

WORKLOAD GROWS, STAFF IS HIRED

Although the CMPA had always employed part-time clerical assistants, it was not until 1948 that Marat MacLeod became the first full-time employee. Margaret Kells, a remarkable woman who ran the show for 30 years, succeeded Mrs. MacLeod in 1952, and retired as executive assistant to Council. Beverley Allen had worked with Mrs. Kells for many years and was her chosen successor.

Because the caseload continued to grow, in 1952 Dr James H.B. Hilton was elected assistant secretary-treasurer to Dr Fisher. Dr Hilton became associate secretary-treasurer from 1958 until 1966 when he was elected president, succeeding Dr George W. Armstrong.

Not until 1964 did Dr Fisher consider his job at the CMPA to be full-time. It was probably due only to his extraordinary time management skills that he continued to practise actively until that time. Dr F. Norman Brown joined the CMPA as assistant secretary-treasurer in 1965 and became associate secretary-treasurer in 1968. He succeeded Dr Fisher as secretary-treasurer in 1971. Until then he continued to practise and teach, as did Dr Hilton. Dr Stuart B. Lee, another outstanding secretary-treasurer, joined the staff in 1972, the same year as Dr Hugh J. Bright. The first French-speaking assistant secretary-treasurer, Dr Pierre Gaulin, joined the staff in 1975. Dr Manuel Gluck joined in 1976 as assistant secretary-treasurer, the same year Dr Bright retired. The next year, James T. Kenward, CA came on board as the first professional business and financial administrator. Dr Clifford S. Amundson became an assistant secretary-treasurer in 1979.

LEGAL COUNSEL SERVE CMPA MEMBERS WELL

Although not members of staff, General Counsel worked so closely with the executive officers and the members in trouble, they too were seen as the face of the organization. Edmund F. Newcombe, KC, succeeded Francis Chrysler in 1934. His law firm was succeeded by Gowling, MacTavish, Watt, the legal firm that has changed names but remains as CMPA's General Counsel to this day.

J. Douglas Watt, KC, served from 1946 until his early demise in 1950 and Duncan K. MacTavish, QC, took over. He was ably assisted by Ronald C. Merriam, QC, who was held in high regard by physicians across Canada. On his taking up legal association administration in 1961, E. Peter Newcombe, QC, (son of Edmund), assumed and retained the duties until he handed off in 1971 to Charles F. Scott, QC, a man of supreme patience when it came to explaining points of law to CMPA members.

MEETING THE MEMBERS

The CMPA by-laws state an obligation to hold annual meetings to coincide with those of the Canadian Medical Association. With one exception, when a meeting was held in Ottawa, this has always happened. At various times the annual meetings have been held jointly with the British Medical Association, and once it was held in Atlantic City where CMA and the American Medical Association were meeting jointly.

Along with conducting business, the annual meetings were instructive to members through the reports on cases and points of law. Frequently, after 1960, guest speakers on legal issues were invited to luncheon sessions.