

FOCUS

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**Summer Issue
2001**

August

President's Report - by Kevin Raymond

Welcome to this issue of Focus. I hope all of you are enjoying the summer to the fullest. The OOA has been very active during these hot summer days. We are proud to offer you, once again in association with Rodenstock, the Continuing Education Roadshow in October and November. For the past five years Rodenstock has been very generous in providing the financial support to bring quality education throughout the province. Also joining us this year will be the Contact Lens Society of America at our Inside Optics seminar day in Toronto on Sunday, October 14th.

We have been spending much energy dealing with the many issues surrounding refractometry and Lorne Kashin is to be commended for his efforts.

It is with great sadness that we note the recent and sudden passing of Shelley Dewell, our Vice-President. Shelley spent most of her 22 year career donating her time and talents to the betterment of our profession. Shelley was chosen Optician of the Year by her peers in 1993 and co-chaired one of the most successful weekend conferences and trade shows that same year in Kingston. Also sadly missed are Judi Reid, Frank Morgason and Joffre Raymond. We must strive to keep the standards of this profession in as high a regard as they did.

Quality Assurance Update

The end of the QA Program's second cycle ends this December. We recommend you start organizing the continuing education credits you have to date NOW. Please don't wait until the end of November to discover you've misplaced credit slips for events you've attended from January 1999 on. The Association, as sponsors of many events since that time, has copies of all the credits issued to attendees but we may not have time to conduct a search for you if you wait too late to contact us. There will be a search fee of \$20.00 plus GST for all non-members requiring a credit slip search and mail-out. This is a complimentary service for members.

Continuing Education Events Across Ontario This Fall!

Take In Some Fresh and Enlightening Presentations and Walk Away with a Full Day's Worth of Eyeglass, Contact Lens and Professional Activity Credits!

Inside Optics presented by the Ontario Opticians Associations will be held in Toronto on Sunday, October 14th at the elegant Montecassino Banquet Halls at 3710 Chesswood Drive, on Sheppard Avenue west of the Allen Expressway. Continental breakfast and registration kit pickup starts at 7:30 a.m. Lectures will take place between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. with speakers sponsored by the Contact Lens Society of America (CLSA) and Rodenstock. Due to the popularity of this event, you will be required to register in advance to secure a seat. Please fill out the **registration form on page 5** and fax it into the OOA office as soon as possible.

The *Rodenstock/B&L/OOA Roadshow* is on tour again this fall offering full day seminars (8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) in four locations across Ontario. See locations below. All offer free admittance and require no advance registration, just sign in when you get there! Complimentary refreshments will be served throughout the day. *Subject to College of Opticians approval.*

Stoney Creek - Sunday, October 21
Chandelier Place, 660 Barton Street 905-643-4291

Sault Ste Marie - Sunday, October 28
Ramada Inn, 229 Great Northern Rd 705-942-2500

Chatham - Sunday, November 11
Wheels Inn, 615 Richmond Street 519-351-1100

Ottawa - Sunday, November 18
Chimo Hotel, 1199 Joseph Street 613-744-1060

Spend your education dollars wisely!

Refractometry - Next Steps

Standards of practice for refractometry are presently being developed by the College of Opticians in collaboration with the other two vision care colleges, as directed by the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care.

At this time it is not the College's intention nor mandate to proactively promote that refractometry should be part of the scope of practice of opticianry, nor that opticians should be able to prescribe. This task is for the Ontario Opticians Association and the Opticians Association of Canada and the other provincial associations, which have the mandate to promote the interests of their members.

All three bodies believe that the public would be best served by properly trained and competent opticians performing this test, rather than unregulated and unqualified individuals.

All interested parties agree that refractometry, as the simple measurement of refractive error, is not part of any controlled act, and the Minister has agreed with HPRAC that it is not part of the scope of practice of opticianry, but that the College of Opticians may still regulate how opticians do it. The College has decided that it wishes to regulate how opticians do it, to assure that it is performed in the best interests of the public. In order to regulate it, standards of practice must be developed and enforced.

