

Volume 36

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Spring 2008

UNISON

Official Newsletter of the Nova Scotia Dental Hygienists' Association
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Dates To Note

April is National Oral Health Month

April 13 - 19, 2008: National Dental Hygienists' Week

June 1 - 7, 2008: National Gingivitis Week

June 13, 2008: NSDHA CE

June 14, 2008: NSDHA CE

June 15, 2008: NSDHA AGM

2008 Marks the 35th Year of Incorporation for the Nova Scotia Dental Hygienists' Association

President's Message



nominating members for our new Council; and there is registration information and itinerary for our upcoming AGM weekend in June 2008 (I look forward to seeing many of you there).

Finally, I encourage you to read and post the Tobacco Intervention Programming schedule for Capital Health, submitted by Paulette Hawksworth, who has been representing the NSDHA with Smoke Free Nova Scotia. Thank you Paulette for all your work toward creating a healthier province.

Until next time.

Karen Wolf
NSDHA President

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**Next deadline for submissions:
August 1, 2008**

Dear members,

These are exciting and busy times for our profession. Over the past months we have been actively working with our provincial government to bring our new Act to proclamation, thus creating the College of Dental Hygienists of Nova Scotia. I wish to draw your attention to this issue because it is full of invaluable information. Inside you will find a compilation of Q & A's regarding the new Legislation; you will be invited to participate in

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NSDHA ADVERTISING RATES

2" X 3.5"	\$ 25.00
1/4 PAGE	\$ 50.00
1/2 PAGE	\$ 75.00
FULL PAGE	\$125.00

Publication of an advertisement does not necessarily imply that the NSDHA agrees or supports the claims therein.



The Legislative Transition Team Workshop
from L to R: Terry Mitchel, Dawna Henry, Rosemary Bourque, Karen Wolf, Sara Harding, Heather Swales, Stephanie Stevens,
Melanie O'Brien, Wanda Fedora, Sue MacIntosh
Front row: Jackie White, Gail Brown, Pat Grant.

Here is your personal Special Invitation to Support
the Weekend to End Breast Cancer

Our very own Heather Swales RDH is putting her breast foot forward and committed to walk 60 km on August 15-17, 2008. The net proceeds will support breast cancer research, treatment, and services through IWK and QEII.

Heather says: *"I've agreed to raise at least \$2,000, so I need your help. Would you please consider making a donation? Visit my site - and please take the time to support me. Please keep in mind how far I'm walking - and how hard I'll have to train."*

According to the National Cancer Institute of Canada, approximately 20,500 Canadian women will be diagnosed with breast cancer this year, and about 5,400 will die from the disease.

Visit this site and click on Heather's name to support her.
www.endcancer.ca/site/TR/Events/Halifax2008?
or call 902-425-WALK (9255)



Full time registered dental hygienist position available immediately.
(33+ hrs/wk) in group family practice.
Ortho experience an asset.
Competitive wage & benefits. Central Halifax location.
Personal delivery of resumes welcome. Please contact 453-1234 or
email elaine@TrimacDental.com

COMPONENT NEWS

Halifax Regional Metro Component Society Annual General Meeting

Sunday April 27th @ 2:30pm

Bedford Superstore Community Room

CE: Dr. Brent MacNeil, Chiropractor :Taking the Pain Out of DH Work

If you aren't already a member you can come to the meeting and earn 2 CE points for \$15.

Cape Breton Island Component Society Annual General Meeting.

Saturday April 26th, 2008 @ 9:00am.

Cape Breton Regional Hospital. Sydney.

3rd Floor Education Services.

Northern Nova Scotia

includes Cumberland, Colchester, Pictou & Guysborough Counties

Saturday April 12, 2008 @ 9:00 am.

Business Meeting followed by

Brenda Leenders, Public Health Nutritionist : Understanding Canada's Food Guide

Possible addition of another speaker

Location TBA.

Phone tree in effect or contact Collene at 752-5907 or acersand@ns.sympatico.ca for more information.

Legislative News CE Help from CDHA

Self-Initiation for Dental Hygienists : Cost \$200.00

This course will be launched in English and French on February 29, 2008.

The amendment to the Dental Hygiene Act, 1991 was proclaimed in Ontario on September 1, 2007. Registrants approved by the College of Dental Hygienists of Ontario to self-initiate their authorized act of scaling teeth and root planing, including curetting surrounding tissue may now do so in Ontario without an order from a dentist subject to the provisions of Regulation 501/7 Part III. Successful completion of this course will allow dental hygienists from Stream Two to meet the requirement and from Stream Three to meet one of the requirements for eligibility to apply for approval to self-initiate their authorized acts according to the CDHO Standard of Practice for Self-Initiation.

