The year 2002 is a momentous one for the Canadian Dental Association (CDA), during which we are celebrating 100 years of service and dedication to the field of dentistry. On September 16, 1902, 344 dentists — almost 25% of the dentists in the Dominion of Canada at that time — made their way to Montreal to found a national association that would bond from sea to sea the ideals, aspirations and goals of their profession.

To commemorate CDA’s centennial anniversary, we prepared the attractive book that you now hold in your hands — The Canadian Dental Association: 1902-2002 — A Century of Service. A joint initiative of CDA and the Dentistry Canada Fund (DCF), the historical series traces the dynamic growth and evolution of modern dental practice in Canada during the past 100 years.

Dr. P. Ralph Crawford, CDA Past President, was commissioned to author this series of 11 historical articles. Dr. Crawford has donated his lifelong collection of dental artifacts toward the establishment of the Dentistry Canada Museum founded by the DCF.

Although the book is mainly focused on the inextricably intertwined history of CDA and Canadian dentistry, Dr. Crawford also takes us back to ancient times, tracking the evolution of dentistry since it was first practiced in Mesopotamia, Egypt and the Roman Empire, through the Dark Ages and to the advent of Dr. Pierre Fauchard (1678-1761), the Father of Modern Dentistry.

I trust you will enjoy this volume and that this backward glance will give you something to smile about in the years ahead.

George Sweetnam, D.D.S.

T.D. Breneman, D.M.D.