

# 17th Annual CAWC Conference: A Tremendous Success!

## 17<sup>e</sup> conférence annuelle de l'ACSP Un franc succès!

2011  
CONFERENCE  
ORGANIZING  
COMMITTEE/  
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DE LA CONFÉRENCE  
DE 2011

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MARC DESPATS, MD  
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PATRICIA COUTTS, RN  
PRESIDENT/  
PRÉSIDENTE

**T**he 17th annual Canadian Association of Wound Care conference was held November 3–6, 2011, at the Ottawa Convention Centre, Ottawa, Ontario, with more than 650 clinicians, healthcare policymakers and industry representatives in attendance. This year's theme, "Surgical Wounds, Burns, and Infections," addressed the wound care topics that are top of mind for many healthcare professionals.

The official welcome and introductions, emceed by Douglas Queen, set the tone for the conference by offering heartfelt congratulations to the wound care honorees and wound care heroes who were celebrated at this year's conference. Noted Conference Co-Chair Mariam Botros, "We are pleased to recognize those people who have been involved in bringing wound care to the forefront in Canada and around the world, as well as those healthcare professionals who quietly make a difference in their own communities." See page 6 for a list of the heroes and honorees.

The sessions were well-attended and offered a diverse program to attract wound care clinicians of all backgrounds. Some of the program highlights that you can read about in this issue include:

- Principles of acute wounds (page 12).
- Update on wound bed preparation (page 18).
- Complex wounds in the emergency room (page 24).
- Pilonidal sinus wounds (page 28).
- Biofilms: a clinical conundrum (page 37).
- CAWC research project: An update (page 43).
- CAWC around the world: An international leader (page 45).

The CAWC continued to partner with the Canadian wound care industry, and presented exciting and well-attended pre-conference satellite symposia day, power breakfasts, learning lunches and product theatres. As well, the spacious exhibit hall allowed for easy movement, and provided ample space for participants to meet and network between sessions. This year's exhibit hall offered the largest wound care

**L**a 17<sup>e</sup> conférence annuelle de l'Association canadienne du soin des plaies s'est tenue au Centre des congrès d'Ottawa (Ontario) du 3 au 6 novembre 2011 et a attiré plus de 650 cliniciens, décideurs du domaine des soins de santé et représentants de l'industrie. Au cours de la conférence, dont le thème était « Plaies chirurgicales, brûlures et infections », il a été question des sujets relatifs au soin des plaies qui intéressent le plus de nombreux professionnels de la santé.

Animée par Douglas Queen, la séance inaugurale (allocution de bienvenue et présentations officielles) a donné le ton de la conférence : on a sincèrement félicité les personnes honorées et héros du domaine du soin des plaies dont le travail a été souligné à la conférence de cette année. De dire madame Mariam Botros, co-présidente de la conférence, « Nous sommes heureux de souligner le travail des personnes qui ont contribué à mettre la question du soin des plaies à l'avant-plan au Canada et partout dans le monde, ainsi que des professionnels de la santé qui, l'air de rien, changent les choses dans leur communauté. » La liste des héros et des personnes honorées figure à la page 8.

Les séances, qui ont attiré un grand nombre de participants, ont porté sur des sujets divers afin de piquer l'intérêt de cliniciens de tous les domaines. Dans le présent numéro, vous trouverez des articles sur les faits saillants suivants de la conférence :

- principes de la prise en charge des plaies aiguës (page 14)
- mise à jour sur la préparation du lit de la plaie (page 18)
- les plaies complexes à la salle d'urgence (page 26)
- le sinus pilonidal (page 30)
- les biofilms : un problème clinique épineux (page 39)
- projet de recherche de l'ACSP : mise à jour (page 43).
- l'ACSP dans le monde : un leader international (page 45)

L'ACSP a continué de s'associer à l'industrie canadienne du soin des plaies pour présenter, avant la conférence, un symposium satellite d'un jour stimulant et

*The conference sessions were well-attended and offered a diverse program to attract wound care clinicians of all healthcare backgrounds.*

trade gathering in Canada (more than 30 exhibitors), and presented unparalleled educational opportunities and the chance to see the latest products and services.

