

THREE'S A CHARM

Ontario chapter's streak continues with President's Award win

It's something few are ever in the position to achieve and even fewer actually do, but the Ontario chapter beat the odds when it was named the recipient of this year's President's Award.

"I was ecstatic," says chair Jim McArthur when he received 'the' call that the chapter had three-peat. "I was having a nice dinner with my wife in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ont., and I immediately excused myself to contact past chair Robert Holliss to share the good news. It's not easy to win this award and to achieve it three years in a row is very gratifying."

The President's Award is presented annually to the CHES chapter that demonstrates its commitment to education, administration and representation in the activities of the chapter and national board. Each chapter is scored on accounting practices, conference/education day, membership, chapter executive practices, committee work and additional offerings (from submitting articles to *Canadian Healthcare Facilities* to providing extra member benefits). Specifically, points are given for activities that benefit members and the work of CHES, such as number of meetings attended in the course of committee work and special education sessions. The winner of the much-coveted award receives two CHES National conference registrations and expenses to a maximum of \$2,500 each, a trophy engraved with the victorious team's names and, perhaps, best of all, bragging rights.

"The success of any chapter doesn't happen without a strong executive," says McArthur, who recognizes the efforts and contributions of the other seven CHES chapters that Ontario edged out in the friendly competition. "I am proud of our achievement and want to thank everyone on the executive team for their hard work in making this possible."

McArthur is also pleased that the chapter is Canada's choice to host the 2022 International Federation of Hospital



Members of the Ontario chapter executive with Trane's Guy Bourbonniere who presented the award.

Engineering (IFHE) conference in Toronto. In a narrow margin vote of 6-5, Ontario was selected over British Columbia in October 2017, which he says put together a very strong submission.

"Vancouver is a beautiful city and would have represented Canada well."

Since its successful nomination, the Ontario executive has worked in earnest with members of other chapters and Tourism Toronto to prepare its bid. The submission was approved in June for presentation at the 25th Congress of the IFHE, Oct. 6-11. A contingent of five CHES members travelled to Brisbane, Australia, where the winner was announced.

"Heading to the congress, our bid committee was confident we would be selected to host the 2022 event," says McArthur, who acknowledges the competition was fierce, with Canada up against the U.S. and South Africa. "After a two-stage voting process, which eliminated South Africa after the first

round, Canada was victorious in a count of 14-6 against the U.S."

Energized by the outcome, McArthur and the rest of the executive team will continue to work diligently on behalf of the chapter membership to advance its agenda. This includes ensuring Ontario is represented on all six CHES National committees and subcommittees, as well as developing new and deepening existing ties with other organizations, including the Canadian Centre for Healthcare Facilities, International Association for Healthcare Security and Safety, AdvantAge Ontario and American Society for Health Care Engineering, with the goal of sharing ideas and attracting more members to CHES.

The chapter will also continue to offer a second education day in the fall and support members' kin by offering five \$1,000 scholarships per year to those enrolled in a full-time post-secondary technology program in the province. ■