

## Rising to the Top



It was appropriate that we chose to photograph our new FCAs at the top of the staircase of the beautiful and historic Province House. After all, these four individuals – George Bishop FCA, Allan Conrod FCA, Jerry Inman FCA and Bruce Towler FCA – have not only risen to the top of their profession and chosen careers, they have made lasting contributions to the strength and success of this province by their concern and

passion for their communities. Moreover, what is particularly appealing to me as President of the Institute, is how well these four individuals reflect the broad spectrum of our entire membership. Some of our members further the profession by being instrumental in the building of successful public practices, while others choose to succeed in industry, government or

education; some are native Nova Scotians, while others are not; some live and work in Halifax, while others are prominent in other communities; and, some take an active role in their profession, while others do not. In addition, while CAs make significant contributions to their communities, and not surprisingly rise to leadership positions in doing so, some do so by providing long-term service to a few specific causes, while others donate their time and talent to a broad range of projects.

In reflecting upon this spectrum of services, the 2003 group of Fellows do, however, possess some exceptional common characteristics. In particular, all have shown exemplary dedication to their families, their profession and their colleagues, and all are recognized for their service, integrity, and ethics in the pursuit of their goals. In short, they have all risen to the top ranks, despite the different stairways they may have climbed, and all are deserving of our congratulations and respect.

Robert Bean, CA, President, ICANS

## Closing Notes



One of the highlights of each Institute year is the annual announcement of the new Fellows of our profession – those individuals whose service to their profession, careers and communities are judged as being worthy to be awarded the FCA designation. Our process for awarding an FCA involves nomination by peers, and then a confidential evaluation by our Honors Committee – there are no quotas nor arbitrary criterion that assures a member will receive an

FCA. Only a handful of designations are awarded in a given year and relatively few of our total membership will ever receive the recognition. Of course, that's what makes the recognition so highly respected.

One of the challenges faced by the Committee each year, is trying to differentiate CAs whose accomplishments are worthy of an FCA – a task made

more difficult, because so many of our members quietly go about making significant differences without seeking a lot of recognition for their work. A key indicator of the Committee's success, however, is the overwhelming support and acceptance of its results by the 1,700 CAs in our Institute, as well as by the community as a whole. Of course, this year was no exception, demonstrating once again that the profession had chosen four very deserving individuals to be recognized for their rather diverse achievements.

As Executive Director, I am pleased to provide support to the Committee in its challenging role, and I am personally delighted to experience, first-hand, the reaction by some of the recipients each year upon hearing the news. The fact that such deserving individuals are indeed, so honored to be recognized, speaks volumes about the quality of both our profession and of our FCA process. Congratulations.

Robert Caswill, CA, Executive Director, ICANS

As the Institute's highest honour, a Fellow Chartered Accountant (FCA) designation is awarded to CAs who have been members in good standing of the Institute or of one or more provincial institutes/ordre for at least 15 years and have rendered meritorious service to the profession, or whose career achievement or achievements in the community have brought honour to the profession.

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PUBLICATION MAILING AGREEMENT #40012864

# Our 2003 FCA Recipients



**CA** Chartered  
Accountants  
of Nova Scotia  
Strength beyond numbers



George E. Bishop, FCA

In his youth, George Bishop was known as a talented electric guitar player. These days, however, he's much more widely recognized as a skilled CA devoted to community development.

"I grew up appreciating the efforts of many people acting in volunteer positions, all of which affected my life in positive ways," explains George.

Following in his family's footsteps, George has supported many educational and community causes over the years, showing a particular interest in his alma mater, Acadia University. In fact, after becoming a CA while working with Touche Ross & Company, he returned to Acadia as a lecturer at the Fred C. Manning School of Business. Then, in 1980, George joined the Scotia Investments Group of Companies where he is currently President of Scotia Investments Ltd., as well as serving as a director and chairman of numerous related companies.