The social events offered even more opportunities for attendees to network with peers and colleagues. The exhibit hall grand opening was a tremendous success, and the Saturday evening Annual President's Party offered attendees a chance to kick up their heels and dance the night away. The Fun Run/Walk allowed energetic participants to enjoy the balmy Ottawa morning air, and supported the CAWC's *Diabetes Healthy Feet and You* initiative with donations from pledges.

Overall, the conference was an enormous success. Attendees enjoyed the diversity of the program as well as the opportunity to network with colleagues and acquaintances. Thank you to all participants and to all those healthcare professionals who work so very hard to help people with acute and chronic wounds.

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### **Join us in London, Ontario, for the CAWC 2012 Conference**

Next year's conference will be held in London, Ontario, from November 8–11, 2012, where the theme will be "A Canadian Healthcare Crisis: Chronic Wounds." Session topics will include:

- The transition from institutional to home care
- Integrating the interdisciplinary team
- Dealing with the changing demographics
- Managing the complex and complicated wound

Join your wound care colleagues for 4 days of stimulating and thought-provoking discussions and strategies that you can take back to your practice. Look for further details after January 1, 2012, at [www.cawc.net](http://www.cawc.net).

### **We want to hear from YOU!**

We welcome your feedback on this year's conference, and we'd also like to know what topics you'd like to see addressed at next year's conference, to be held in London, Ontario, from November 8–11, 2012. Please email [wcceditor@cawc.net](mailto:wcceditor@cawc.net) with your feedback, comments and suggestions. We hope to hear from you soon! ☺

qui a attiré un grand nombre de participants, tenir des petits-déjeuners-débats et des dîners-causeries et organiser des séances sur les produits. Par ailleurs, comme la salle des exposants était vaste, il était facile d'y circuler et les participants pouvaient s'y réunir et réseauter entre les séances. L'exposition de cette année était la plus importante du domaine du soin des plaies au Canada (plus de 30 exposants). Elle offrait aux participants des possibilités d'apprentissage sans précédent et leur donnait la chance de se familiariser avec les plus récents produits et services.

Les activités sociales tenues dans le cadre de la conférence étaient d'autres occasions pour les participants de réseauter avec leurs pairs et collègues. L'inauguration de la salle des exposants a été un grand succès et les participants ont pu danser toute la soirée à la fête annuelle du président tenue le samedi. Une marche/course a attiré des participants énergiques qui avaient recueilli des promesses de dons pour soutenir le projet *Le diabète : des pieds en santé et vous*. Le matin de l'événement, il faisait un temps superbe à Ottawa.

La conférence a dans l'ensemble été couronnée de succès. Les participants ont apprécié la diversité du programme ainsi que l'occasion de réseauter avec des collègues et connaissances. Nous remercions tous les participants et tous les professionnels de la santé qui mettent tout en œuvre pour venir en aide aux patients qui souffrent de plaies aiguës et chroniques.

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### **Conférence de 2012 de l'ACSP : soyez du nombre!**

En 2012, la conférence se tiendra à London, en Ontario, du 8 au 11 novembre sous le thème « Crise des soins de santé au Canada : les plaies chroniques ». Les séances porteront notamment sur les sujets suivants :

- transition des soins institutionnels aux soins à domicile
- intégration de l'équipe interdisciplinaire
- réalités des changements démographiques
- gestion de la plaie complexe et compliquée.

Joignez-vous à vos collègues du soin des plaies pour quatre jours consacrés à des discussions stimulantes et portant à réflexion et à l'élaboration de stratégies que vous pourrez appliquer dans votre exercice. Pour de plus amples renseignements, visitez le site [www.cawc.net](http://www.cawc.net) après le 1<sup>er</sup> janvier 2012. Nous espérons que vous serez des nôtres!

