

HON

B.C. HISTORY OF NURSING SOCIETY NEWS

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portraits in time

BY SHEILA
RANKIN ZERR

THE VANCOUVER GENERAL HOSPITAL SCHOOL OF NURSING HAS A LONG AND HONORED HISTORY.

In 1899, the Vancouver City Hospital Training School for Nurses was opened. The Nursing School would be affiliated with the hospital for the next ninety-nine years. The first graduation exercises were held in 1902, in the same year the Vancouver City hospital was renamed Vancouver General Hospital (VGH). The uniforms worn by the students and graduates of the Training School changed over time as influences such as fashions for women, social issues and financial factors came into play. After ninety-nine years of operation, with 8,768 graduates, the VGH School of Nursing closed. The following portrait dolls represent the major changes from 1899 to 1998.

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE





01

01. THE 1899 TO 1913 UNIFORM

The hospital supplied the materials for the students to make their own uniforms – a blue ankle length dress of twilled cotton with five inch white linen cuffs over long sleeves and with a high, starched white linen collar called a bishops collar. The white apron was gathered and about two inches shorter than the dress. The bib with two straps across the back was required. The cap had a three inch cuff, gathered at the crown that puffed up behind. High laced black boots and a stiff laced corset completed the required uniform.

02. THE 1918 UNIFORM CAP AND CAPE CHANGES

In 1914 the uniform was changed to keep pace with the fashion of the day and the student need for comfort. Miss Helen Randal was head of the nursing staff of 155, 100 of which were nursing students. The puffed cap and bishops collar were changed. A small cape replaced the previous long cape but lasted only from 1920 to 1927 when the longer cape was reestablished. This uniform was worn into the late 1920s.



02



03

03. THE 1930S JUNIOR (1ST YEAR) STUDENT UNIFORM

During the 1930s there were considerable changes to the nursing uniform. This portrait doll represents the first oriental student nurse admitted to the VGH Training Program in 1932. The uniform portrayed in this doll is that of the 1940s first year student. The dress is royal blue with short sleeves, white cuffs, a small square bib, gathered apron and black shoes and stockings. For a period of time in the 1940s the students wore an all white uniform as the blue material was unavailable during WW II.



04

04. THE 1940/50S INTERMEDIATE (2ND YEAR) STUDENT UNIFORM

The big change in the student uniform of the 1950s was the introduction of the gored apron. This portrait doll represents the second year student. The gored skirt and the bar pin at the neckline identify the intermediate status of the student. The blue dress, white collar and cuffs and black shoes and stockings remain the same. The long cape was shortened to match the shortened skirt length.

05. THE 1960S SENIOR (3RD YEAR) STUDENT UNIFORM

The 1960s was the last decade for the bib and apron. This portrait doll represents the senior student in the blue dress, white collar and cuffs and gored skirt. White shoes and stockings were introduced. The black band on the cap and the bar pin at the neck-line identified the senior student.



05



06

06. THE 1970S BLUE DRESS UNIFORM

Times were changing for women and fashions for women in the 1970s. The new more comfortable fabrics were available. This portrait doll demonstrates the change to comfort and simplicity. The uniform consisted of a short, light blue dress. The student was identified by her school crest, bar pin and her cap. The change to this uniform freed the hospital of laundering the previous stiff starched uniforms and saved considerable money in doing so. This was the last distinctive uniform of the VGH student.

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President's Message

BY KATHY MURPHY, PRESIDENT

As this report is being written, the warm temperatures of summer continue but the trees are definitely turning the wonderful fall colours. Our first meeting after the summer break revealed that many members were kept busy on a variety of projects.

In view of the limited resources of people and finances, the Executive will be discussing the 2010-2011 Goals in relation to the BC History of Nursing Society Constitution and the budget at the October meeting.

