

Oh, the Places You'll Go!

Shallen Letwin

*Today is your day.
You're off to great places!
You're off and away!*
—Dr Seuss

This summer, I had the pleasure of participating in the CSHP New Brunswick Branch Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Fredericton. One of the greatest benefits of being an executive officer for CSHP National is the opportunity to travel and meet so many fantastic people who are passionate about caring for patients, and my trip to New Brunswick was no exception.

My journey began 2 days before the AGM. When I arrived in Moncton, Sheri, one of the presidential officers of the New Brunswick CSHP Branch, greeted me and then accompanied me on visits to 2 hospitals, the Dr Georges-L Dumont Regional Hospital and the Moncton Hospital. As I met with pharmacists and technicians to discuss issues of common interest, I quickly learned how committed they all are to patient care and thought to myself, "This is why I am a CSHP member." The chance to meet and get to know pharmacists from across the country who share ideas, learn from one another, and support each other is a membership benefit that is priceless. The pharmacy technicians I met were also able to offer valuable ideas. For example, one technician explained to me the role of his profession in the hospital's operating rooms. I was grateful for information about what was for me a new idea, but after our discussion the technician thanked *me* for the chance to share his experience. I also met with several pharmacy students, who were eager to learn more about hospital pharmacy practice and were very pleased to be included in many of the discussions.

That evening I drove with 2 pharmacists and a physician to Fredericton to attend the New Brunswick Branch AGM. We discussed work-related issues but also had fun-filled discussions about outside interests. When we arrived in Fredericton, I was amazed by the beautiful sights and the calm and soothing environment of this small city.

While checking in at the hotel and later during the meeting itself, I continued to meet pharmacists from around the province. They were all very friendly and proud of the accomplishments of their small CSHP branch.

The AGM incorporated both educational sessions and a business meeting. When invited to address the attendees, I told them how impressed I was with their efforts to make their branch successful.

In Fredericton, I toured another hospital, the Dr Everett Chalmers Regional Hospital, also known as "the DEC". I was shown the hospital's amazing automated drug distribution systems and saw how dedicated the staff are to making significant strides in their clinical programs.

As I got ready to head back home, I reflected on my visit. A few things stuck in my mind. The members of the New Brunswick CSHP Branch are amazing people. These dedicated volunteers work very hard and are proud of their branch. They are also proud to be pharmacists and to serve the needs of patients. They have strong clinical and dispensing services and they want to share their ideas with others. Finally, they want to learn from other CSHP members so that they can implement best practices in New Brunswick. I want to thank the New Brunswick CSHP Branch for hosting me and highlighting their great work.

For anyone who has not considered volunteering for the CSHP Executive or one of the Society's committees or task forces, I strongly suggest you consider it . . . because someday, "Oh, the places you'll go!"



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