



## **Sylvia Bell**

*March 21, 1931 - March 31, 2015*

*in memorium*



It is with sadness and regret that the Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists announces that Sylvia Bell passed away on March 31, 2015. A remarkable and distinguished pharmacist, Sylvia had made significant contributions to the profession of pharmacy.

Sylvia was the gold medal recipient in the first graduating class of the Bachelor of Science degree (Pharmacy) at Dalhousie University in 1953. She registered as a pharmaceutical chemist in 1953 and earned a PEBC certificate in 1964. Sylvia was Director of the Pharmacy at the Izaak Walter Killam Hospital from 1958 until her retirement in 1985. In the 1960s, Sylvia was a laboratory instructor and assisted the College of Pharmacy with the development of its clinical program. She assisted with the establishment of a training program for hospital pharmacy technicians and served as a lecturer and as Director of the Nova Scotia Pharmacy Technician Program. She was a respected leader and educator who spearheaded pharmacy innovations in the hospital, such as specialized sterilizing procedures and development of the first hospital drug formulary and paediatric dosage manual.

Sylvia was very active in CSHP, both nationally and at the Branch level. She was secretary to the Nova Scotia Branch (1959-1960), President (1960-1962), and delegate (1971-1975). She served as National President from 1972-1973. In 1968, she was elected to the Council of the Nova Scotia Pharmaceutical Society (NSPS), serving on all committees and as President in 1974-1975. She was the first female president of the Canadian Pharmaceutical Association (CPhA) in 1979, and in 1982 served as Chair of CPhA's Council of Delegates. From 1994 to 1998, Sylvia dedicated herself to a province-wide project on the prudent use of medications in seniors, and participated in the preparation of a teaching video on behalf of the Nova Scotia Center on Ageing.

She has received numerous professional honors and awards over the years, including the NSPS Bowl of Hygeia and the Award for Outstanding Community Service in Pharmacy. Sylvia dedicated her time to many voluntary organizations, such as the Cystic Fibrosis Society, Canadian Council of Christians and Jews, and the Red Cross; and she worked tirelessly behind the scenes on behalf of those who are less fortunate.

Sylvia successfully balanced a demanding career with an active family life. She created a huge circle of love through gatherings with family and friends. She instilled, in her children and grandchildren, her work ethic and the importance of family. During retirement, Sylvia continued to volunteer and also enjoyed travelling abroad. She became a skilled craftswoman, focusing primarily on woodworking and rug hooking. Sylvia's outstanding contributions to the pharmacy profession and dedication to volunteer work will continue to be an inspiration to all who knew her.