing also nicely illustrates the theory of focal infections, prominent during the first part of this century and Jolley's early career. Simply put, the theory centred on the belief that a person's mouth could be responsible for medical problems, and that by pulling teeth you could cure those medical problems.

Teeth sacrificed

"There were millions – literally, I'm not exaggerating when I say millions – of teeth sacrificed needlessly because a patient would come in and want (a medical problem) cleared up."

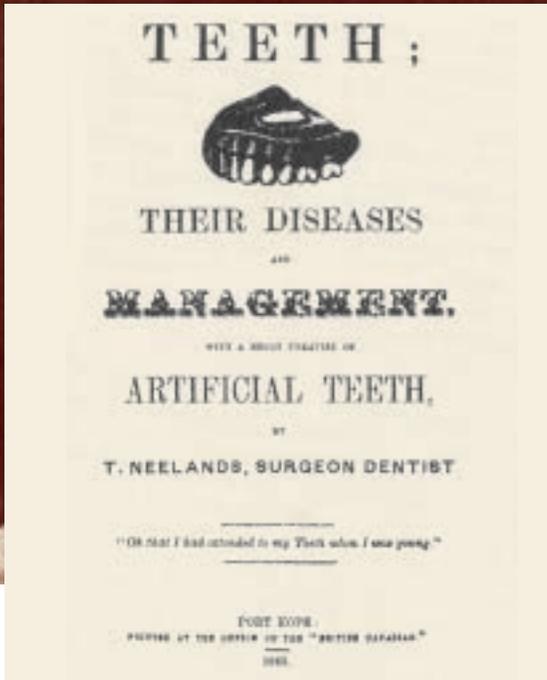
To emphasize the point, Jolley recounts a story of a professional dancer who was having a lot of trouble with one of his feet. "He went to his physician and had his tonsils taken out and then he had his teeth taken out. But he was still having trouble every time he danced. Well, one day his dancing shoes were giving him a little trouble so he took them to a shoemaker, and the shoemaker asked, 'How have you been able to wear these? There's a big nail sticking up in one of them.'

"Astonished, the dancer looked at him and said, 'Maybe I can get my teeth back, now.'"

That anecdote speaks volumes of the differences between dentistry today and the dentistry of the early half of this century.



■ **1888:** The first graduating class after affiliation with the University of Toronto. These were the first dentists to receive DDS degrees.



The initiation

Dr. J.W. Ivory is being initiated into dentistry – probably some time in 1880 – complete with “thunder mug” on his head and the special grip handshake.

Dr. Ivory was a successful student and graduated in 1881 from the Royal College of Dental Surgeons. He set up practice in Owen Sound before returning to Toronto around 1887.

Ivory was also an inventor and held some 150 patents on dental instrumentation, including the Ivory Matrix Retainer, which is still being used today.

Ivory, who later moved to the United States, also registered on June 21, 1917, a patent on the safety pin.



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The original version of this commemorative issue of Dispatch was published to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario.