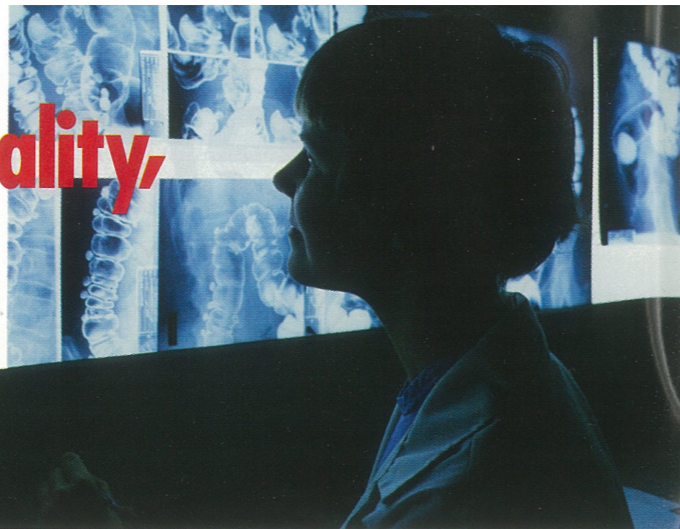


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Cresting the Wave Together

By Donna Farid, RN, PGOR, CPN(C)

We wanted to depict certain things when we chose our 16th National ORNAC Conference motto "Cresting the Wave". First, we wanted to depict the area where the conference was being hosted, and clearly, Nova Scotians have a fundamentally strong affiliation with the sea. Next, we wanted to symbolize a celebration of ORNAC's many accomplishments over the sixteen years of its existence. When one rides the crest of a wave, one has reached a pinnacle. ORNAC deserves recognition for reaching this pinnacle, by representing Perioperative Nursing so well; from the development and revisions of National Standards of Practice, to initiating and facilitating the National Certification process, to developing position statements, offering bursaries and awards to her members, supporting advanced roles, and promoting Perioperative Nursing at every opportunity. Finally, we wanted a symbol to congratulate Canadian perioperative Nurses for their commitment to the highest standards of surgical patient care, despite the enormous obstacles they have faced during massive changes in the Canadian Health Care System.

However, no more can ORNAC rest on her laurels than she can remain on the crest of the wave. As in health care, the sea is ever changing, we must respect and appreciate all it has to offer, while at the same time, be prepared to meet its challenges with confidence and determination. As ORNAC strives to serve her members well into the future, we must chart our course and learn to navigate in new waters.

In this issue of the *Canadian Operating Room Nursing Journal*, you will find preliminary information about the conference program and social events, a registration form, and information about hotel reservations. The program has been finalized since this printing, and there are more excellent speakers and topics on the agenda. Having the good fortune to have attended several Perioperative Nursing Conferences

over the past few years, I judge a conference by the difficulty to choose between the concurrent sessions, wanting to hear them all. I may be showing my prejudice, but this is how I feel about our program. Our plenary sessions are all on current topics with excellent speakers, and we are especially appreciative of the generous sponsorship of speakers and events by many of the surgical supply companies. We value their ongoing support.

A new endeavour to host a Perioperative leaders and managers workshop immediately following the conference is well under way, thanks to the vision and commitment by Pat Pocock, the Past Presidents of ORNAC, and the sponsorship of Johnson & Johnson and 3M.

When I attended some provincial conferences this past year, there was a great deal of interest shown in coming to Halifax. However, I realize that it is very expensive to attend conferences half way across the country, especially in this climate of diminishing education dollars. Our nurses in the Maritimes have been fundraising to provide the opportunity to cover some of their costs with bake sales, goody basket raffles, and so on. Where there's a will, there's a way!

I wish to extend a warm welcome to Perioperative Nurses from across the country to our conference. We are eager to treat you some fine Maritime hospitality, and to show you a very beautiful part of our country. Together, let's ride the crest of the wave into the challenges of the new millennium.



Donna Farid is President of the Operating Room Nurses Association of Canada. She is Staff RN, Cardiovascular Surgery, Queen Elizabeth II Health Science Centre, Halifax, Nova Scotia.