The question the Ontario Opticians Association has to determine on behalf of its members is **how far do opticians wish to go? Do we simply wish to do refractometry as a test that is currently outside the scope of practice? Do we wish to have refractometry included in the scope of practice? Do opticians wish to be able to prescribe?**

Statistically 60% of the population requires some sort of vision correction. That means that over 18 million Canadian citizens are part of the country's vision care system. The likelihood is many will either not access or will delay accessing professional vision care services for a variety of reasons. As well, in order to identify these 18 million requiring correction, the remaining 40% of the population would need to be screened as well.

A refracting optician would provide another "filter" for uncovering vision problems. Refracting opticians would serve to enrich the menu of vision care choices available to the public.

It is a fact that licensed opticians are trained to recognize when an appropriate referral is required. Therefore consumers suffering oculo-visual health problems would be less likely to be missed under a system that supports a refracting opticians service.

It is the goal of Ontario Opticians Association that opticians be able to determine the refractive error of the human eye and prescribe the correction. We share this goal with the Opticians Association of Canada and provincial associations across the country.

As opticians, we must determine public need and demonstrate that it can be performed safely by opticians, expand the scope of practice to include it and have the appropriate training mechanisms in place. Part of the process will involve proving to the government that a public need does exist and there is no risk of harm involved in opticians performing this service. Ontario consumers can be polled and evidence can be provided that there is a reduction or lack of sufficient access to this service, especially in rural areas.

What opticians can do is lobby their local MPPs and discuss the issue with their patients. Your Association will be distributing to all Ontario opticians an information sheet and form letter for your patients to sign which can then be faxed to the Minister of Health, the Honourable Tony Clement, to show their support for making this service more accessible and affordable.

First and foremost, please take a minute to fill out the survey on the next page and send it to us.

NOTICE TO ALL ONTARIO OPTICIANS

PLEASE SEND US YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS BY
FORWARDING IT TO:

laura@ontario-opticians.com

and get important news from us at the speed of sound!

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

of the Ontario Opticians Association will be held
11:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon during Inside Optics
on Sunday, October 14, 2001
at the Montecassino Banquet Halls,
3710 Chesswood Drive, Toronto
(see map on page 5)

Refractometry – Short Survey

Please check or fill in your answers and fax to 416-226-6879. For internal use only. No names will be released to any parties or organizations outside of this Association:

1) Do you have an interest in the future of refractometry?

Yes No

2) Prior to March 9, 2001 have you ever included refractometry in your scope of practice?

Yes No

3) If Yes to above, what method(s) did you use to conduct the test?

Automated
Manual

4) Do you feel there is a patient need?

Yes No

5) Prior to March 9th of this year, how many sight tests did you perform per month, on average?

Name: _____

College of Opticians Reg. No: _____

Location in Ontario: _____

Tel: () _____

Email: _____

VISION CANADA WEST 2001 Canadian Optical Conference and Exhibition

September 28th, 29th and 30th
Telus Convention Centre - Calgary, Alberta
To register contact the Opticians Association of Canada (OAC)
Ph (204) 982-6060 or (800) 847-3155
Fax (204) 947-2519
E-mail: canada@opticians.ca

More information back page of this newsletter

Group Membership Opportunity

Join the many opticians who are taking advantage of our group membership rate. Five or more opticians can sign up for a one-year membership at half the regular rate (\$100 + \$7 GST). Call your friends and colleagues and get a group together! Employment at the same place of business is not a requirement. Current Association members can take advantage of this offer as well.

All new graduates are also offered this half-price rate! Call Laura at 416-226-7245 or 888-690-8889 for more information. We also provide our members the most extensive malpractice insurance protection at the best rate!

Distance Learning Module Offerings

The Association provides opticians 20 Continuing Education Credits Education through videotapes and booklets delivered to your door! Call the office today for more information and earn credits in the comfort of your home in your own time. Nine new videotapes will be added to the library in September.

Take This Quick Eye Exam...