*For more information go to: <http://www.cdha.ca>
Go to the Members Only section and Click on Continuing Education*



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www.qualityinnhalifax.com



June 13 - 15, 2008

REGISTRATION

The Nova Scotia Dental Hygienists' Association and HRM Component Society
presents at Quality Inn
Anna Pattison

**ADVANCED PERIODONTAL INSTRUMENTATION - WHAT THEY DIDN'T TEACH YOU IN
HYGIENE SCHOOL**

Friday June 13, 2008

6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

François Boisselle

**Unravel the Myths & Realities of Piezo
Ultrasonic Technology**

What are the ergonomic benefits to you? Why is Piezo good for the patients? Explore the myths of ultrasonic impact on tooth structures. Also, what are the advantages of air polishing vs. prophy cups? The mechanics and practicality of these products and more, including Hands On demos.

Saturday June 14, 2008

9:00 a.m - 5:00 p.m.

Anna Pattison

**Advanced Periodontal
Instrumentation**

Ms. Anna Pattison received her BS degree in Dental Hygiene from the University of Southern California (USC) and her MS in Dental Hygiene from Columbia University. She has been an Associate Professor at USC for over thirty years and served as Chair of the Department of Dental Hygiene. She is the coauthor of the popular textbook, *Periodontal Instrumentation* and has contributed to several chapters in the last five editions of *Carranza's* (previously Glickman's) *Clinical Periodontology*. Ms. Pattison has been a featured speaker for the American Dental Association, American Academy of Periodontology, American Dental Hygienists' Association, Canadian Dental Hygienists' Association and 35 state associations as well as for various national associations and universities in Europe, Australia and Asia. She is currently the Co-Director with her husband, Dr. Gordon Pattison, of the *Pattison Institute* which offers lectures and hands-on instrumentation workshops throughout the U.S. and abroad. She is also the Editor-in-Chief of *Dimensions of Dental Hygiene*.

In the past five years significant developments in new high-tech diagnostic devices, hand instruments and ultrasonic tips, and techniques have changed the way we teach and practice. This presentation will update you on the latest theory and technique. New videotapes recorded with the dental endoscope within the last few months will reveal the location of residual calculus and the action of various ultrasonic tips and hand instruments on burnished calculus. Topics of discussion:

- ◆ periodontal ultrasonography, PreViser risk assessment digital subtraction radiography and other new diagnostic tools.
- ◆ debridement of biofilm vs. removal of calculus - how important is root planing?
- ◆ new diamond coated instruments, furcation curets and other new hand instruments.
- ◆ new piezo and magnetostrictive ultrasonic units and tips.
- ◆ new fulcrums with 3:00-5:00 positions for scaling.
- ◆ deep mandibular and maxillary pockets.
- ◆ local delivery antibiotics and antimicrobials.

Full Registration: \$110.00

Includes both CE days, all breaks & 2 breakfasts, Saturday lunch, Saturday evening President's Wine 'n Cheese and Sunday coffee & muffins.

~ OR ~

Friday only 6:30 - 8:30: \$25.00 includes Friday only

Saturday 9:00 - 5:00: \$100.00 includes Saturday only lecture, President's Wine 'n Cheese, & Sunday coffee & muffins.

Saturday 7:00 - 10:00: President's Wine 'N Cheese

Sunday 9:00 - 12:00: NSDHA AGM

To register:

Make cheques payable to NSDHA

Deadline for registration is June 10, 2008 for meal tickets

Mail cheques to: NSDHA 979 Mount William Road

New Glasgow NS B2H 5C6

Advance register online and pay at the door option:

submit your name to : nsdhaagm2008@gmail.ca

also reserves a meal ticket.

Meals cannot be guaranteed without pre-registration.

From: The Transition Team –
College of Dental Hygienists of Nova Scotia

FAQ'S REGARDING THE NEW LEGISLATION

Members of the Legislative Committee, NSDHA Board members, and our Executive Assistant have been receiving a number of inquiries regarding the new legislation. Here are a few answers to those Frequently Asked Questions. These will appear on the NSDHA web site, and I will try to update from time to time as other issues arise.

Please consult the web site at www.nsdha.ns.ca

If you do not find the answer to your question, email me at patricia.grant@dal.ca

No. 1: When can I start practicing on my own?

