

And the ODHA awards go to...



Heidi Linton, right, receives the Distinguished Service Award from outgoing President Terri Strawn.

HEIDI LINTON

Honoured for service

A dental hygienist for more than 30 years, Heidi Linton was honoured with the Distinguished Service Award, recognizing her outstanding contributions to the profession and to the Association.

Heidi joined the Board of Directors in 2008 and served as President in 2013-14, during which time she was actively involved in community outreach to promote ODHA and oral health.

Combining her leadership skills, commitment to lifelong learning and ability to inspire others, Heidi was instrumental in resurrecting the Durham Dental Hygienists' Society in 2009. She volunteered countless hours to get the society back up and running and to ensure members receive quality educational programs. She also established a student scholarship, awarded annually to deserving students at Durham College.

Since 2009 Heidi has served as society president and member of the executive and continues to support the society by arranging gifts, food and monetary donations for community organizations and shelters in Durham Region.

A graduate of Seneca College, Heidi lives in Pickering and works at Toronto Public Health. •



MaryLynn Nael, left, receives the Distinguished Service Award from outgoing Board director Heidi Linton.

MARYLYNN NAEL

A dedicated volunteer

MaryLynn Nael of Belle River also received the Distinguished Service Award this year. The award recognizes her outstanding contributions to the profession of dental hygiene, specifically her volunteer efforts to improve access to oral health care for vulnerable residents in her community.

Since 2009, MaryLynn has been a volunteer for the Street Health program, offered through the Windsor Essex Community Health Centre (WECHC). The program provides support and resources to the homeless and to those at risk of homelessness. As Street Health expanded, she was instrumental in developing the dental program, encouraging dental hygienists to get involved and recruiting a dentist.

For her work on Project Smile, which raises funds to provide dentures to those unable to afford them, MaryLynn received ODHA's Community Service Award in 2012. She continues to volunteer on Project Smile, a partnership between the Windsor-Essex Dental Hygienists' Society and WECHC.

Recently retired from practice in Wheatley, she served a two-year term on the Board of Directors and was the ODHA representative for the City of Windsor Oral Health Committee. •



Jo-Anne Jones, left, receives the Elizabeth Craig Award of Distinction from ODHA President Sheniza Blackburn.

JO-ANNE JONES

Key opinion leader

The Elizabeth Craig Award of Distinction was presented to Jo-Anne Jones in recognition of her exceptional and ongoing commitment to promoting the dental hygiene profession.

An acclaimed speaker, consultant, author and successful entrepreneur, Jo-Anne brings a wealth of knowledge and experience – as well as passion and inspiration – in everything she does to support and promote the profession.

A dynamic presenter who captivates audiences with her knowledge, enthusiasm and sense of humour, she has earned many loyal followers, provincially, nationally and internationally.

Her commitment to educate dental hygienists and the public on human papillomavirus (HPV) oral cancer has raised awareness about early detection and is changing the way dental professionals screen for oral cancer. She received the PennWell award for her article on the rising incidence of HPV-related oropharyngeal cancer.

A respected key opinion leader among leading corporations within the dental community, Jo-Anne was named by *Dental Products Report* as one of the Top 25 Women in Dentistry and continues to be a *Dentistry Today* Continuing Education Leader. •