

Lifetime Achievement Award

Marilyn Greenwood, LPN



To give a bit of history, Marilyn was 42 when she went back to school after staying home and raising her four children. She graduated high school with her youngest daughter, after which she entered the CNA program at Hants Regional Vocational School. Marilyn graduated in 1986 at the top of her class and her entire family was there to witness the event as her biggest supporters.

In addition to the honour of being the top student, she also earned the Best Bedside Nurse Award from NSCNA, the Hants Community Hospital Award for Clinical Excellence and the Instructors Awards for Clinical and Academic Excellence.

She went on to write her National exam at NSCC, where she achieved yet another honour, by finishing second in the province.

None of this would have even been possible for her if she hadn't had the complete co-operation, patience and love of her husband Murray and her family, who encouraged her every step of the way.

Since graduating, Marilyn has been working at Hants Community Hospital, where she has worked tirelessly to improve her own practice and assist others to improve theirs. She is the "go to" person on the unit. If she doesn't know the answer, you can be sure that she will get you the answer as soon as she does.

The patients/residence and their family members all respect her, as do her co-workers.

Marilyn always encourages the staff to further their own knowledge and is interested in hearing what they have learned. She always says "We learn from each other." Patient education is a priority for her as well. Marilyn demonstrates all she has learned by being a compassionate, kind and caring nurse. She is easy to talk to and always takes time to listen.

She is the ultimate professional. She comes to work early every shift, with every hair in place, a sharp crease in her scrubs, all of her badges and broches in perfect alignment, her shoes polished, and still she is a lot of fun to work with.

She was a founding member of the Professional Practice Nursing Council at Hants Community Hospital. She worked tirelessly with the PPNC to advise ways to include all the staff and to encourage them to become involved. Her enthusiasm was contagious and we received an Achievement Award in our first year. We got a lot done that year, which impacted our Nursing Practice environment at Hants Community Hospital, both then and now.

Marilyn also had the honour of being chosen as the recipient of the very first Nursing Practice Leadership Award, given by Capital Health in 2005.

She has always prided herself in her on-going educational pursuits, and has been involved in workshops, seminars and in-services, since the days of the CAN Association, and then the College, always bringing the information she has learned back to her peers with enthusiasm. She takes this obligation seriously, believing that if you are given the opportunity to learn, then you owe it to your peers to bring that information back to them.

Marilyn has served on the Complaints Committee with the College, and is always on top of the latest news from the College, posting it on the unit and bringing College issues to our attention. She has attended many of the College's AGM's and educational sessions.

She has also been very involved with her Union, one way or another, since 1997. She was the Secretary of her Local for many years and is still the Shop Steward for her unit. She has also served on the Constitution and Resolutions Committee with the Provincial Union.

Never missing an opportunity to learn, she continues to attend in-services, workshops and stays current in all online educational requirements for her position, because even though Marilyn retired in 2008, she still does quite a few casual shifts. On some of those shifts, she actually works with her granddaughter, Laura MacDonald who is also an LPN. Laura was inspired by Marilyn's love of the job; so inspired in fact, that she followed in her grandmother's footsteps and is now working on the same unit.

We are glad to have Marilyn working with us, for as long as she chooses and as long as she is able. She always says "When I can't keep up with you young ones, I will know it is time to leave." For right now, as she always has, she can work circles around most of us. It is a pleasure to see Marilyn at work, to see how much she still loves her job, which she does with so much joy and has done so for the last thirty years. I would say Marilyn is one of the best examples of the Practical Nursing profession and we would all do well to aspire to her standards.

I am very honoured to nominate Marilyn for the Lifetime Achievement Award. I feel she is a shining example of all who are entering into the LPN profession, along with those who already work as LPNs. I, along with Marilyn's co-workers, feel she is very deserving of this prestigious award.