Members **cannot** make any changes in the way they practice until Bill 24 has received proclamation. Following third reading of a Bill, by the House of Assembly, an Act must be proclaimed as Law. Proclamation cannot take place until the regulations which are pursuant to the Act are reviewed by the Registry of Regulations. This process can take some time. Minister d'Entremont assured us that he would push for early proclamation. The date requested is April 1, 2008, however we need to understand that occasionally Acts can be held up at the proclamation stage. Several groups have had great difficulty with this, one of them being the Paramedics. However, we have done our homework on our regulations with the stake holders prior to submission, and we have the commitment of the minister and the support of the opposition in the House who asked for early proclamation.

No. 2: What do I need to know before I can start my own practice?

Under the new Dental Hygiene Act and regulations, dental hygienists who wish to self initiate, that is, practice on their own, will need to take a continuing education module approved by The College of Dental Hygienists of Nova Scotia. This continuing education module will include information on the new legislation, particularly on the contraindications to treatment which are included in the regulations, and will be credited toward the members' CE credits. CDHA and the CDHO have developed several education modules to address self initiation issues in Ontario. These will be available on-line and **may** address the need in Nova Scotia with some modifications. (more information www.cdha.ca)

No. 3: What fee codes will we use to bill insurance companies for services in independent practice?

Dental hygienists can obtain a unique number and codes from the CDHA. The CDHA National List of Service Codes was published in CJDH, September-October 2007, Vol.41, No 5. It will be necessary to establish fee guides as they have done in other provinces to accompany those codes.

No. 4: Are insurance companies accepting direct billing from dental hygienists?

Some are and many more are in the process of changing their systems to accommodate dental hygiene billing codes. For additional information see www.cdha.ca.

No. 5: Can I utilize the local anesthetic training I have from BC?

The use of oral anesthetics is provided for in the regulations under certain circumstances. The College of Dental Hygienists of NS will need to decide what qualifications will be required for hygienists who wish to administer local anesthetics. Every circumstance will be different. Has the person who took the course in BC been practicing LA recently? If not how long since they have used it? Do they need a refresher? These are questions The College will need to investigate as they move through the process. Hygienists who have not been educated in the use of LA will need to take a course recognized by the college.

"A dental hygienist shall only engage in the practice of dental hygiene to the extent that the practice is within the member's individual scope of practice." (The Nova Scotia Dental Hygiene Act, Section 23 (2))

No. 6: Do we have our own Regulating Authority yet? What is NSDHA doing to get ready?

We do not have our own Regulatory Authority as yet, as the Act which creates The College of Dental Hygienists as the regulatory authority has not been proclaimed (see question 1). However, NSDHA is already preparing for the new College. Plans for the Transition phase have begun. The Board of the NSDHA is working with the Legislative Committee as a Transition Team to prepare for The College. Under the DH Act, the current Board of the NSDHA will become the new **Council** of The College of Dental Hygienists until elections take place. (within six months) In December, following the passage of the Act, the NSDHA Board met to discuss future plans and hear a presentation from a Human Resource Management Consultant Firm. This company conducts searches and assists in hiring chief executive officers. A Hiring Committee has been formed to begin a search for the Registrar.

In February, the NSDHA Board held a Transition Planning Workshop to review the regulations and assess the areas needed in the By Laws. Following that workshop, a committee was struck to complete the work on the By Laws. The Board met the following day to continue the transition planning.

The NSDHA President has met with the Registrar of the Provincial Dental Board of Nova Scotia to discuss turnover of the Register of Dental Hygienists following proclamation. The Board has indicated that they are prepared to help in anyway they can to assist in an easy transfer of records and any funds owing.

Representatives of the Transition Team have attended meetings with other regulatory groups in the province, and consultations with many DH regulatory bodies across Canada have been conducted to obtain information and advice. The work continues.

No. 7: Can I work while my dentist employer is not in the office?

Question one above answers this. In this situation, the dental hygienist is self-initiating, which can occur only **after** the Act is proclaimed as law by Governor in Council and **after** the member has taken the course referred to in question two for hygienists who wish to self initiate.

The question then becomes one of employer/employee agreement. There may be members who do not wish to see clients when the dentist is not present, and similarly, there may be dentist employers who do not wish the hygienist to provide patient care while they are not present in the office.

No. 8: Will our fees increase under the new College?

We currently pay membership fees to NSDHA/CDHA **and** a licensing renewal fee to the Provincial Dental Board of Nova Scotia. Under the new structure these fees will be collapsed into one. To date NSDHA has been fiscally responsible. Demonstration of financial ability to the Government was required before becoming self regulating. The College will continue with this sound fiscal management and will maintain modest operation expenses. When looking to other provinces with similar memberships for examples of how fees might change, no substantial fee increases occurred. Increased responsibilities will incur more costs, especially with initial start up costs. Maintaining fees or a nominal increase would be the goal.