Count the number of F's in the following text:

FINISHED FILES ARE THE RE-
SULT OF YEARS OF SCIENTIF-
IC STUDY COMBINED WITH THE
EXPERIENCE OF YEARS

How many did you count? Three?

Wrong - there are actually six - no joke!

The reason why most people miss all the F's is because the brain cannot process the word "OF". Incredible or what?! Anyone who counted all six is a genius, three is normal.

Attention Insurance Holders

For those of you who have malpractice insurance through the OOA, you will receive in the mail an order form for 2002 coverage in early November. Certificates for year 2002 coverage will be sent by Forfar Insurance Brokers to the Association office in mid-November for all opticians who had 2001 coverage with us. Therefore, we can get your new certificates to you promptly as soon as we receive your order form. The deadline for ordering coverage for next year is Monday, December 10th. This will ensure you receive your certificates in good time to include a copy in your College renewal application. We do not provide the College of Opticians with proof of insurance for you, **it is up to you to send in your proof.**

We recently received information that as of April 2001 the College of Optometrists changed its bylaws to require all its members to take out only **occurrence form** malpractice insurance from now on, which is the only type the OOA has provided its members over the years. The College Council reviewed the two types, the other being **claims made**, and was convinced that occurrence coverage provides better protection for both the patient and the practitioner.

Employment Opportunities

Visit our website at www.ontario-opticians.com for current information in between newsletters. Also, members who call our job bank hear about the latest positions available. Leave us your name and specifications and we'll contact you when something suitable comes in. We receive calls from employers across the province offering positions. New grads welcome to inquire!!

POSITIONS AVAILABLE:

3 GTA LOCATIONS NOW HIRING

Are you sales oriented and looking for a fast-paced, high energy and fun working environment? Full and part-time students, interns and opticians wanted for three locations in the GTA. Competitive wages with strong emphasis on sales. Call (905) 828-7566.

OPTICIAN WANTED - KITCHENER/WATERLOO

Looking for a full or part-time optician. Please call Peyman at 519-570-9573 or 519-572-1475.

OPTICIAN REQUIRED - OTTAWA

For west-end Ottawa location. Competitive salary plus benefits. Please fax resume in confidence to 613-839-0594.

EXPERIENCED OPTICIANS WANTED

Eyecare Place in Sheridan Mall, Mississauga and downtown Toronto location need full-time opticians as soon as possible. Interested applicants please call Jaggi at 416-417-2887.

OPTICIAN WANTED- HAMILTON

Central Hamilton optical store looking for a full-time optician as soon as possible. Hours are 9:30 am to 5:30 pm Monday to Friday, no weekends or evenings. Please call David at 905-524-2020 (day) or 905-628-6828 (evening). Resumes can be faxed to 905-524-3341.

STUDENT OPTICIAN WANTED - YONGE & STEELES

Eurostyle Optical located in Centrepoint Mall is looking student optician full-time. This successful candidate must possess a valid student license and have excellent people skills. Experience is an asset. Please contact Leon at 416-512-8423.

STUDENT OPTICIAN WANTED - SCARBOROUGH

Student optician wanted immediately to work in a busy, professional environment. Must have excellent communication skills and dispensing experience. Please fax resume to 416-299-6792 or call Tam or Deanna at 416-299-0399. Great working hours!

OPTICIANS NEEDED - GTA

Looking for opticians across GTA area, from Mississauga to Pickering. Contact lens experience. Both full and part time hours available. Please call 905-608-8849.

2 OPTICIANS NEEDED - YORKDALE

Karir Optical, Yorkdale Shopping Centre, needs two full time opticians. Please call Bob Karir at 416-363-4669 or Amin at 416-785-0727.

OPTICIANS AVAILABLE:

FREELANCE OPTICIAN AVAILABLE

For GTA area. Many years experience, including lab. Please call Peter at 416-968-9041.

OPTICIAN AVAILABLE - BARRIE AREA

Full or part-time. Can freelance between locations. Available to travel within a 60 mile radius of Barrie. Please call George at 705-436-2169.