

HISTORIC SYNOPSIS



1930's

The Association was created on 13 February 1935 and called the "Ontario Society of Radiological Technicians" (OSRT). The first AGM was on 17 April 1935 with Jack Coones becoming the first President on 7 May 1935. The Board of Directors was a combination of Radiologists and "RTS". A degree was discussed for MRTs where the title designation would be "M.R.T.". Training standards were established. The OSRT started work to form the "Dominion Organization". The first publication, the "Radiographer" came into being and the OSRT changed to the "Ontario Society of Radiographers" (OSR).

1940's

The Section Chairs all met for the first time together at the AGM, where they gave their Section Reports. The OSR helped set up the "Canadian Society of X-Ray Technicians". The publication "Radiographer" changed to the "Ontario Radiographer". Only Provincial Delegates vote at the national AGM. An Education Committee was established whereby the Association established who could teach X-Ray and what the subject matter would be. The Associations chose who entered training.

1950's

Radiation protection was a high priority. The degree initiative gained momentum only to be quashed by some, not all, Radiologists. Life Membership was established (1951). Addressing the working conditions for RTS was a high priority. This issue went to the National Association (CSRT), who refused to address the issue. The OSR looked at becoming a bargaining unit, because of the CAR's refusal to address it, and threatening the CSRT. The OSR Executive decided against becoming a union. The present day logo was approved. The OSR proposed to separate the training for X-Ray and "therapy". The CSRT agrees the "Ontario Radiographer" is replaced by "The Bulletin". The first employment survey and salary scale was done. The issue of licensing was a hot topic in the late 50's. Mary F. Cameron becomes Executive Secretary.

1960's

OSR becomes the "*Ontario Society of Radiological Technicians*" (OSRT) - again. The fight for licensure was led by Ernie Edmonds, with Adeline Escaf and Les Fox as champions. The bid for licensing was lost, but in 1962 a Registry Body was approved by government, called the Board of Radiological Technicians of Ontario (BRTO). OSRT Members, Radiologists and a OMA representative were the BRTO Board. Mary F. Cameron retires in 1962 and the Mary F. Cameron (MFC) Lecture is set up in her honour. Our present official colours are declared (1963). William Mackie becomes the Executive Secretary, later Executive Director for a short period. In 1965, Mrs. M.E. (Beth) Wastle becomes the Executive Director. The Radiation Protection Committee is established. The President's Chain of Office is created, along with the first "Past President's Pins". The Awards Committee was created with the Ken Turnbull Award, as a major award in that Program. The Teaching Certificate was created.

1970's

The Licentiate and Advanced (Ontario) qualifications were established. The OSRT was instrumental in preventing the CSRT giving Registered Nurses credit towards a "Nucleography Certificate" (later Nuclear Medicine). The OSRT challenges the usefulness of the national "Delegate" system. The President's Bursary is created. The name of the Association changes to "Ontario Society of Radiological Technologists". The Personnel Practices Committee is created. The BRTO follows the profession's lead and make Nuclear Medicine a Discipline. The Jack Coones Award is created. The CSRT states the OSRT is not a provincially constituted body and states it will only deal with the BRTO. They later change that stance. The first Clinical Instructor job description and manual are produced. The OSRT produces the Radiobiology and Protection Correspondence Course. The OSRT joins with the BRTO to set up and operate a joint retraining Program. The OSRT Nuclear Medicine Award is created. The lid comes off on the poor radiation practices in facilities bringing about Bill 177 (later the HARP Act). The OSRT strongly supports radiation protection legislation.

1980's

The HARP Act comes into effect. The OSRT has issue regarding who can be Radiation Protection Officers (RPOs) as Technologists are excluded. The initiator of the Health Professions Legislation Review (later the RHPA), is seen as a great opportunity for the profession and the OSRT is very active in the process. The 25- Year Recognition is introduced. The first Code of Ethics, Code of Conduct and Standards of Practice are produced. The Association advocates for a three (3) year training Program. The M.E. (Beth) Wastle Bursary is created. Major issues the Association tackled were: Registered Nurses ordering X-Rays and Members having the right to inject contrast

media. In 1985, we celebrated our 50th anniversary. CAMRT is lobbied to pursue a Degree Program, and the first Long-Term Planning Committee is established. The Association becoming a union was re-explored twice. The Committee structure was changed to meet Members' demands. Robin Hesler becomes Executive Director in 1988, when Beth Wastle retired. The Association's name changes to the "Ontario Association of Medical Radiation Technologists".

1990's

Student registration is required for undergraduate training graduates to access the CAMRT Certification Exam. The Head Office is modernized with new computers, a file system and comprehensive policies and procedures. The A(Ont) and Licentiate Programs were discontinued. The Association started to provide self-directed readings in FILTER and Self-Directed Learning Packages (SDLPs), which Members could order. In 1999, the first "Strategic Plan" was produced. The Diploma in Adult Education and Diploma in Quality Control were discontinued. The RHPA came into being and the College of Medical Radiation Technologists of Ontario (CMRTO) assumed the disciplinary functions the OAMRT had been doing, along with setting and maintaining the Standard and Scope of Practice. The Association worked at making Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) a Discipline.

2000's

The Association started off the Millennium by doing a major Governance and Strategic Planning Review, using Dr. D. Pierson of Southtown Consulting. As a result of the consultations, the Association implemented a new model of governance based on the CARVER model, but modified to be more of a knowledge-based and complimentary style model. A new Strategic Plan was developed, based on the new Governance model, which provided for an increase emphasis on marketing and communications. New Standing Committees were created and old ones disestablished.

Consultants were brought in to address specifically marketing, communications and media relations. With the new Governance model and Strategic Plan, the President's position became the "Chair of the Board and President", and Dr. Robin Hesler's title changed from Executive Director to "CEO."

In 2003, the Association made a strategic move to get into the government relations business. Len Domino and Associates Inc. became the government relations consultant. The government had brought in lobbyist legislation earlier in the decade, and R. Hesler had to be registered as the Association's lobbyist.

In 2005, the Association hired digital imaging pioneer, former Director and former Board of Radiological Technicians of Ontario and College of Medical Radiation

Technologists of Ontario Council Member, Ernie Edmonds, as the part-time Manager, Professional Services. The part-time position of 2 days a week was designed to pave the way for a full-time Manager, who would look after education and professional practice matters.

In 2007, approval was given by the Board to hire a full-time Manager, Professional Services. In this year, the Association was a key representative in the provincial government's CT and MRI Safety Committees. The Association was also involved in consultation on the sustainability of the health-care system, interprofessional education and practice, physician assistants, revision to the Occupational Health and Safety Act's X-Ray Safety Code, a steering committee Member of the Allied Health Professional Development Fund, and active in the Coalition of Ontario Regulated Health Professions' Association (CORHPA) , of which Dr. R. Hesler was the Chair.

The decade has also seen a closer partnership with CAMRT, which included a revision to the National Provincial Agreement, and the CAMRT's governance structure. The OAMRT's CEO was deeply involved in both of these initiatives.

A major achievement, besides the success with the government relations program was the realization by the Ontario government that the Healing Arts Radiation Protection Act needed a major overhaul; an issue OAMRT had been addressing since the mid to late 1980's.

Another achievement was the development of continuing education products, which had been a goal since the Y2K Strategic Plan was drafted, and had been a goal in every plan since. Most of the continuing professional development products were authored by Members.