

Enid Graham Plaque Unveiling;
Hart House, University of Toronto;
September 27, 2017. Sarah C. Marshall (CPA President)

As the 60th President of the Canadian Physiotherapy Association, I bring greetings to you; members of the Historical Sites and Monuments Board of Canada; John Monahan, Warden of Hart House; Enid Graham's friends and family; Dean of the Faculty, Dr. Young; Vice-Deans Drs. Wilson and Kaplan; current and past PT chairs (Darlene Reid, Molly Verrier and Katherine Berg); PT History Committee (Dr. Deena Brooks, Mary Sauriol, Diane Gasner, Marion Leslie Bethune among others); and PT Faculty, staff, instructors and students; greetings from the Canadian Physiotherapy Association.

In the mists of time, before physiotherapy was a *thing*, before physiotherapy even existed in Canada, Enid Graham felt in her heart and knew in her mind, that she could and would somehow help the injured, returning in 1917 from the Great War. Working in Canada and overseas during and after the war, she married Dr. Lawrence Bruce Robertson, the physician credited with elaborating the methods and use of blood transfusions. Tragically, he died young and left her, like many others, a widow with two young children to raise. As you already know or are learning today, Enid was a pioneer, an intelligent and determined woman, who put her mind to do something that had previously not been done here in Canada: to help heal those injured, and guide their rehabilitation so that they could rejoin society and contribute with full and satisfying lives.

Born Enid Gordon Finley in 1894 in Montréal, Enid obtained her education in the new field of physical therapy in Heidelberg and the Philadelphia Orthopedic Institute^{1,2}. During the First World War, she worked with wounded soldiers, serving with the Voluntary Aid Detachment and providing massage therapy in Montréal.

Enid had a unique vision of how the practice of medical gymnastics, massage, electrotherapy and muscle training could be combined into one discipline³. In 1917, exactly 100 years ago, Enid, at age 23, introduced two new courses: massage and medical gymnastics at McGill University. One year later, we lost her to Toronto, and she became the supervisor of medical massage here at Hart House at what was then the Military School of Orthopaedic Surgery and Physiotherapy.

¹ -Government of Canada. (2016). Enid Gordon Graham. Retrieved from <https://www.canada.ca/en/parks-canada/news/2016/02/enid-gordon-graham-1894-1974-.html?=&wbdisable=true>

² Edward Shorter (2013). Partnership for Excellence: Medicine at the University of Toronto and Academic Hospitals. University of Toronto Press.

³ -University of Toronto. (2017). #PTHHistory: Enid Graham. Retrieved from <http://www.physicaltherapy.utoronto.ca/news-events/pthistory-enid-graham/>

What Enid Graham called massage and medical gymnastics, we know it now as physiotherapy, physical therapy, physiothérapie.

Enid had already displayed excellent leadership for the physiotherapy profession at this early stage in her career, and her leadership continued. In 1920, at age 26, she became a Founding Member of the Canadian Association of Massage and Remedial Gymnastics, later renamed the Canadian Physiotherapy Association³. Enid Graham was the CPA's first honorary President!

Building on her practical and teaching experience during the First World War, Enid chaired the CPA's Military Affairs Committee, facilitating the participation of 146 accredited physiotherapists in the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps¹. Thanks in large part to her work in the Great War she had earned credibility; military officials during the Second World War recognized that physiotherapists would be needed in hospitals overseas and at home³. Physiotherapists were given professional status and held officer rank equivalent to Nursing Sisters thanks to Enid's efforts. How fitting it is that this plaque is being unveiled today, in the middle of the Invictus Games, an event celebrating athletic performance and achievement by members of armed forces and veterans from around the world. Named after the Latin word *Invictus*, meaning "unconquered" or "undefeated," wouldn't Enid Graham be proud?!

Enid Graham helped to establish high national standards of physiotherapy education and practice, and was a leading light throughout the first quarter century of our Association's existence. Please consider joining us in Ottawa in November for CPA's Leadership Forum – inspired not a little, by the likes of the Enid Grahams of our times.

The CPA advocates for physiotherapy and provides support for nearly 14 thousand physiotherapists, physiotherapy assistants and physiotherapy students across Canada. We support the 14 special interest groups that range from neonatal to end of life, from orthopedics to cardiorespiratory and neurology and everything in between. We have representation in every province and territory from sea to sea to sea.

The CPA has honoured Enid Graham since 1980 by bestowing its most prestigious annual prize, named after her, to a leading physiotherapist in Canada⁴. There are at least three among us today: Dr. Deena Brooks, Dr. Sandy Rennie and Ms Molly Verrier. Are there others? Please stand and be recognized! Her award celebrates a physio "who has provided outstanding leadership and has made a distinguished contribution to the profession" exactly as one might describe Enid Graham's legacy itself. The CPA is thrilled that the founder of physiotherapy in Canada, Enid Graham, is now recognized for her years of dedication to our profession.

⁴ -Cleather, J. (1995). Head, Heart, and Hands: The Story of Physiotherapy in Canada. *The Canadian Physiotherapy Association*.

To close, on behalf of the Canadian Physiotherapy Association's Board of Directors, Members and Staff, I congratulate you on this unveiling today honouring Enid Gordon Graham, and marking the 100th year of physiotherapy in Canada.



(Other sources)

-Evans, S. (2010). Coming in the Front Door. *Canadian Military History*, 19(2) Retrieved from:

<http://scholars.wlu.ca/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1618&context=cmh>.