THE 5 STATEMENTS IN THE SOCIETY PURPOSE WERE MATCHED WITH THE CURRENT ACTIVITIES AS FOLLOWS:

- Provide a forum for those interested in the history of nursing in BC to exchange ideas and information: regular meetings, website, newsletter, attendance at public events, special luncheons/social events.
- Stimulate interest in the history of nursing in BC: displays in the CRNBC, UBC, attendance at public events, membership promotion, link with other groups, website, oral histories/biographies, Pages of History, fund raising.
- Promote study and research into the history of nursing: Scholarship program
- Preserve historical nursing materials: archives, Memorial book nominations
- Encourage the teaching of nursing history in educational programs: several members involved.

The challenge is to determine what can be done with the resources available.

ANY SUGGESTIONS FOR ASSISTANCE IN LOCATING VOLUNTEERS AND FUNDING RESOURCES CAN BE FORWARDED TO:
KATHY K_MURPHY@TELUS.NET OR 604.739.6931



PEMBERTON OPERATING ROOM CEREMONY

The Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada commemorated the Pemberton Memorial Operating Room at the Royal Jubilee Hospital, Victoria British Columbia as a National Site of Historical Significance at a ceremony on Friday, June 25, 2010. The plaque that was unveiled at the ceremony reads:

Constructed in 1896 and originally connected to the Royal Jubilee Hospital by a corridor, this operating room reflects the dramatic developments of the 19th century in medical and surgical techniques. Its easily cleaned ceramic floor, modern hot water system, and attached sterilizing room, derived from Joseph Lister's aseptic principles, helped to reduce post-operative infection and encouraged the undertaking of more complex surgeries. Its design marked the shift from the grand surgical amphitheatres of the Victorian era to the smaller operating rooms of the 20th century.

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Newsletter Committee

Diana Bright, Beth Fitzpatrick, Naomi Miller,
Ethel Warbinek, Lynne Esson & Sheila Zerr (co-chairs).

*The BC History of Nursing Society
Newsletter is published 4 times per year. Submissions are
welcome. Deadline for the Winter Issue is Nov. 30, 2010.*

*Please send submissions to:
Beth Fitzpatrick: bethfitz32@shaw.ca*



Editor's Desk

BY ETHEL WARBINEK, EDITOR

As we celebrate the Royal Canadian Navy's 100th Anniversary, it is timely to print the excellent article by HoN member Barbara Bavinton – "Missing From History: The Royal Canadian Navy's First Nurses." Barbara introduces us to the six graduate nurses, all members of the Victoria Militia, who were employed to staff the Prince George steamship which was quickly converted to a hospital ship during the early days of WW1.

This story is of particular interest to me as both my father and uncle, who was a captain, were employed by the Canadian National Railway Steamship Company and were on the Prince George and sister ship Prince Rupert during the 1920s and 30s. As well, my brother served in the Canadian Navy for 21 years, joining up at age 18 in 1944.

To hear more about the Navy's first nurses, attend our Lunch on Saturday, Nov. 13 at 11:30 am at the Vancouver Lawn Tennis and Badminton club where Barbara is our guest speaker.

Our feature article is by long standing member, Sheila Rankin Zerr who writes about the VGH/UBC Nursing School Uniforms Study

The Vancouver General Hospital School of Nursing Alumnae Association has in its archives a series of miniature dolls wearing student uniforms from 1899 until the 1970s. The dolls are in poor condition and Sheila was asked to coordinate a project to recreate this unique collection. Nine new miniatures have been beautifully created and photographed. The article describes the nine different uniforms and includes photos of each. As an outcome of this project, Sheila has designed a teaching module which examines the development of the professional image of nursing using the nine portrait dolls. Two UBC nursing students are presently enrolled in this study. We are looking forward to the results of their research.

The next newsletter will be published in January 2011. Please send your news and submissions to Beth Fitzpatrick by November 30th.



Ethel and her brother Les in the 1946

HOPE TO SEE YOU AT THE NOVEMBER LUNCH.



