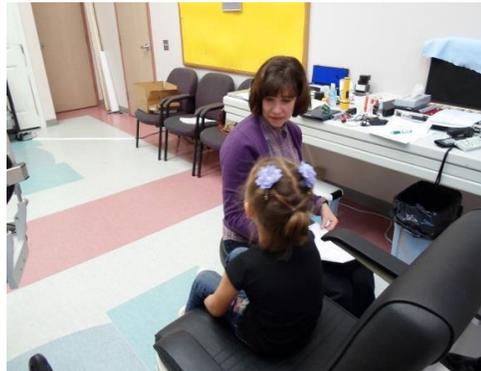


Dr. Catherine Chiarelli OD, FAAO, Diplomate BVPPO 1964 - 2019



The Vision Institute of Canada very sadly wishes to report that Dr. Catherine Chiarelli passed away on August 3rd after a valiant and courageous battle with cancer. For over 30 years, Catherine worked as a tireless pediatric optometrist and advocate for children's vision with the Vision Institute. She graduated from the University of Waterloo, School of Optometry in 1988 and subsequently completed a Residency in Children's Vision at the University of Alabama, School of Optometry in 1990.

She had extensive experience in the examination and management of children with special needs, including strabismus, amblyopia, visual impairment, developmental disabilities and learning disabilities.

Dr. Chiarelli worked closely with many optometrists, pediatricians, teachers, early childhood intervention specialists, occupational therapists and parents, to help children develop strong vision skills. She actively participated on many committees to develop better eye care services for children and adults. These committees included the Ontario Association of Optometrists Children's Vision Working Group,

the Ontario Blind Low Vision Program, the College of Optometrists of Ontario Clinical Practice and Patient Relations Committees and the American Academy of Optometry Admittance Committee. Catherine also directed the Vision Institute's clinical teaching programs providing clinical training for optometry interns as well as educational workshops and seminars for other health care professionals. For over ten years she was the prime contributor to the "*Clinical Diagnosis*" section of the Canadian Journal of Optometry.

Catherine regularly visited the Grandview Children's Centre, to provide comprehensive examinations as part of a multi-disciplinary approach to caring for children with special needs. To promote early identification and treatment of vision problems in young children, she regularly participated in early ID clinics across Toronto, organized by Toronto Public Health in association with Ontario Early Years Centers.

In 2015, after three years of study and research, Catherine received her Diplomate of the Binocular Vision, Perception & Pediatric Optometry (BVPPO) Section of the American Academy of Optometry.

Between 2012 and 2014, Catherine helped develop and deliver clinical outreach programs to the on-reserve elementary schools of Sagamok First Nation and M'Chigeeng First Nation, providing comprehensive eye exams and free glasses to the children in these communities. For her dedicated work with the children in these First Nations schools, she was awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award by the Anishinabek Nation in August 2019.

Catherine was an avid hiker in the summer months and loved to snowshoe in the winter on those same summer hiking trails. She loved old films on the TCM channel and was an ardent fan of the music of Bruce Springsteen. She would take in his live concerts whenever and wherever she could. She will be greatly missed by her many patients and colleagues, friends and family, and by the profession she dedicated her life's work to.

