

The 2008 Dr. Sheela Basrur Scholarship was presented to Ms. Nancy Lotecki of Peel Public Health.



Ms. Lotecki has made many significant contributions during her nine years in Public Health. She designed and implemented an award winning Homeless Outreach Program which demonstrated her commitment to equality and her skills in advocacy, education and partnership building. Nancy designed and implemented Peel Public Health's Surveillance Unit and participated in creating the Communicable Diseases Surveillance Network. (CDSN) with neighbouring health unit colleagues and others to promote surveillance knowledge sharing across the province. She served as Surveillance Lead during SARS and served as Project Manager for Peel Public Health's Pandemic Planning efforts, utilizing her skills in emergency planning. She participated in the Stop Transmission of Polio (STOP) program in collaboration with the Canadian Public Health Association (CPHA), Centre for Disease Control (CDC), and the World Health Organization (WHO). Nancy is starting a 5-year distance education Masters in Public Health program with the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. This scholarship reflects our confidence that Nancy will continue to emulate the example set by Dr. Basrur in helping to change the landscape of Public Health in Ontario.

The 2008 Recipient of the OPHA Life Membership Award is Ms. Nancy Day.



Ms. Day graduated from the University of Toronto in 1982 with a Masters of Health Science in Community Health and Epidemiology and started her career with the City of Toronto Public Health Department on contract as a health information analyst. At that time, only the Ontario Ministry of Health and two health units had positions for public health epidemiologists. Two years later, Nancy moved to the City of York Health Unit as Director of Health Studies creating the third Health Unit with an Epidemiologist. She started a "support group" of people interested in community health status information. As more Health Units created epidemiology positions, the group started focusing on issues facing public health Epidemiologists. In 1990, the Association of Public Health Epidemiologists of Ontario (APHEO) was born and Nancy was a founding member. Nancy joined OPHA's Board of Directors in the late 1980s as a representative of its Standing Committee on Disease Control and Epidemiology.

- She was elected President of OPHA in 1992 and is fondly remembered for completing changes in governance that had been initiated some time earlier.
- In 2002, Nancy returned to the OPHA Board as the representative for OPHA's new Constituent Society, APHEO for four years.
- She then served for two years as Vice-President and Secretary of the OPHA Board.
- Nancy recently participated on the Task Force that guided OPHA's Governance transformation. She currently co-chairs the OPHA Task Force on Core Competencies for public health workers.

The Honorary Membership Award. This award is conferred at the discretion of the Board of Directors and was not presented in 2008.

The 2008 PHRED Student Research Award was presented to Rebecca Ganann.



Rebecca's paper, "Influence of Maternal Birthplace on Postpartum Health and Health Service Use", presents the results of research she completed as an M.Sc. student in the Faculty of Nursing, McMaster University. Rebecca is currently studying towards a Ph.D.