

Muriel Driver Memorial Lectureship Award

This lectureship was established as a memorial to Muriel Driver in honour of her many significant contributions to the profession of occupational therapy, from the time of her graduation from the University of Toronto in 1941 until her death in 1972. A brief résumé will give some idea of Muriel's full and varied career, which began in 1941 when she became a home service therapist at the Toronto Curative workshop.

In 1943 Muriel enlisted in the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps, serving first as sole therapist at the Hamilton Military Hospital. This was followed by an overseas posting to the 22nd Canadian General Hospital in the United Kingdom as charge occupational therapist. Returning to Canada, she served at the Montreal Military Hospital as assistant to the charge therapist.

Following discharge from the Army in 1946, Muriel organized the first occupational therapy department at Runnymede Hospital for the Chronically Ill in Toronto, and in 1948 she became supervisor of the occupational therapy department at The Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto. During her years at this hospital, Muriel attended the Warm Springs Foundation in Georgia and was awarded the post-graduate certificate in neuro-muscular disorders.

In 1954 Muriel returned to Warm Springs as Director of Occupational Therapy and Instructor in the Post-Graduate School. Muriel accepted the challenge of organizing and directing the special Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists (CAOT) course in occupational therapy at Kingston in 1959 and served as Director of the School throughout its existence. When Queen's University established the occupational therapy educational program in 1967, Muriel was appointed Senior Lecturer, and at the time of her death in 1972 she was Assistant Professor and Senior Teacher in the Occupational Therapy Programme, School of Rehabilitation Therapy, Queens University, Kingston, Ontario.

Muriel gave many years of service to the Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists, as a member of various committees, as chairman of several including the Education Committee, and as an elected member of the Board of Directors. As the Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists delegate to the World Federation of Occupational Therapists, she represented Canada on its Council and during part of her term served as Chairman of the World Federation of Occupational Therapists Publications Committee.

In addition to these contributions, she was the author of numerous articles published in the Canadian Journal of Occupational Therapy and in the journals of other health-related professions. Her enthusiasm for the advancement of occupational therapy and the stimulation which she provided were sources of inspiration of students, therapists and personal friends.

The Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists will honour a member of the Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists who has made an outstanding contribution to the profession through research, education and the practice of occupational therapy by presenting the individual with the Muriel Driver Memorial Lectureship Award.

[Read the Collection of Muriel Driver Memorial Lectures – Sage Website](#)

Criteria for selection

Nominations must meet the following criteria:

1. Nominees shall be individual or life members of the Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists.
2. Nominees shall be making, or have made an outstanding contribution to the body of knowledge of occupational therapy.
3. Nominees shall have provided opportunity for members of the profession to benefit from these contributions through publication, presentations or both.
4. Nominees must not be a current Board member or employee of the Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists.
5. Nominees need not be a resident in Canada if the achievements for which they are nominated have relevance to Canadian occupational therapy and they meet the other criteria for the award.

Aims of the lectureship

The aims of the lectureship are to stimulate interest in the development of improved methods and techniques in the practice of occupational therapy; to encourage interest in research, education, public relations, recruitment and administration; to provide opportunity for all members of the profession to benefit from new developments; and to give members of the Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists opportunity to make known the results of study, thus sharing knowledge and experience with others.