

History of the Harold Taylor Award

by Linda Chu

Not too long ago POC needed to be found.

It was the year of 1997 when an informal group of approximately 20 like-minded individuals gathered around their individual living rooms to talk about all things organized.

Harold Taylor was one of these early group individuals, who quickly stepped up to provide the use of his office boardroom meeting space as a formal place to meet.

Harold, then with Harold Taylor Time Consultants, also had an association management company, whose background would soon be to our advantage. He was instrumental in providing many contacts to educational speakers, not to mention mentoring and supporting countless professional organizers – some of which are in this room today.

Several in this informal group were members of NAPO so naturally conversations lead to the possibility of forming a Canadian NAPO chapter. And as true Canadians, we politely decline and by 1998 Professional Organizers in Canada was founded

In those early years of 1999, 12 members (which included the Board) was headed by Margaret Miller as our first president. This board was instrumental in creating our initial set of by-laws.

Within the next two years, by 2001 our founding POC board dedicated their efforts and time in creating our first POC national conference. It was at this same conference that our first chapter was born, followed by others within the next year.

By our second conference - what was 12 members had grown to 72.

The Founders award was created to recognize outstanding individual contribution to the organizing profession and for the support of Professional Organizers in Canada in particular.

It is because of his selfless dedication - that in 2001 at our first conference, Harold Taylor was unanimously voted in to receive the first Founders Award. And it's the same Harold Taylor that this award was named after.

Someone who best exemplified the mission of POC.

Someone who by their actions has made a significant contribution to the field of organizing.

The actual award is a custom made inukshuk.

- representing the human image
- erected in cooperative groups by the Inuit - in the barren treeless artic regions
- these monuments give direction - and show the way
- they indicate "I was" or "we were" here
- they are a comfort to those who are lost