07

07. MALE STUDENT NURSE

Male students were part of the VGH Training School program throughout its ninety-nine year history. This portrait doll represents a 1970s male student wearing the light blue fabric uniform top. This fabric matched the female student uniform. The school crest and bar pin identified the status of the nursing student.

08. THE VGH GRADUATE UNIFORM

The uniform worn by the VGH graduate remained the same throughout the years. The white dress, bib and apron, white cuffs, collar and cap were worn at the graduating ceremony. This uniform was worn by the working graduate nurse as well. Nurses took great pride in wearing their school graduate uniform with the graduating pin and school cap identifying their hospital training program. The uniform, cap and pin were a true badge of pride and honor to the professional nurse.



08

09. THE VGH/UBC GRADUATE

This portrait doll represents the combined UBC/VGH nursing degree program that began in 1919. Students graduated with a diploma from VGH and a BSc(N) from UBC. This program was discontinued in 1958 and UBC established its own independent school. In 1989 a UBC/VGH collaborative nursing program was established. Students graduated with a BSN from UBC. In 1991 the last class graduated from VGH with a diploma. The collaborative program was discontinued in 1998 and the VGH School of Nursing closed permanently.

09

Welcome our new membership chair: Julie Lapinsky

Julie currently is a Clinical Associate for the School of Nursing at UBC as well as teaching for the BCIT School of Nursing undergraduate program. Her specialty is Perinatal (Maternal/Newborn) nursing and she has been in this specialty for over 30 years. Julie says: "I look forward to working with the HoN Executive and meeting members in my new role as chair."

"PLEASE CONSIDER GOING GREEN for 2011"

Hello everyone!

The History of Nursing (HoN) group is trying to reduce costs, therefore we are asking that all HoN members who have an email account, consider receiving their HoN newsletter via email attachment rather than by Canada post. One of the definite benefits of having your newsletter delivered in this format is the ability to save these newsletters on a disk or on your computer. This way you do not have to worry about storage of "hard paper copies" or the creation of more paper garbage/waste. If you would like to receive a copy via email attachment (and you do not already receive the newsletter in this way), please send me an email. I will gladly update your file! julielapinsky@dccnet.com

- thank you: julie



MISSING FROM HISTORY: THE ROYAL CANADIAN NAVY'S FIRST NURSES

BY BARBARA BAVINTON

The author acknowledges the research assistance of Jon Johnson.

In July 1914, as Canada prepared for war with Germany, the Ministry of Defense and Canada's newly formed Navy were making plans for the defense of British Columbia's coastline. The reported presence of a German ship in the area added urgency to their plans to provide medical assistance to their patrolling ships. By August 8 the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway (GTP) steamer Prince George had been hastily requisitioned by the Department of National Defense and its conversion to a hospital ship commenced. A few days later an Identification Certificate, as required by the Geneva Convention of 1868, was issued by Bertram Jones the Senior Naval Officer of the HMC Dockyard, Esquimalt, British Columbia (BC), and the Royal Canadian Navy's first hospital ship was ready for service.

HMCHS Prince George prepares for war casualties.

Dr. Charles Barron Wainwright, an English born and educated physician with qualifications as a surgeon, had just completed a year as one of 3 "internes" employed by Victoria's Provincial Royal Jubilee Hospital (PRJH) and was newly registered with the College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia. In response to a request on August 3, 1914, Dr. Wainwright accepted the position of Surgeon in Charge of HMCHS Prince George and was instructed to purchase medical stores and surgical instruments locally. He immediately placed an order with Chandler and Fisher, surgical instrument makers in Vancouver, monitored the conversion of Prince George's guest cabins to accommodate the sick and wounded, the creation of an operating room, and the widening of doors and elevators to accommodate stretchers and wheelchairs. Because of the urgency, surgical instruments, supplies, and equipment for immediate use were likely obtained from the local hospitals until navy supplies were delivered. Later hospital ships employed an electrical mechanism which processed salt water to produce hypochlorites which were used for disinfection but HMCHS Prince George would have carried gallons of the traditional carbolic acid used at that time. It was usual for converted hospital ships to be installed with swinging cots of canvas stretched and laced over a wooden frame with each cot supplied with blankets and pillows. In this manner over 500 patients could be accommodated in the converted ocean liners. It is unknown how many such cots Prince George contained.

