

Dr. W.D. Stevenson

1913 - 2006

Dr. William D. Stevenson, Atlantic Canada's pioneer neurosurgeon. Dr. Stevenson passed away on September 28, 2006 at the age of 93.

The first Neurosurgery service in Atlantic Canada was established in Halifax, Nova Scotia in January of 1948 by Dr. Stevenson. Under his leadership, a modern academic neurosurgical unit took shape at the Victoria General Hospital in Halifax and, for the first time, Atlantic Canadians had access to specialized neurosurgical care. Stevenson's leadership in Neurosurgery transcended Dalhousie University and the Victoria General Hospital; he served as President of the Canadian Neurosurgical Society in 1965 and the first President of the Canadian Congress of Neurological Sciences.

After 26 years at the helm of the Neurosurgical Unit in Halifax, Dr. Stevenson retired to Ajax, Ontario in 1974. After his retirement he developed a passion for painting and became a serious amateur oil painter focusing mainly on landscapes. Each year, since 1997, one of his paintings is presented, as the William D. Stevenson Research Award, to a neurosurgery resident of the Dalhousie University Program who has made a meritorious research contribution in Neurosurgery.

As a result of a generous donation from his family, the Dr. William D. Stevenson Research Fund was recently established. This fund will honor the memory of Dr. Stevenson by encouraging basic and clinical research by neurosurgery residents of our program and supporting the William D. Stevenson Research Award.

