

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Open Letter to Friends and Colleagues

I want to express my appreciation for the outstanding recognition evening in my honour, hosted by the Ontario Branch of CSHP on February 5, 2005, on the eve of the Society's largest annual conference (PPC). I was overwhelmed that more than 150 family members, friends, and colleagues, from Vancouver to St John's, were able to attend the roast/toast — an unbelievably memorable evening. While I have expressed my thanks to everyone who participated directly, I also wanted to convey my appreciation to those who extended congratulations both before and after the evening. It was very gratifying to know that one could have touched (even in a small way) the careers of so many colleagues — some of whom I had not seen or worked with for more than 30 years.

It was humbling to hear Past President Deb Emery's remarks on my "support of our profession, the mentoring of students and practitioners and invaluable contributions to the Ontario Branch", especially when delivered in front of family and friends (and when one is still "on the right side of the grass"). Yet with so many talented colleagues, it is easy to be passionate about our profession.

I am personally indebted to those on the planning committee — Bill Bartle, Judy Chong, Val Jelincic, Bill McLean, Tom Paton, Mike Tierney, Bill Wilson, Carmine Stumpo, and Deb Emery — a talented and creative group who have provided another first for our Society and profession. Thanks also for the support of CSHP

National staff members Janet Lett and Des Davidson and to roasters/toasters all: Jake Thiessen, Bill McLean, Karen Graham, brother Bill, Tom Paton, Bill Wilson, Ernie McMullan, and Ross Davis. Your words were both truthful and inspiring. Sincere gratitude to my sons, Chris and Don, for their efforts in both song and video. Seeing my grandsons as actors in the video was priceless — a gift that will endure for the rest of my life. Finally, my thanks to Scott Walker and Dave Shaw for their orchestration efforts — Dave was always the best "social director" pharmacist that I was never able to hire.

As for the future, I'm sure I would not be alone in supporting the establishment of such a recognition evening on an annual basis. We have so many dedicated patient care practitioners who have made incomparable contributions and provided leadership toward an optimal national drug use management effort and who deserve that "standing O" that we have so far reserved for only a fortunate few.

In closing, my sincere thanks to everyone involved in the evening. I look forward to working with many of you through the U of T Faculty, CSHP committees, or various consulting opportunities. I remain indebted to my many, many colleagues and friends for a most memorable event.

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