"I went into the CA profession as a way of preparing myself for a life in the corporate world," explains George, "and the one thing the CA training has left with me is an appreciation of the absolute importance of having competent, qualified people in all positions of responsibility."

Of course, George also adheres to that philosophy in his volunteer endeavors, which, aside from his continued work at Acadia – chairing and serving on numerous committees since 1991 and currently Chairing its Board of Governors – includes serving as a Governor for Junior Achievement of Mainland Nova Scotia for the past eight years. In addition, he was a member of the Eastern Kings Memorial Hospital Corporation from 1976 to 1995; he chaired the hospital's Board of Trustees from 1985 to

1992; he's a past director of the Nova Scotia Health Organizations; and, a past chair and assistant treasurer of the Gaspereau Cemetery Company. And, not surprising, in 2002, George received a Queen's Golden Jubilee medal for his outstanding commitment to volunteerism.

"George is well respected in his profession and in the business and general community as a whole," attest his colleagues. "He has contributed thousands of volunteer hours in the community and continues to do so."

George's commitment to his family's legacy of volunteerism probably best symbolizes his perspective on life as he states, "Can you imagine what would not happen if no one volunteered." Thankfully George, with dedicated individuals like yourself, we'll never have to answer this thought.



Gerald M. Inman, FCA

As we all know, growth can take many forms of direction. For Jerry Inman, growth has meant playing a significant role in helping his firm, WBII Chartered Accountants, build a substantial client practice.

Joining WBII in 1987, Jerry became a Partner in 1989, specializing in taxation, valuation and litigation support services. Since then, he has been very instrumental in the growth and management of the firm. As his partners declare: "We believe Mr. Inman's joining the firm was a milestone for WBII. Jerry's high level of technical skill as a tax practitioner and his attributes as a leader have contributed greatly to the firm's ability to attract and/or train other highly skilled tax and valuation practitioners. As a result, the firm has more than tripled in staff complement . . . and the tax group is very well respected by the tax community in Nova Scotia."

Jerry developed his skills and leadership attributes at Mount Allison University, where he graduated with a Bachelor of Commerce in Accounting (with distinction) in 1979. Shortly thereafter, he joined Thorne Riddell Chartered Accountants and received his CA in 1981.

Aside from helping WBII to grow, Jerry has been instrumental in advancing the profession. Since 1984, he has served and/or chaired numerous ICANS committees and was president from 2000-2001. Currently, he's a member of the CICA Impact CA Program, the Nova Scotia Public Accountants' Board, and is a past member of the CICA Presidents Council. He's also instructed various tax courses for ASCA and ICANS, has published articles on taxation matters, and is often sought for media interviews.

Outside of the profession, Jerry chairs the Rocky Lake Recreation Association and is Co-Chair of the Heart and Stroke Foundation Golf Tournament. His passion for golf also prompted him to get involved with the Oakfield Golf and Country Club, where, as former president, he made a significant contribution to the Club's overall growth and development.

In addition, as a past Board member, Jerry has been instrumental in helping the Dartmouth Victorian Order of Nurses (VON). As Troy MacDonald, CA, Vice-President, VON Greater Halifax, explains, "Jerry's energy and commitment helped to make our fundraising efforts successful and brought new Board members and other volunteers to the organization." In short, it's obvious Jerry's 'eye for growth' is a gift that keeps on giving!

Allan Conrod, FCA



Did you hear the one about the guy who planned on becoming a pharmacist and ended up an accountant? Far from a joke, this is the true-life story of Allan Conrod, an amazing volunteer whose commitment to community development spans more than 53 years! "I have a strong faith in religion and have always found that if you want 'joy' in your life, you've got to put Jesus first, Others next and Yourself last," explains Allan.

