



## **ISABELLE ADAMS AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN PERIOPERATIVE NURSING**

Mrs. Isabelle Adams graduated from the Montreal Hospital in 1947. She spent the greater part of her 30 year nursing career dedicated to Operating Room Nursing, with the last 25 years at the Jewish General Hospital in Montreal, Québec.

Isabelle's enthusiasm for the Operating Room was contagious. She inspired many young nurses to join the field of perioperative nursing and motivated them to acquire both basic skills and proficiency. Graduates of her department worked in Operating Rooms across Canada and in the United States.

Throughout her career, Isabelle participated in many extracurricular O.R.- related activities. She worked to form the bilingual Operating Room Nurses Association of Quebec in 1958, whose mandate was to improve the skills and further education of the O.R. Nurses of Quebec, along with three other O.R. Supervisors (Vivian Crouse, Montreal General Hospital; Mary Taylor, Montreal Children's; and, Victoire Audet, Notre Dame de L'Esperance).

Isabelle actively encouraged and cooperated with nurses in other provinces to form their own successful organizations, a preliminary step to the formation of a National Committee and the first National Conference in 1970 in Montreal.

Isabelle was Chairperson of the Standards of Steam Sterilization in hospitals and a committee member of the Standards of Sterilization with Ethylene Oxide in hospitals. These documents provided a valuable reference for all Canadian hospitals. Selected O.R. and C.S.R. Supervisors across Canada were then approached to work with the Canadian Standards of Association to develop standards of sterilization.

Mrs. Adams also found time to consult with several surgical supply manufacturers in the development of products for use in Operating Rooms. In addition, she participated in teaching symposiums to new and enthusiastic company representatives regarding their approach to O.R. Supervisors and in the presentation of their products.

At home, Isabelle was a devoted wife and loving mother. With a very understanding and patient husband, she raised two children, Graeme, a finance manager and Pamela, a M.Sc. of Nursing (Psychiatry).

Isabelle Adams thoroughly enjoyed her nursing career - the stimulation and development of O.R. Nursing within the Nursing Department; the challenge to continually progress; the adoption of changes in techniques, equipment and practices; and, most of all, witnessing the growth and development of Perioperative Nurses across the country and the formation of ORNAC.