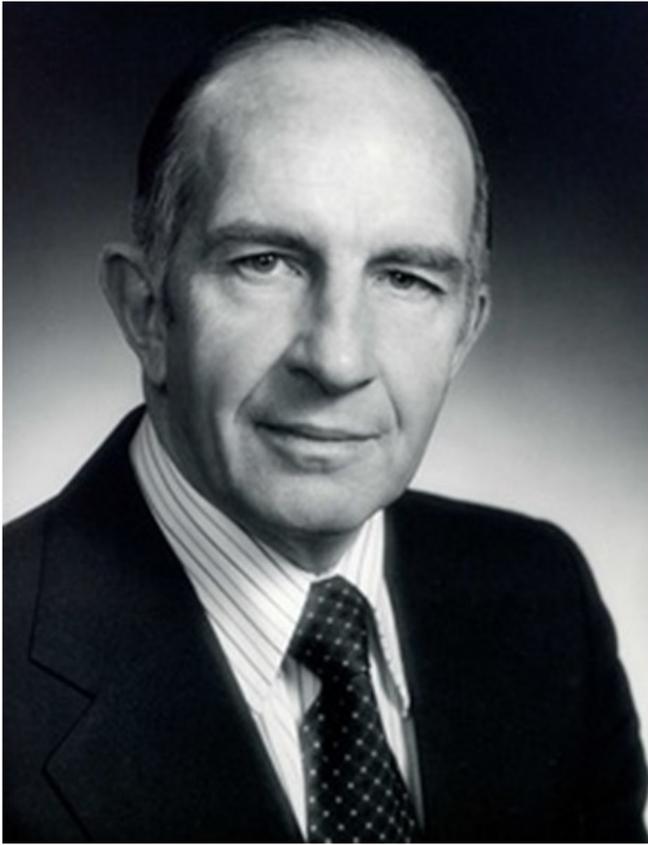


Dr. Fred Barton 1916-2005



The drive to start an ostomy self-help group began with this gifted and passionate family doctor and surgeon. He was a friend to many ostomates and Enterostomal Therapists.

Dr. Barton was born in Halifax and educated at Saint Mary's and Dalhousie Universities before taking up family practice in New Waterford from 1942-1948. Dr. Barton returned to Dalhousie for extra training in surgery and obtained recognition from both the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada and the American College of Surgeons.

In 1950 he had a family practice and general surgery in Dartmouth. He also performed surgery at the Halifax Infirmary at a time when there was no night ferry or bridge to Halifax.

Dr. Barton was appointed chief of the medical staff at the Halifax Infirmary in 1961 and continued in that capacity for 21 years. From 1954 to 1982 he was an associate professor of surgery at Dalhousie. In addition, Dr. Barton was a past president of the Halifax Medical Society and a winner of the Queen's Medal. He was our first medical advisor.

Dr. Barton was always very understanding and concerned for the plight of ostomates after their surgery. He knew of the absolute need for new ostomates to be able to "see" that life could return to some degree of normalcy. Whenever possible Dr. Barton would arrange to have his ostomy patients visited by an ostomate. It was said of Dr. Barton that "He will be remembered for his unfailing courtesy, refined manner, good humour and dedication to patients." It should also be said of him that he was persistent.

And so it came to pass that in 1971 not one but two extraordinary individuals came under his care. In February Dr. Barton performed an ileostomy on a pretty young lass by the name of Elizabeth Yetman. When he asked her after the surgery if she would like a visitor her reply "I don't want a visitor" and Dr. Barton's polite, measured response "Well that's ok, you're having one anyway."

Later in the year another pretty young gal, Ruth Kenney, also had ileostomy surgery. Dr. Fred Barton, Bette Yetman, Ruth Kenney - our 3 founding members. Was there any doubt that the mission that began in 1972 to help ostomates believe that they could regain the life they once enjoyed would succeed?