



Sandra Lawlor, Hamilton, Ontario

Sandy has recently retired from clinical dental hygiene practice but she leaves behind an amazing legacy of service to the profession and to the public at large. A native of Hamilton, Sandy graduated from the dental hygiene program at the University of Toronto. While engaged in the practice of dental hygiene she returned to university and obtained a degree in social work. Consequently, she practised in both areas, often working six days a week. Her social work was primarily geared towards working with those women who were the victims of partner abuse. Both professions had obvious crossover implications.

Despite her busy life, Sandy gave back to her first profession by being a very active member of the Hamilton & District Dental Hygienists' Society (HDDHS) no matter what other level of the profession she was involved in. She was president of HDDHS, president of ODHA, and later president of CDHA. Each of these roles took a tremendous amount of dedication and time away from her work and her family responsibilities. She excelled at everything she attempted.

An issue that was near and dear to her heart was the removal of the "order" issue in Ontario that restricted the way dental hygienists could practise but more importantly the way the public could access oral health care. She worked tirelessly, lobbying politicians and the public, often at her own expense, to help them understand that the "order" issue was an impediment to care and not one of safety as stated by organized dentistry. She was proven correct and, thanks to many of her behind-the-scenes efforts, the public now has increased access to oral health care and dental hygienists have the opportunity to choose how they wish to practise. Many of her efforts inspired other dental hygienists in other parts of the country.

A woman of strong ethics, Sandy taught ethics to dental hygiene students and admitted that she often struggled with what she learned from those who came to her requiring remediation or upgrading. Standards are very important to her. Consequently, she made a major commitment to enhancing her own professional practice through learning. She not only stayed on top of her own knowledge but willingly shared it through dozens of presentations across the province. Her theoretical knowledge was always presented through the lens of a clinician, which made her an engaging and very popular presenter.



THE CANADIAN DENTAL
HYGIENISTS ASSOCIATION
L'ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE
DES HYGIÉNISTES DENTAIRE



**DENTAL HYGIENE
CANADA.CA**

Smile! Your Total Health Starts Here

DO YOU KNOW A DENTAL HYGIENE SUPERHERO?



Sponsored by:



Deciding to retire from the clinical aspects of the profession she loved was difficult, but Sandy knew it was time. However, she continues to work with those who are less fortunate and has developed a strong network of colleagues who do not shy away from consulting her when needed.

A hard worker and one who never wanted to be in the limelight, Sandy has served both the public and the profession well over the years. Consequently, she is definitely a candidate to be recognized as a CDHA superhero.