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**History of Area 83** 1  
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# The Eighty - Three

Volume 10, No. 2  
October 2013

Area 83 Archives Newsletter

**Our Area 83 history through the eyes of those before us... A legacy of gratitude**

**Jan. 13, 1943**

AA did not start in Canada until this date. It began with a meeting at Little Denmark Restaurant on Bay Street in Toronto with 2 non-alcoholics and 6 alcoholics. AA had a head start in the USA when Bill and Bob got things under way in June, 1935. Canada was eight years behind.

**April 20-22, 1951**

The structure of AA as it exists through this Assembly commenced formally with the April 20-22 General Service Conference held at the Commodore Hotel in New York City. There were 37 delegates representing Panel 1.

**Some of the background:**

In the very early years, around Southern Ontario and in the USA south of Lakes Ontario and Erie, the AA members attempted to form some kind of organization in order to communicate with each other and cooperate in the administration of their affairs.

**Oct., 1947**

A Central Committee was established in Toronto for the ten existing groups.

**Feb. 7-8, 1948**

Lois and Bill W. came to Toronto to attend what was called a Regional meeting.

**Jan. 29-30, 1949**

The words Regional and Conference were applied to the meeting which was held over two days at 1170 Yonge St. and the KoC on Sherbourne St.

**Feb. 11-12, 1950**

What was called an "A.A. Conference" was held at the Royal York Hotel.

**March 3-4, 1951**

The meeting at the Royal York Hotel was called "the Regional Conference." Bill W. came to this to present his case for establishing the General Service Conference structure.

The outcome was the election of the first delegate for the Province of Ontario, Adam C., Panel 1.

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**Of Special Interest**

**See the Archivist's Blog:**  
<http://>

Contributions to 'The Eighty - Three' should be sent to:  
[archivisit@area83aa.org](mailto:archivisit@area83aa.org)

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**History of Area 83 Eastern Ontario International Ver Oct. 14, 2013**

The first committee consisted of:

Delegate & Chairman:	Adam C.	Toronto
Alternate Delegate:	Art L.	Toronto
Treasurer:	Walter M.	Hamilton
Secretary:	George D.	Toronto

The committee representing areas, what are now called districts:

Don N., Haileybury  
Morey S., Owen Sound  
Neil M., Port Hope  
Glen G., Toronto

Up to this time there had been a loose knit structure which may be seen from the use of the terms above, such as Regional and Conference.

The letterhead used for the correspondence and bulletins of the 1951 “Regional Conference” at the Royal York Hotel read as:

**NEW YORK STATE      PROVINCE OF ONTARIO      NORTHERN PENNSYLVANIA**  
**A.A. REGIONAL CONFERENCE**  
**ROYAL YORK HOTEL**

Even in 1952 there was a program which has recently (spring, 1997) been obtained. It read:

**In 1952**  
**AA Regional Conference**  
**Saturday and Sunday**  
**May 3-4, 1952**  
**Hotel Seneca**  
**Rochester**  
**New York**

The logo on the letterhead was the same as the one used in Toronto the year before. However, this was the closing out of an era. The General Service Conference was in place and the informal groupings were no longer needed.

In April 1952, the second General Service Conference took place in New York with 38 delegates on Panel 2 in addition to the 37 delegates on Panel 1 for a total of 75. The delegates were elected for a 2-year term which means that there is always a Panel with one year’s experience.

Until 1964, the Assemblies took place during the Ontario Regional Conference at the Royal York Hotel. All delegates and committees were elected there. A point of interest was that the delegates elected at the Ontario Regional Conferences which were held in late March or early April had only a few weeks before they went on to the General Service Conference

**April, 1956**

Whit H., delegate for Panel 5, made a request at the GSC for a 2<sup>nd</sup> delegate for the Province of Ontario

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### Nov., 1957

A 2<sup>nd</sup> delegate for the Province of Ontario was elected at the London Conference for what is now known as Western Ontario Area 86. He was Leander John Joseph G. from Kitchener, Panel 8. The area is roughly the same geographically as it is today. The rest of Ontario was the other area.