### **Donnez-nous votre opinion!**

Il nous tarde de savoir ce que vous avez pensé de la conférence de cette année et d'avoir vos suggestions sur les sujets dont vous aimeriez qu'il soit question à la conférence qui se tiendra du 8 au 11 novembre 2012 à London, en Ontario. Envoyez vos commentaires et suggestions par courriel à l'adresse [wcceditor@cawc.net](mailto:wcceditor@cawc.net). Nous espérons avoir de vos nouvelles bientôt! ☺

## Wound Care Hero 2011

During the official welcome and introduction of the conference, the CAWC introduced a new award: the CAWC Wound Care Hero. This award recognizes the recipient's contribution as a community leader, wound care champion and educator. This year's Wound Care Hero is **Heather Morrow RN**.

As a front-line caregiver at Headwaters Health Care Centre in Orangeville, Ontario, Heather loves the hands-on aspects of nursing. Although Heather has worked at Headwaters for the past 27 years, she is always willing to expand her knowledge base. Five years ago she accepted the challenge of becoming the wound care champion for Headwaters Health Care Centre.

Since then, she has welcomed the opportunity to learn best practices for wound care. She enjoys educating others and is

always willing to share her knowledge and experience. Heather has also completed the CAWC Institute of Wound Management and Prevention Level 3 series.

The positive results achieved from applying this new knowledge have gained Heather the confidence of fellow staff members, who regularly consult with her to determine optimum choices for wound healing. Over the past few months, wound care awareness has become a focus at Headwaters, and Heather has been instrumental in the organization of an interdisciplinary wound care team. Her goal is to continue her own education in wound care and share that gained knowledge with fellow staff and patients.

The CAWC congratulates Heather for making a difference in her healthcare organization and in her community.



Heather Morrow: The Canadian Association of Wound Care's "Wound Care Hero."

## Wound Care Hero nominees 2011

A number of clinicians from across Canada were nominated by their peers for the Wound Care Hero award. We recognize them here for their continued efforts on behalf of their patients and their communities.

Darcie Anderson RN BScN IIWCC ET  
Muenster, SK

Jillian Brooke RN IIWCC CETN(C)  
Windsor, ON

Lynn Campbell RN  
Renfrew, ON

Heather Campsall RN  
Duncan, BC

Sunita Coelho RN IIWCC  
Toronto, ON

Lincoln D'Souza RN  
Montreal, QC

Eileen Emmott RN BScN IIWCC ET  
Calgary, AB

Ludwik Fedorko MD  
Toronto, ON

Peggie Gairy RN IIWCC CETN  
Toronto, ON

Stacey Gladue RN BScN  
Rapid View, SK

Lisa Hegler RN BScN  
Burnaby, BC

Michelle Heidel RN IIWCC  
North Battleford, SK

Karen Lagden RN ET  
Calgary, AB

Poh Lin Lim RN IIWCC  
Winnipeg, MB

Theresa MacNeil RB BScN IIWCC  
North Sydney, NS

Leah Macumber RN IIWCC  
Windsor, NS

Cindy Maxwell LPN  
Halifax, NS

Marguerite Paul MD  
North Bay, ON

Leanne Penney RN  
Fort Frances, ON

Zaynab Sheraly RN  
Toronto, ON

Susan Spears LPN  
Musquodoboit Harbour, NS

Ana Stanesic RN  
Toronto, ON

Marlene Varga RN IIWCC  
Edmonton, AB

Lani Williston RN  
Oyama, BC

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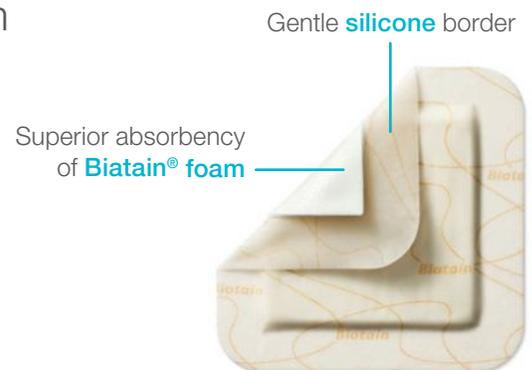
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## Why Attend the CAWC Conference? One Attendee's Story