In addition to medical supplies Dr. Wainwright was instructed to recruit three nurses. In the summer of 1914 most graduate nurses in Victoria found employment in private duty nursing or in the employment of the two major hospitals, the Provincial Royal Jubilee (PRJH) and St Joseph's, and many of them belonged to the growing volunteer Militia. From these ranks Dr. Wainwright secured the volunteer services of six graduate nurses, all members of the Victoria Militia. The change from three to six nurses is not documented but was probably prompted by Dr. Wainwright's plans for 24 hour staffing of wards and operating room and supports the premise that Prince George expected to serve more than 300 patients.

The Navy Nurses.

Elizabeth Pierce was born in Ontario and was a 1908 graduate of the School of Nursing at the PRJH. Prior to volunteering for Navy duty Pierce had been "head surgical nurse at the Jubilee" and also at the "Bute Street Hospital in Vancouver". She was appointed Acting Nursing Sister [The Canadian Army Medical Corps equivalent is Acting Matron] on HMCHS Prince George, receiving a pay rate of \$100 per month. Dr. Wainwright notified the Senior Naval Officer at Esquimalt that the nurses should "rank as officers and have had sufficient training, hence deserve a rating above Sick Berth Steward". Although little is known of the nurse's life aboard HMCHS Prince George, Acting



Acting Nursing Sister Elizabeth Pierce c.1914.



Post card written by Elizabeth Pierce and mailed at the end of HMCHS Prince George's service, 1914. J. Johnson collection.

Nursing Sister Pierce appears to have enjoyed the experience as she posted a post card of Prince George to her family declaring that "a life on the ocean waves suits me very much". The military life also suited Elizabeth as she later served over five years with the Canadian Army Military Corps (CAMC) in Operating Rooms in England and near the front line in France, and received the order of the Royal Red Cross Class 2 (ARRC) for her bravery and devotion to duty. Florence Nightingale was the first recipient of this decoration which was awarded exclusively to female nurses until 1976. Following her war service Elizabeth returned to Victoria after her demobilization in 1920, and registered with the newly formed Graduate Nurse's Association of British Columbia as she continued her nursing career as a nurse with the Victorian Order of Nurses in Victoria.

At the time of her appointment to HMCHS Prince George, **Mabel Ogilvie Lindsay** was 33 years old. Scottish born, she had completed her nurse training at the Radcliffe County Hospital in Oxford, England, a nursing school that graduated its first nurse in 1891 under the direction of Miss Alice Fisher, a well-known "Nightingale". Before travelling to Canada, Mabel spent three years with the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service (QAIMNS) for India, where she cared for the British servicemen and their families who were serving in the British Raj. During this turbulent time in India's history, Mabel would have gained a unique experience in caring for the sick and wounded in military service. She was the only Prince George Nurse [the equivalent of a CAMC Nursing Sister] with military experience other than that of the volunteer militia.

Following her service on HMCHS Prince George, Mabel also joined the CAMC and spent over five years in

England, France, and on other hospital ships, also earning a Royal Red Cross 2 Class for her work. During her five years overseas Mabel experienced frequent episodes of respiratory infections culminating in a severe bronchopneumonia which left her with damaged lungs and unable to perform "general service". After her demobilization in July 1920 she registered with the Graduate Nurses Association of British Columbia but appears to have spent the remainder of her life in San Francisco where she died in 1966 at 85 years of age.