Of course, Allan's clients and colleagues over the years are thankful that he also made business a priority. Shortly after obtaining his CA in 1951, Allan became a partner with Piers Evans & Co. (later Piers, Conrod & Allen). During this time, he also joined several colleagues in pursuing various real estate ventures. Then, in the early 1980s, Allan's firm merged with H. R. Doane & Co. (now Grant Thornton LLP), where he remained a partner until retiring in 1997.

In fact, as Allan's former colleagues at Grant Thornton LLP explain: "Allan was and is highly respected as a practicing accountant and businessman. Through his life, he has demonstrated his optimism and quiet faith, and his rock-solid abilities. These are the qualities that define this remarkable man."

However, Allan's successful professional life is only part of the story – it's his 'second life' as a dedicated volunteer that is truly remarkable. In particular, Allan has been active with King's College for over 25 years, serving on its Board and receiving an honorary fellowship in 1987. He's devoted over 26 years to helping Bonny Lea Farm, more than 35 years to the Kiwanis Club and over 20 years to the Nova Scotia Kiwanis Music Festival. Allan has also supported St. James Anglican Church, the Anglican Diocese of Nova Scotia and PEI, and the Maritime Conservatory of Performing Arts; serving as Treasurer for over 20 years. And, in 1991, Allan received a Cultural Life Award from the Cultural Federation of Nova Scotia.

Allan is also a former member of the Halifax Industrial Commission, a founding member of the Oakfield Golf Club, and a former Scoutmaster. He's even incorporated his interest in pharmacy by serving as the volunteer accountant of the Metropolitan Dispensary Society for 37 years; serving as Board Chair since 1987. As Society Director K. M. Amirault, Phc., explains, "(Allan's) professional and personal support have made it hard to imagine the organization without this 'true gentleman.'" And frankly Allan, we can't imagine life without you either!

Bruce L. Towler, FCA



It's not surprising that Bruce Towler is a 2003 FCA recipient. After all, his career demonstrates that whatever he does, he does exceptionally well. After graduating from Dalhousie University in 1983, Bruce joined Clarkson Gordon (now Ernst & Young LLP) and obtained his CA in 1986, earning the Harry Hoben Award for highest marks in Atlantic Canada.

"My father was the executive director of the (Nova Scotia) Institute at the time and I'm told he almost fell out of his chair with happiness or disbelief, when they released the marks," jokes Bruce, First Vice President, CIBC Wood Gundy.

While moving up the ranks at E&Y, Bruce decided to complete the challenging Chartered Business Valuator Program, and received the CICBV Gold Medal for attaining Canada's highest marks. Subsequently, when he left public accounting to become a stockbroker, he soon became a founding member of his firm's National Private Client Advisory Board. Then, in 2000, Bruce again received recognition – being named a Fellow of the Canadian Securities Institute. In 2001, he joined CIBC Wood Gundy as a Vice President, and was promoted to First Vice President in 2003.

However, as Bruce knows, there is more to a successful career than well-earned business achievements. An active volunteer, he's a Governor at Dalhousie University and has chaired the Boards of St. Andrew's United Church, the Dalhousie Alumni Association and the Halifax Help Line. He has been an active fundraiser for the IWK Health Centre, the Canadian Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, the United Way and the QE II Health Sciences Centre. In addition, he's lectured for ASCA, chaired numerous ICANS committees, and served on Council, leading to his term as ICANS president for 2001-2002. As stated in his FCA nomination package, ". . . Bruce is exceptional in every aspect of his life and truly an outstanding Chartered Accountant," a statement clearly supported by Bruce's achievements.

Of course, today, as an FCA, Bruce is busier than ever. Thankfully, his continued 'climb' through business also includes more time to golf, travel and relax at his cottage – the deserving rewards of a successful career.

"There are only a handful of second-generation FCAs in the country and I'm honored to share this distinction with my son," says Ross Towler, FCA, former executive director, ICANS. "Bruce has always been accomplished and focused in his goals from an early age. But, what makes us more proud than any of his professional achievements, is his genuine commitment to dealing fairly with people and to 'giving back' to the community."