By Tammy Fleck, Stettler Home Care, Stettler, Alberta

I am a licensed practical nurse in Stettler, Alberta, which is a small community approximately 50 km east of Red Deer. I have attended two CAWC conferences: I went to the Calgary meeting in 2010, and then to Ottawa this year.

### Sessions of interest

I think the most valuable session for me was the plenary session entitled Principles of Wound Care. It really set the stage for helping me to choose which other conference sessions I should attend – it made me think about what sessions would offer me the best information to take back and use in my practice. Speakers at that session also indicated that attendees should broaden their skills and attend sessions they might have felt were above their own level of understanding. That was great advice, as it made me think more broadly about the wound care topics I was interested in, and I didn't stress out about my level of understanding – I just listened and learned!

*"I'm going to continue making an extra effort to educate my clients on the importance of getting treatment quickly."*

Several other sessions were also particularly interesting:

- I found the session International Consensus on Skin Tears so important. I agree that skin tears are often classified as pressure ulcers, and I'd really like to help in some way to get more data in that regard.
- Diagnostic Dilemma: Infection vs. Inflammation was also very beneficial, as I believe many patients are being put on antibiotics who shouldn't be. It also increased my awareness, as a nurse, of the importance of physical assessment and critical appraisal of the signs and symptoms of various wounds.
- Social Networking and Healthcare was also quite interesting – it's the wave of the

future. People have been fighting it for so long, but why not use it to our advantage?

As an extra plus, the social events were fun and a great way to meet and network with other attendees.

### Takeaway messages

Now that I've returned from the conference, I plan to present some of what I've learned at our regular wound care meetings. I will pass information along to my team members, including enterostomal therapists, occupational therapists, registered nurses and other licensed practical nurses.

I'm also going to continue making an extra effort to educate my clients on the importance of getting treatment quickly. I work on educating my patients every single time I see them, to ensure they remember that if they see a wound developing, they should call the clinic immediately; that way, we can manage wounds when they are acute rather than when they have become chronic.

I must admit, I was at a crossroads when I attended the CAWC conference in Calgary... I wasn't sure what I wanted to do in wound care. Although I was overwhelmed by how little I knew – as I thought I knew a lot – I also realized how much more I could learn. So, this past year I took the CAWC Institute of Wound Management and Prevention L series as well as some courses from the Canadian Association of Enterostomal Therapists. This time, in Ottawa, I wasn't so overwhelmed because I had increased my knowledge base.

I'm saving my pennies to attend the CAWC conference in London, Ontario, in 2012 and am really looking forward to it!

*Tammy Fleck was honoured to win a trip to the 17th annual CAWC conference. She shared her thoughts on her conference attendance with Wound Care Canada.*



Tammy Fleck: "Now that I've returned from the conference, I plan to present some of what I've learned at our regular wound care meetings."

## Register for the CAWC Institute of Wound Management and Prevention

The CAWC Institute of Wound Management and Prevention is offering educational sessions across Canada throughout 2012. For further information regarding dates and venues, and to register, please visit [www.cawc.net](http://www.cawc.net).



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## Canadian Wound Care Leaders

During the official welcome and introduction of the conference, the CAWC recognized Canadian Wound Care Leaders. The recipients of these awards have made exceptional efforts and innovations in furthering the development of wound care practice in the areas of bedside practice, educational programs, research and guideline/policy building.