At 24 years of age **Penelope Mellen** was the youngest nurse appointed to Prince George. In the summer of 1914 she had just graduated from the PRJH School of Nursing where her last student work experience had been in the Pemberton Memorial Operating Room, where no doubt she worked with Surgeon Wainwright. At this time the Mayo Clinic in the United States had been using nurses as anaesthetists for several years and many Canadian Nursing Sisters were later used in this role in casualty clearing stations across France. Since Prince George carried no physician anaesthetist it is quite likely that Nurse Mellen, with her recent OR experience or Nursing Sister Pierce with her surgical experience, was expected to fill that role.

Following her time on HMCHS Prince George, Penelope also joined the CAMC and spent two years with the #2 Canadian General Hospital (CGH) and #3 Casualty Clearing Station (CCS) in England and France, until resigning her commission in June 1917. One year later she married Major Stanley Gordon Chown, a surgeon with the CAMC who was awarded an Order of the British Empire (OBE) for his service in the #2 CGH and CCS in both France and Belgium. After the war they settled in Winnipeg, Manitoba where Dr. Chown became Chief of Pediatrics at the Winnipeg General Hospital and their eldest son became a Member of Parliament for that city and daughter Margaret was instrumental in establishing speech therapy services at all the major hospitals. Penelope remained a member of the PRJH Nursing Alumni Association.

Annie Dover was born in Toddington, Bedfordshire, England in 1887 and came to Canada some time prior to 1914. Her School of Nursing is unknown. She was a member of the Victoria Militia when she volunteered for service on HMCHS Prince George in August 1914. Little is known of her background other than she was working as a graduate nurse in Victoria and was a member of the Militia, when she joined the hospital ship's



Penelope Mellen, PRJH c.1913. RJH Nursing Archives



The Royal Red Cross 2, the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal, and the Victory Medal.

medical staff.

Following her time on Prince George Annie also joined the CAMC as a Nursing Sister and spent four years at a variety of CGHs and Stationary Hospitals in both France and England. Her war experiences were plagued by several incidences of poor health and she was treated for a variety of debilitating infections, influenza, and being generally “run down”. She was demobilized in 1919 and after a brief period spent in Victoria after the war, she has left no trace of her life.

Bessie Irving Watson was also English born, in Cockermouth, Cumberland, in 1882. She graduated from the School of Nursing at the Royal Southern Hospital in Liverpool which had opened in 1859 under the advice of Florence Nightingale and was renowned for instituting the first horse-drawn ambulance service in the United Kingdom. Like the other Prince George nurses Bessie was working in Victoria as a graduate nurse and a member of the local Militia when she joined the ship’s medical staff.

In March 1915 Bessie joined the CAMC where she spent time with the #2 CGH in France and from January 11, 1916 at the West Cliff Canadian Eye and Ear Hospital in England. On February 28, 1916 while on leave in England, she married Basil Aylmer, a captain in the Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Forces. At that time Basil Aylmer was reported on the casualty list and it is highly likely that Bessie may have nursed him during his hospitalization in England. She consequently resigned her commission in June of that year and returned to Canada. During that short time of war service Bessie was awarded the Royal Red Cross 2, the 1914-15 Star, and the British War and Victory medals. She returned to British Columbia where she remained until her death in 1956 in Queen’s Bay, Kootenay Lake. Her only son Mathew Aylmer died at Normandy in 1944.

Born in 1884 in Fort Williams, Ontario, **Emma Gertrude Black** moved to Victoria with her family as a young child. She completed her nursing training at the PRJH, graduating in 1912. She was also working as a graduate nurse in Victoria and like her peers a member of the local Militia. Following her 1914 summer service on Prince George, Emma joined the CAMC and served for four years in both France and England. She served overseas until early 1919 when she returned

to her mother’s home in Vancouver and later worked at the Summerland Hospital on Okanagan Lake in central BC.

