

Ontario Association of Medical Radiation Technologists

INTRODUCTION / HISTORICAL OVERVIEW



Our future began in 1895 with Wilhelm Roentgen's discovery of X-Rays and their medical use quickly gained acceptance. As the role of the Technologist evolved, a need to establish standards, set up a training program, and to share knowledge, became apparent.

Our Provincial Association was formed in February 1935 with the full backing of the Ontario Medical Association. At that time, it was called the Ontario Society of Radiological Technicians. The first Annual General Meeting and Conference was held at the King Edward Hotel in Toronto with an original Membership of 14 under the presidency of Jack Coones. For more than 50 years, the tradition has continued with the site of our Annual General Meeting and Conference rotating throughout the province.

From the original Eastern, Western and Central Sections, the Association has grown to eleven Sections. A Membership of about 4,000 Technologists and Students encompass the Disciplines of Radiological Technology, Nuclear Medicine, Radiation Therapy, and Magnetic Resonance with the Head Office in the city of Brantford.

A Board of Directors, elected by the Membership, provides leadership and direction to our Profession. They are assisted by scores of dedicated, hard working Members serving on many and varied Committees. Our Chief Executive Officer and Head Office Staff ensures continuity of the Association and the focus of our purpose while at the same time accepting responsibility for the management of Head Office.

To promote a more professional image and to reflect the diversity of our Membership, the Ontario Society of Radiological Technologists became the Ontario Association of Medical Radiation Technologists in 1984.

This is the history of the OAMRT, but what is its mandate? The OAMRT's mandate is the welfare of the Member. The Association unites our four Disciplines into a Profession with a common goal of serving the needs of the Profession to ultimately provide quality patient care. The Association sets guidelines for the Profession through our Code of Ethics, Code of Conduct, Risk Management and Practice Guidelines. It represents the Profession to government, to the media, to the public and to Allied Health Professionals.

The Ontario Association of Medical Radiation Technologists is not impersonal: WE are the Association and IT is US. What are the personal benefits of Membership?

The Association provides access to educational self-development by endorsing Section Education Days, correspondence courses, University Degree Programs, and our own educational products.

We encourage opportunities to develop special insights through Essay and Exhibit Competitions, by encouraging us to become Committee, Section or Provincial Executive Members. We can create personal career opportunities by demonstrating our enthusiasm and commitment to our chosen Profession.

The status, the recognition, and our place on the health-care team, relates directly to our identity as Professionals. We are being monitored by government, educators, and other professional groups as well as the general public. We are not Professionals by who we are, but by what we do, and how we do it.

Membership in our Professional Association gives us one strong voice through which we can determine our future and influence how we are measured and judged by our peers. We guide the Profession. By virtue of our Membership, each one of us has the responsibility to make things happen - change things that are wrong - improve things that are right. We can do this by voting either in person or by proxy, by submitting resolutions to be debated and resolved on an annual basis, and by attending Section meetings, not just for the educational component, but also for the Business meeting, exercising our right to ask questions, and give direction to the Profession.

The Association provides an avenue for both professional and social interaction with our peers. Our Annual Conference is such an avenue, bringing together diverse personalities with a common goal. Our Journal, FILTER, is an integral part of that interaction. Published regularly, it provides all Association Members, from the Student to the retired, with an opportunity to voice opinions on current issues, become aware of changes in technology, and it provides a calendar of events within the Profession.

It was through discussions initiated by the Ontario Technologists that lead to the founding in 1942, of the Canadian Society of Radiological Technicians. Now known as the Canadian Association of Medical Radiation Technologists (CAMRT); it represents more than 90,000 Members across the country.

The CAMRT is responsible for the certification process for each of our four Disciplines. It provides services from a national perspective, including Professional Liability Insurance, Continuing Education and Advanced Educational Opportunities. CAMRT is also the advocate for the Profession concerning issues of national importance.

The OAMRT encourages Members to participate in all activities of the national Association, including Medical Radiation Technology Week (MRT Week) held annually in November.

The OAMRT and CAMRT are voluntary professional organizations and differs significantly from the College of Medical Radiation Technologists of Ontario. The CMRTO is Ontario's mandatory registering body. Its mandate is to act as a public protector in the medical use of ionizing radiation. To work in this province you must be registered with the CMRTO. See 'Roles of OAMRT/CMRTO' on our Web Site, Public side under Media at www.oamrt.on.ca/whoweare/OAMRT-CMRTOChartp.shtml

As a member, the challenge is ours to participate in the evolution of the Profession. We are Professionals, not by training alone, but by keeping up with the latest technology, by the way we project ourselves to others, and by our involvement in our Professional Association.