### This year's Canadian Wound Care Leaders are:

Cathy Burrows RN BScN MScCh  
Halifax, NS

Karen Campbell RN PhD  
London, ON

Cathy Harley RN IIWCC EMBA  
Ottawa, ON

Connie Harris RN ET IIWCC MSc  
Waterloo, ON

Pamela Houghton PT PhD  
London, ON



The CAWC's 2011 Canadian Wound Care Leaders.

Shane Inlow MD  
Calgary, AB

David Keast BSc MSc Dip Ed MD  
CCFP FCFP  
London, ON

Louise Forest Lalande RN MED ET  
Montreal, QC

Heather Orsted RN BN ET MSc  
Calgary, AB

R. Gary Sibbald BSc MD FRCPC(Med)  
FRCPC(Derm)  
Mississauga, ON

Gail Woodbury PhD BScPT  
London, ON

## "You Make A Difference" Award



Peggy Ahearn: You make a difference!

Peggy Ahearn, executive director of the CAWC, was honoured with the "You Make a Difference" award, in recognition of her dedication to and leadership of the CAWC, and for making a difference in the lives of people with wounds.

Peggy has a wealth of experience in health communications, education, sales and marketing, with a specialty in wound care. For more than 15 years she was president of The Medicine Group, a continuing health education agency; she is also a founding member of the Canadian Association of Continuing Healthcare Education and served as project leader for the third congress of the World Union of Wound Healing Societies, which was held in Toronto in June 2008. Peggy has been significantly involved with the CAWC, including being a founding member and, more recently, taking the helm as executive director.



### MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

#### Euro-Mediterranean Council For Burns and Fire Disasters

The 17th annual meeting of the Euro-Mediterranean Council For Burns and Fire Disasters will be held in Palermo, Italy, from June 6–8, 2012. For further information, please visit <http://www.medbc.com> or contact the Council Secretariat via email ([mbcpa@medbc.com](mailto:mbcpa@medbc.com)).

## Announcement – CAWC Board of Directors

The Canadian Association of Wound Care is pleased to welcome the following new members to the Board of Directors:



Afsaneh Alavi MD FRCP  
Resident Dermatologist,  
University of Toronto  
& Sunnybrook Health  
Sciences Centre  
Toronto, Ontario

Wound Management and Prevention,  
Canadian Association of Wound Care  
Toronto, Ontario



Anna Slivinski RD  
Registered Dietitian  
Home and  
Community Care,  
Vancouver Coastal Health  
Vancouver, British Columbia



Morty Eisenberg MD  
MScCH FCFP  
Hospitalist Division Head  
and Wound Consultant,  
St. John's Rehab Hospital  
Faculty Member, Institute of



Deirdre O'Sullivan-  
Drombolis BScPT MCISc  
(Wound Healing)  
Physical Therapist and  
Wound Care Resource,  
Riverside Health Care  
Facilities, Fort Frances, Ontario  
Adjunct Faculty, University of Western  
Ontario MCISc (Wound Healing) Program



Nicola Waters RN MSc  
Assistant Professor,  
Mount Royal University  
Calgary, Alberta

We thank those members who are leaving the board for their commitment and dedication to the Canadian Association of Wound Care: Cathy Burrows, Past President; Martine Albert; David Haligowski; and Maryse Beaumier.

Canadian Association  
of Wound Care



Association canadienne  
du soin des plaies

## Career Classifieds in *Wound Care Canada*

*Wound Care Canada* is launching a Career Classifieds section in the Spring 2012 issue (publication date May 1, 2012).

- Are you recruiting new employees for a position at your academic or healthcare institution?
- Are you a wound care specialist seeking employment or consulting opportunities within the wound care community?

Place an advertisement in *Wound Care Canada's* Career Classifieds section, and you'll have immediate access to 7,500 readers from the wound care community across Canada who read each and every issue of the publication.

For information regarding Career Classifieds rates and deadlines, please contact David Stein, Business Manager, Canadian Association of Wound Care, via email at [david@cawc.net](mailto:david@cawc.net).