In July 1928, at 44 years of age, Emma married Sir John Frederick Whitworth Aylmer the 9th Lord Aylmer of Balrath in County of Meath, Ireland, immediately becoming Baroness Aylmer. Sir John was the great, great, grandson of Mathew Whitworth-Aylmer the 5th Baron, and Governor General of Canada from 1830 to 1835. He was also the older brother of Basil Aylmer, the husband of Bessie Irving Watson. Sir John and Baroness Aylmer lived in Vancouver until their deaths. On Sir John’s death in 1971 the title briefly passed to his brother Kenneth and on his death in 1974 to his brother Basil until his death in 1977. Unfortunately Bessie had pre-deceased her husband so did not have the honor of the title of Baroness as did her friend Emma.

Preparing for duty.

The six nurses, Dr. Wainwright, Sick Berth Stewards H.S.H.Jones and D. Jones, and Assistant Sick Berth Stewards Pattison and Bush, were ready for service from August 8. We do not know what uniform the nurses wore but on such short notice suppose it to be the regular white hospital uniform of the time. Naval meeting notes record that, “the distinctive mark of the entire staff while performing their duties shall be an armllet (white flag with red cross)”.

As the hospital ship sailed the waters of the west coast the nurses would have continued the preparation for casualties. Dressings would have been prepared and sterilized by the hundreds, the operating room readied for emergency surgery, wards stocked with supplies, the patient bunks stocked with linens, and extensive cleaning carried out in all medical areas. The Stewards and Assistant Stewards would have been trained for their role by the nurses and surgeon, and Sister Pierce, in her role as “administrator, hostess, and chaperone”, was responsible for planning the methods of care, staffing, and the well-being of the nurses in her charge. As Acting Sister [Acting Matron] of the hospital ship, Elizabeth Pierce was also responsible “for the due performance of their duties by the sisters and nurses, and for the maintenance of good conduct, efficiency and discipline” as described in the “Instructions for Canadian Army Medical Corps Nursing Service”. These instructions also described the need for a system for the security and management of drugs and most particular for those deemed “strong poisons” to be established, and keys made available for each nurse on duty (as cited in Mann, 2000). Later hospital ship nurses describe frequent drills to practice for ship emergencies, and little free time. A short service.

While in Esquimalt the medical team received their first patient. A sailor from the Japanese cruiser Idzuma had broken his leg and was treated on board Prince George. During the remainder of the 26 days the HMCHS Prince George was in service, one of the nurses sprained an ankle and several suffered from sea sickness but no other patients were recorded (as cited in Johnson, 2010). Medical files from this time have not been found.

On September 2 1914, Vice-Admiral Kingsmill conducted an inspection of HMCHS Prince George and after praising the staff for their efforts he reiterated his earlier order for the ship to be “dispensed with” and returned to the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway. Japan had joined the allied war effort on August 23, 1914 and the presence of more modern war vessels, the Japanese cruiser *Idzuma* and the British cruiser *Newcastle*, in the northern Pacific, removed the need for Canada to cruise the western coast. It was also known that all German ships were on their way to the south Pacific thus negating the threat to British Columbia. After just 26 days of service the medical staff and the Royal Canadian Navy’s first hospital ship were no longer needed and the ship was refitted to resume her career as a passenger liner in the waters of the western coast of Canada and the United States.

The navy nurses and surgeon were released from their volunteer service and returned to their civilian lives and hopefully to the jobs they left just 26 days previously. All of the nurses continued their military career by joining the Canadian Army Medical Corps and serving overseas. Dr. Wainwright cancelled his registration with the BC College of Physicians and Surgeons and appears to have left Canada. Sick Berth Steward Denzil Jones served with the 20th Battalion, where he was mortally wounded at Ypres in 1917. None appear to have received any recognition from the Royal Canadian Navy during their lifetime. None have been named in any official navy histories. No photographs of their service are known.

Archival Sources:

British Columbia Archives
 College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia
 College of Registered Nurses of British Columbia
 Library and Archives Canada
 Royal Jubilee Hospital Nursing Alumnae Archives, Victoria, BC.
 The Colonist newspaper, Victoria, BC.