From the date the 2<sup>nd</sup> delegate for the Province was elected a Committee came into existence which has continued under different names until the present.

### The names:

1958 - The Ontario Committee - General Service Conference

1966? - The Ontario General Service Committee

1980 - The Ontario Provincial Committee

1990 - The Ontario Delegates Committee

It consisted of all the delegates in Ontario and their alternates. At times it had a Secretary, a Treasurer, and other committee members such as Public Information and Institutions.

### March 24-26, 1961

Al B. was elected delegate, Panel 11, at the Royal York Hotel. He took a bid for the 1965 International Convention to be held in Toronto to the GSC. He also took a request for a 3<sup>rd</sup> delegate to for Ontario, and it was granted

### April 6-8, 1962

This assembly was still at the Ontario Regional Conference at the Royal York Hotel and Al B. was still the delegate. A 3<sup>rd</sup> delegate was elected for the area which was to be all of Northern Ontario. Areas 83 & 86 were roughly the same as today. The odd thing here was that Jack K. from Sault Ste. Marie was made the delegate for the north but he was on Panel 13, which meant that he took office for the years 1963 and 1964, but he was also given permission to attend the 1962 GSC. The reason, apparently, was to keep the numbers of members of the panels approximately the same.

### Oct., 1964

The 1<sup>st</sup> area Assembly held away from the Royal York Hotel took place at Belleville and Alf McG. was elected as delegate for Panel 15. The incumbent delegate was Harold F., Panel 13, from Kingston elected to do the job.

### July 2-4, 1965

The 30<sup>th</sup> International Convention was held in Toronto. Alf McG. was the current delegate. The theme as introduced by Bill W. was "I am Responsible."

### 1964—1978

It would seem that all Assemblies were held in Belleville either at St. Thomas Moore Hall or Nicholson College, but mostly at the former.

**History of Area 83 Eastern Ontario International Ver Oct. 14, 2013****Oct 20, 1974**

Peter W. name was forwarded as a nominee for the Eastern Canada Regional Trustee and he was elected at the GSC in April 1975. He served 4 years.

Roly P. was elected as delegate for Panel 27 at Nicholson College, Belleville.

**Oct. 16, 1977**

Roly had returned from the April General Service Conference and initiated some changes in keeping with the recommended structure. At this time the delegate also acted as chairman of the Assembly which was not in keeping with the Area Committee as identified in the Service Manual. Ed A. was elected as the 1<sup>st</sup> Chairman of the new Area Committee. Ed had been a delegate on Panel 19, 1969-1970. Another idea that Roly promoted was re-districting. Most districts had little difficulty with this proposal. Ottawa took a little more time than most, but came back with 4 districts in 1980.

**Sept. 30-Oct. 2, 1977**

The 1<sup>st</sup> Eastern Canada Regional Forum was held in Ottawa with about 500 in attendance. Dr Jack Norris, a non-alcoholic and Chairman of the General Service Board, had introduced these in 1975 in order to make members more familiar with the operation of the GSB and the General Service Office.

**October 22, 1978.**

Assembly held at Cobourg Lion's Hall. Roly P. had taken ill and was unable to complete his terms. It was picked up by the alternate Wilf O'G., who had been assisting him for some time.

**November 22, 1978**

Roly P. passes away.

**May 6, 1979**

A committee was initiated to study the pros and cons of the benefits of belonging to the Ontario General Service. It was felt that there was an overlay of services. The committee had 10 meetings and produced 5 interim reports with the final one on August 23, 1980. It was recommended that Area 83 operate independently but send its fair share to OGS and, where necessary, communicate with the other 3 areas what was transpiring in Area 83. One of the changes that took place was that the name of the Ontario General Service was changed to the Ontario Provincial Committee. It took ten years for the other areas to decide to operate independently and close the office in Toronto. This did not occur painlessly.

**March 23, 1982**

St. Thomas Moore Hall, Belleville. The Secretary Treasurer resigned before starting duties. Bob E. was elected to do the job. Terry O'C. did the work for this one only while Bob assisted.

To be continued .....