

When I was a student at the Toronto Institute of Medical Technology (now the Michener Institute) back in the 70s, our whole class became members of the professional association at the start of Year 1. This gave us access to education days, journals and other benefits, and really made us feel like we were part of our chosen profession even while we were still in school. It was natural to continue that membership after graduation and after close to 40 years I've never considered resigning.

Though I hesitated to volunteer during my early career because I thought I wasn't experienced enough, I eventually did get my feet wet in the volunteer pool by agreeing to participate on a research panel. The personal rewards I got from this experience made me want more, and I've been on one committee or another ever since.

I've discovered that there are many benefits to being a volunteer. I now have a network of a diverse range of people, some of who are not just professional contacts, but personal friends. I have a better understanding of what my colleagues in other modalities do. I have learned some new skills and developed others, including communication, teamwork, time management, initiative, problem solving, and item writing – all of which have helped me at work. I feel a real sense of achievement, I feel valued by the Association, I feel the satisfaction of making a difference. I also have some great references should I ever need them. My only regret is that I didn't start volunteering sooner – I was wrong to think that my inexperience meant I had less to offer.

My daughter is in her final semester working towards a degree in behavioural psychology. She has already completed a term as the undergraduate representative on her provincial association's Board of Directors, and has volunteered at three conferences. She told me it was natural to her to volunteer after observing my committee involvement over the years. I am a proud mother.

Are you interested in volunteering with the Association too? There are a number of committees that would be happy to have you. If you are interested in learning more about volunteer opportunities, please contact Nominating Committee Chair, Greg Gurniak via e-mail at: [ggurniak.oamrt@gmail.com](mailto:ggurniak.oamrt@gmail.com).

Respectfully submitted.  
Julie Mathewson, MRT(N)  
Chair, PEEL Committee