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WEBSITES TO VISIT:

Historical Research on BC :

GOVERNOR’S Letters: www.govlet.ca
COLONIAL DESPATCHES: bcgeneses.uvic.ca

The Archives Association of BC has launched MemoryBC, an Archival Information Network available at: memoryhbc.ca.

This site is a valuable source of information about archival holdings throughout the province.

The Virtual Museum of Canada www.virtualmuseum.ca/treasures

The Virtual Museum of Canada (VMC) at the Canadian Heritage Information Network (CHIN) has launched a new interactive online space, *Canada’s Got Treasures!* The website invites museums, heritage institutions and individuals from across the country to upload their photos and videos of objects, artworks, buildings, people or locations that are culturally significant to Canadians. It offers an excellent opportunity to showcase and promote the collections online.

Canadian Association for the History of Nursing : cahn-achn.ca A search will provide you with information about 2010 conference and copies of the abstracts as well as information about CAHN and other links.

BC Historical Federation website:

bchistory.ca The Federation encourages interest in the history of British Columbia through research, presentation, and support. Visit this interesting and informative site. Can view publications dating from 1923-2007.

RN Network

Until the new Association of Registered Nurses of BC (ARNBC) website is up and operational, the Network membership list is the primary way to communicate. We encourage you to get involved and add your email address to the growing contact list. To join the Network, send an email to Rebecca.Armstrong@nursing.ubc.ca with “RN Network” in the subject line.

A temporary information site is available at:
<http://www.nursing.ubc.ca/Scholarship/RNNetwork/>

BOOK LAUNCH!

Karen Abbott & Sharon Simpson launch their new book - Traditions and Transitions: History of the Nursing Programs at Thompson Rivers University, 1973-2003



Glennis Zilm with the Authors

GLENNIS ZILM ATTENDED THE BOOK LAUNCH AND WROTE THE FOLLOWING.

After several years of organizing archival materials, research, and writing, Karen Abbott and Sharon Simpson, long-time members of the BC History of Nursing Society, have celebrated publication of a new and exciting addition to the historiography of B.C. nursing. Their book was launched at a Faculty event during the University's annual homecoming celebrations on September 11 2010

The book reviews the historical development of the nursing programs in Kamloops and Williams Lake following closure of Royal Inland Hospital's diploma program. The new two-year diploma program for registered nurses at what was then Cariboo College was part of the early 1970s move from hospital schools into community colleges. Although the book focuses on the local milieu, programs, faculty, and students, it

also places the growth and changes in the program within significant international, national, provincial historical contexts. It traces expansion of the diploma program into a degree completion program and then a full-scale baccalaureate program as part of the province-wide, 10-school Collaborative BSN Program. It also describes the evolution of the small community college into the University College of the Cariboo until 2003 when the college became Thompson Rivers University.

Sharon Simpson was one of the first four faculty members hired in the new Nursing program, and Karen Abbott joined the faculty in 1982. Both these popular teachers have now retired. Sharon retired just over a year ago to work on her doctorate and Karen celebrated her recent retirement at a party the evening of the book launch.

The launch, held in the TRU Clock Tower Theatre and Foyer, was attended by about 200 alumni, faculty, administrators, friends and colleagues from all practice settings. It was followed by a networking wine-and-cheese social event.

The 550-page book contains 550 photos that are a tribute to all graduates as well as many fun-filled photos celebrating the social events through the 30 years. A review of the book will appear in the next issue of the Newsletter.

For information on purchasing a copy contact Cheryl Zawaduk at zawaduk@tru.ca.

Cost for the book is \$25 plus \$10 for taxes, shipping and handling. To order: mail cheque payable to Cheryl Zawaduk, TRU, Box 3010, Kamloops, BC V2C 5N3

BOOK REVIEW REVIEWED BY GLENNIS ZILM

Nurse: Past, Present and Future, edited by Kate Trant and Susan Usher. London, UK: Black Dog Publishing, 2010. 191 pp., illustrated, no index.

