



# The Beginning

*The role of the Hamilton & District Ostomy Association in the founding of the United Ostomy Association of Canada (UOAC) and its subsequent incorporation and also the founding of The Friends of Ostomates Worldwide Canada (F.O.W. (Canada)).*

## The United Ostomy Association of Canada Inc.



Allan Porter

In 1966 Allan Porter underwent ostomy surgery in Hamilton. After his surgery, Al joined the Ostomy Toronto Chapter of the United Ostomy Association Inc. (U.O.A. Inc.) This Association was

based in the United States but did have some Canadian Chapters. Two years later, in 1968, Al founded the Hamilton and District Ostomy Association as a Chapter of U.O.A. Inc. and served as its President for 4 years. In 1979 a U.O.A. Inc. steering committee held a meeting in Toronto to look at the feasibility of a U.O.A. Inc. Canada Association.

The main concerns were:

1. U.O.A. Inc. felt that they could not look after Canadian interests or advocacy in the same manner as Canadians.

2. Canadians were experiencing customs problems when ordering publications.
3. Canadians were unable to receive tax exempt receipts when donating to U.O.A. Inc., therefore it was receiving few donations from Canada.

It was decided to establish a U.O.A. Inc. Canada Office. It was intended to locate this office in Winnipeg but due to some problems this location could not be used.

Due to the generosity of the Roman Catholic School Board in Hamilton the Hamilton Chapter was permitted to use a vacant classroom in the Sacred Heart School and on May 11, 1982 the chapter hosted an open house of their "Osto-Center"

With approval from the members, the chapter offered space to Al Porter for a Canadian U.O.A. Inc. Office. In August 1982 the U.O.A. Inc. Board of Directors approved the establishment of a Canadian Office and later, in that same year, Al finally "set up shop". U.O.A. Inc. funded the Canadian Office in the amount of \$10,000 US annually but stipulated that the office also raise funds via donations from the Canadian members.

Al appealed for donations from the Canadian members but ran into the same problem that U.O.A. Inc. had encountered - Canadians did not want to donate to a cause that could not issue tax receipts. Faced with this problem, Al formed an organization named the United Ostomy Association of Canada complete with a Board of Directors and a set of by-laws. He then applied for registration as a charitable organization. This was subsequently approved which allowed Al to issue tax receipts. Thus The United Ostomy Association of Canada was born.

At the 1990 Annual Meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada, and in response to an informal presentation given by Ron Bartlett of the Hamilton Chapter, the members of UOAC decided that in order to place the Association on a more businesslike footing and to improve our profile, we would apply to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs for Letters Patent. Sheelah Zapf of the Edmonton Chapter agreed to lead this process.

An application for incorporation dated July 22, 1991 was drawn up in Edmonton AB.

The applicants for incorporation were:-

Sheelah Zapf	Edmonton, AB
Maria Siegl	Weston, ON
Allan M. Porter	Hamilton, ON
Carol McGregor	Hamilton, ON
Bette Yetman	Dartmouth, NS
David W. Metcalfe	Victoria, BC

Letters Patent were issued dated August 23, 1991. In these, Hamilton, ON was designated as being the location of the Head Office of the Association.

The applicants for incorporation were named in the Letters Patent as being the first directors of the corporation and they would hold office until the next General Meeting at which time elections were to be held. The provisional directors named in the Letters Patent appointed the following as Officers pending this election:

President	Sheelah Zapf	Edmonton, AB
Vice-Pres.	Bette Yetman	Dartmouth, NS
Treasurer	David Metcalfe	Victoria, BC
Secretary	Dielwen Bracken	Oakville, ON

At the Inaugural Annual Meeting of the United Ostomy Association of Canada Inc. held in Pittsburgh, PA in July, 1992, this full slate of Officers and Directors was duly elected. UOAC Inc. was up and running.



### The Friends of Ostomates Worldwide (Canada)



Maria Siegl

In 1983, Archie Vinitzky, the co-founder and first President of the International Ostomy Association addressed a group of people at the U.O.A. Inc. Conference in Boston, MA. His subject was a newly proposed scheme to send ostomy supplies to ostomates

in under-developed countries at no cost to them. Maria Siegl, a member of the Hamilton Chapter was present at that meeting. After her retirement from Hollister Limited, Maria had travelled to many countries and had seen at first hand the miserable conditions under which some ostomates lived in some of these countries. She was very enthusiastic about this project and asked Archie if she could start up this project in Canada and this was agreed to.

Thus the seed was sown that eventually grew into our present F.O.W. (Canada).

In Canada, the organization was first given the name *The Friends Of The International Ostomy Association (Canada)*.

In 1984 F.I.O.A (Canada) began to solicit donations of ostomy supplies and a place was needed to store them. The first collection centre in Canada was located in the office of the Hamilton and District Chapter with the actual packing being done at a warehouse. In the meantime, arrangements had gone ahead to have F.I.O.A. (Canada) incorporated and Letters Patent were issued on April 25, 1986 with the Head Office located in Toronto. F.I.O.A (Canada) was also designated as a charitable organization and received a registration number as such.

On April 13, 1988, Supplementary Letters Patent were issued changing the name to *Friends of Ostomates Worldwide (Canada)*, thus our current Association came into being.

The first directors of F.O.W. (Canada) were:

Maria Siegl	Weston, ON
Dorothy Pinkney	Guelph, ON
Bette Yetman	Dartmouth, NS
Allan M. Porter	Hamilton, ON
Dave W. Metcalfe	Victoria, BC
Sheelah Zapf	Edmonton, AB
Claude Campbell	Hamilton, ON

At a meeting in Hamilton later that year, Maria asked Claude Campbell of the Hamilton & District Chapter if he would serve as Secretary of the revised Association. He agreed to do so and served for a number of years. Maria also asked the Treasurer of the Hamilton and District Chapter, Ron Bartlett, if he would act as Treasurer of the revised Association and he agreed to do so and also served for a number of years.

Not only was Hamilton the birthplace of UOAC and UOAC Inc., but also the chapter and some of its members played a significant role in the founding and functioning of F.O.W. (Canada).

# Hamilton The birthplace of UOAC

Compiled by Ron Bartlett



## The Hamilton & District Ostomy Association

