ODA’s 150th anniversary prompts new look at history of dentistry in Ontario

Website details ‘fascinating and sometimes alarming’ journey

Spring is a time of looking forward, but the Ontario Dental Association is using the season to take you on a journey back in time to see just how advanced dentistry has become.

In honour of the ODA’s 150th anniversary this year, the association put together a dedicated website detailing what it refers to as “the fascinating and, sometimes alarming, history of dentistry in Ontario.”

Did you know that anyone – regardless of training – could call themselves a dentist? Or that it was common for the local blacksmith to yank people’s teeth out? And toothpaste used to be made with sugar? You can find all sorts of interesting facts on the history of dentistry in Ontario on the website, http://150.oda.ca.

ODA President Dr. Jack McLister said: “For the past 150 years, Ontario dentists have been committed to educating the public on oral hygiene and advocating for access to dental care for everyone in the province. Like Canada, dentistry has evolved and progressed tremendously over that time, and the ODA and its members had a defining role in shaping the dental care standards enjoyed today.”

About the ODA
The ODA has been the voluntary professional association for dentists in Ontario since 1867. Today, it represents more than 9,000, or nine in 10, dentists across the province.

The ODA is Ontario’s primary source of information on oral health and the dental profession. It advocates for accessible and sustainable optimal oral health for all Ontarians by working with health-care professionals, governments, the private sector and the public.

(Source: Ontario Dental Association)