This reads like and has the wonderful illustrations of a coffee-table book, but in a smaller, softcover format. The book explores the evolution of nursing from Florence Nightingale to the present, and offers insights into the changing roles of the profession for the coming generations of graduates. Mainly it contains perceptive vignettes about individual nurses the two have met (and obviously admire), including a delightful brief biography of our own member Helen Mussallem. It provides a global look at nursing, but from a definite British and Canadian viewpoint.

The book itself supplies little information about the authors, other than they "work on the periphery of health systems, in hospital design and health policy" (p. 4). Trant is a British architect and Usher is the health policy editor for a medical publishing house in Montreal and Toronto. The two interviewed nurses from around the globe or included contributions written by international nursing experts for this book. The hundreds of photographs, mostly in full color, are wonderful, and provide a glossy illustration of the breadth of the international scope of nursing. In all, an imaginative and appreciative book from two non-nurses offering some thought-provoking insights about the profession.

The publisher is offering our members a 40% discount (it would be approximately \$18 US, plus shipping and handling); email jess@blackdogonline.com, with your address, mentioning "BC History of Nursing Offer" as the subject. A copy is also available in the CRNBC Library.

November Lunch
Barbara Bavinton:
Missing From History: The Royal Canadian Navy's First Nurses
Saturday Nov. 13 at 11:30 am
 Vancouver Lawn Tennis and Badminton Club - 15th and Fir Streets
 Cost \$30 | send cheque by Nov 8 att: BC History of Nursing Society
 Lenore Radom | 10095 No 5 Rd. Richmond, BC V7A 4E4

MEMBER NEWS:

Charelene Ronquillo was one of three recipients of the H.N. Segall Prize at the Canadian Society for the History of Medicine for best graduate student paper. She was also awarded the Best Overall Presentation award at the History of Medicine Days (HMD) at the University of Calgary for her work on the history of immigrant Filipino nurses in Western Canada from 1950 to 2000.

UBC School of Nursing Director, Dr. Sally Thorne, is among several BC Nursing leaders to co-publish a paper reporting on the nursing capacity-building efforts of the Educator Pathway Project (EPP). "The BC Educator Pathway Collaborative Framework: Creating the Foundation for Nursing Education Capacity."

In honour of both Muriel Down and her husband Norman, a memorial bench has been placed in Stanley Park. The bench is located in the RCAF Memorial Garden (between the miniature train

and Malkin Bowl) under a cedar tree surrounded by a beautiful mature garden. The family invites all who knew them to visit this special place. *Source: Vancouver July 9, 2010.*

Glennis Zilm is the 2010 UBC Alumni Association Blythe Eagles Volunteer Leadership Award winner. Congratulations

"A Passion for Prevention: Public Health Nursing in the Skeena Health Unit"

Carol Harrison is working on a history of public health nursing in the Skeena Health Unit, between 1937 when the first "school nurse" arrived in Prince Rupert and 1990 when the "Closer to Home" initiative began to change the provincial structure and Skeena became the Northwest Community Health Services Society. North-west BC is a vast and remote area, less well-known than it deserves to be, and working as a public health nurse in Skeena Health Unit involved many unique and fascinating experiences. These decades were marked by sweeping social, political, and health care changes that directly impacted on the nurses' work and lives. She would be most interested in hearing from anyone who is willing to share some memories of working in the Skeena Health Unit. Please contact

her at 250-635-3459, or at fiddletime@hotmail.com

The newly established Irene Goldstone Social Justice and HIV/AIDS Endowment Fund

honours the work of all nurses who have worked tirelessly at the front line of HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care over the past several decades. It will be used to provide a scholarship for graduate students and trainees at the School of Nursing who are working in the field of social justice and HIV/AIDS.



This fund has been established to mark the retirement of Irene Goldstone, adjunct professor in the School of Nursing, to ensure that the work to which she has dedicated her life will continue for future generations. Your gift will help to ensure that current and future students in graduate programs at the School of Nursing at UBC can continue to make invaluable contributions to nursing research in social justice and HIV/AIDS.



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