No.9: Where can I get a copy of the Dental Hygiene Act?

An official copy of the Dental Hygiene Act can be obtained from the Provincial Government web site www.gov.ns.ca/legislature. Once you are there, go to House Business, choose Bills, Statutes, Statutes by session, 2007 Statutes, by name – Dental Hygiene Act.

No. 10: Will continuing education points still be mandatory?

For the short term it is likely that the continuing education requirements will remain the same as previously established by the Dental Board. The Dental Hygiene Act states that The College must, in order to serve the public interest and to protect the public; (a) regulate the profession through (iv) establishing, maintaining and developing standards for the education, knowledge, qualifications, professional responsibility and competence of its members. (see DH Act of Nova Scotia Section 5 (1) ss(iv)). Therefore, by statute, The College must provide a mechanism for ensuring the continued competence of its members. In the long term, The College may review the existing policy.



Capital Health

**Getting Started Sessions
Tobacco Intervention Programming
March - May 2008
Capital Health
Addiction Prevention & Treatment Services**

A Getting Started session will support you in making choices about your use of tobacco products and provide you with more information about our Tobacco Intervention Program.

MARCH

Wednesday, March 12, 2008
Captain William Spry Community Centre
Conference Room #3
10 Kidston Road, Spryfield
5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, March 25, 2008
VG, Bethune Building
Room 39
1278 Tower Road, Halifax
12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Thursday, March 27, 2008
Belmont House
Harbourview Room, 5th Floor
33 Alderney Drive, Dartmouth
6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

APRIL

Thursday, April 10, 2008
Dartmouth General Hospital
Room 1512
Dartmouth
12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Friday, April 11, 2008
North End Community Health Centre
2165 Gottingen Street, Halifax
Boardroom
10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

APRIL Cont'd

Wednesday, April 30, 2008
QEII, Halifax Infirmary Site
Royal Bank Theatre
1796 Summer Street, Halifax,
7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

MAY

Thursday, May 1, 2008
Spring Garden Road Memorial
Public Library
Program Room
5381 Spring Garden Road, Halifax
12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Thursday, May 8, 2008
Dartmouth North Community Centre
Multi-Purpose Room
134 Pinecrest Drive, Dartmouth
7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Tuesday, May 13, 2008
Cobequid Community Health Centre
Room 3217/3219
40 Freer Lane, Lower Sackville
7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

No need to register, please just come on out. There is no charge for programming. To find out more about our program, please call 424-2025, or visit our website - www.cdha.nshealth.ca click on Capital Health A – Z, then click on Tobacco Intervention Program.

The Smoke Free Nova Scotia Fax referral form is available for reprint on-line at the Smoke Free website.

www.smokefreens.ca

Keep copies on hand at the office to assist clients and post the Getting Started Sessions Schedule for Capital Health District from pg. 9 in your office waiting room.

A message brought to you by Paulette Hawksworth, NSDHA Rep to Smoke Free NS

The Oral Health of Our Aging Population (TOHAP) Research Project



We'd like to inform the Nova Scotia Dental Hygiene Community about a three-year study that will collect clinical and qualitative data on a representative sample of adults aged 45 years and older in the province. It is being led by Drs. Debora Matthews and Joanne Clovis from the Faculty of Dentistry at Dalhousie University.

The aims of this project are to:

1. Describe the oral health status of adults aged 45 and over;
2. Describe the oral health care service utilization of adults aged 45 and over;
3. Evaluate the oral health care needs of adults aged 45 and over;
4. Determine variation in oral health indicators by age, gender, geographic location, and residential status.

Over **4000** Nova Scotians will take part in a telephone-administered oral health interview, and approximately **1200** interviewees will be invited to take part in a clinical oral exam.

In the upcoming months we will be seeking community sites to conduct the clinical oral exams, hiring dental professionals to help carry out the study and promoting the study via various media outlets. We look forward to collaborating with the dental hygiene community in our effort to carry out a successful province-wide study.

For more information please contact:

Rebecca Green, Coordinator

The Oral Health of our Aging Population (TOHAP) project

Faculty of Dentistry, Dalhousie University

5981 University Avenue

Halifax Nova Scotia B3H 1W2

P: 902-494-2242

F: 902-494-8082

E: tohap@dal.ca

This study is funded by Health Canada (Office of the Chief Dental Officer), the Institute of Musculoskeletal Health and Arthritis of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), and the Nova Scotia Health Research Foundation (NSHRF).

