2026 OAO ANNUAL AWARDS
Call for Nominations

The Ontario Association of Optometrists (OAO) has a long-established program to recognize the meritorious contributions of members toward the advancement of the profession of optometry and the Association. Members are invited to submit nominations of colleagues for each of the OAO's highest awards for service to the Association, optometry and the public.

H. JAMES COBEAN, O. D. MEMORIAL AWARD

The ultimate accolade, the Cobean Award recognizes a lifetime of service to the profession. The award is presented only when a meritorious candidate is identified and then approved by the Board. Most of the previous recipients have made contributions to at least two, if not all three, of the traditional venues for service to the profession: Education, College, and Association.

Recent past recipients:

- **2024 Sheldon Salaba**
- **2023 Catherine Chiarelli (Posthumously)**
- **2021 John Mastronardi**
- **2018 Derek MacDonald**
- **2017 Richard Kniaziew**
- **2010 Roland des Groseilliers, Margaret Hansen des Groseilliers**
- **2009 Jacob Sivak**
- **2007 Anthony Cullen**

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

The Distinguished Service Award recognizes distinguished long-term service at a level which approaches that of the Cobean Award and which is specific to service to the Association only. The Distinguished Service Award may be awarded at any time in the career service of a member.

Recent past recipients:

- **2021 Kirsten North**
- **2020 Lisa Prokopich**
- **2018 Judy Parks**
- **2012 Marta Witer**
- **2010 William Ulakovic**
- **2009 Derek MacDonald**

2008 Elaine Harrison

MILLENNIUM AWARD

The Millennium Award recognizes a member of the Association who has performed extraordinary public service, in either a professional or non-professional capacity. The emphasis is on volunteer service. Nominations should provide substantial detail about the public service rendered. Non-optometrists are also invited to submit nominations for this award.

Recent past recipients:

2024 Joshua Smith
2022 Lois Calder
2021 Luigina 'Gina' Sorbara (Posthumously)
2020 Martin McDowell
2018 Peter Rozanec
2017 Michael O'Grady
2013 Kara Peterson
2012 Valerie Dippel
2011 John Hohner
2010 Carol Cressman Foster
2008 David White

OAO PUBLIC EDUCATION AWARD

The Ontario Association of Optometrists' Public Education Award honours an OAO member (or group of members) who has been outstanding in public education and awareness campaigns and activities. Raising positive public awareness of the profession of optometry and the services provided by OAO members will be recognized by this award. Self-nominations and nominations by other members will be accepted for this award. Nominations must include a description of the activities and services to be recognized in sufficient detail for the judging committee to assess fairly and reasonably the member(s) suggested as worthy of the award.

Recent past recipients:

2023 Centre for Ocular Research & Education (CORE)
2022 Tracy Vo
2020 University of Waterloo Centre for Sight Enhancement
2017 Pui-Yee Ho
2016 Howard & Kim Dolman
2015 Radhika Chawla
2014 Richard Saari
2013 Karen MacDonald
2012 Shirley Ha
2011 Catherine Chiarelli
2009 Melissa Dattilo-Kidd
2008 Tina & Jeffrey Goodhew

2026 OAO Annual Awards
NOMINATION FORM

I, recommend that _____ (Nominee)

Receive the:

- ☐ H. James Cobean, OD Memorial Award
- ☐ Distinguished Service Award
- ☐ Millennium Award
- ☐ OAO Public Education Award

As a member of OAO, I wish to nominate the above-noted person for the following reasons:

Signature: _____

Nominator's Name: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

☐ Yes, I have informed the member of this nomination and he/she concurs.

Nominations must be received by January 23, 2026

Email to cneave@optom.on.ca

To provide additional information about the nominee, please attach a separate sheet of paper.